

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of your monthly newsletter which highlights what Hounslow Highways has been doing in your community and the wider borough over the last few months.

Two years of delivering better streets

Hounslow Highways is now two years into the five-year Core Investment Period (CIP).

Most of the streets across the borough have now had the new LED (light emitting diode) street lights installed. Heritage style lanterns will be installed later this year in areas where heritage lanterns are currently present.

So far, Hounslow Highways has resurfaced 216km of the roads and 153km of the footways in the borough. There were no CIP works planned over the Christmas and New Year period, but schemes will resume next month.

The 'My Works' feature on the Hounslow Highways website shows updates to the works programme with dates for specific works in 2015 available to view.

Rob Gillespie, Hounslow Highways Service Director, said: "I am sure most people would agree that there have been very real improvements across the borough in the last two years. We have three years left of our highly ambitious £100 million investment programme which will see even more improvements in the roads, pavements and street lights."



Hounslow Highways completed a major scheme on Stanwell Road East.

Wintry weather

As the winter period continues, Hounslow Highways crews are ready to deal with any cold spells.

Hounslow Highways gritters carried out a 'dry run' in early November to practice the gritting routes and so far, have been out on over 20 occasions, gritting as a precautionary measure when the indicators have shown a risk of icy conditions.

The salt barn at the Hounslow Highways depot is stocked-up with 2,500 tonnes of salt grit.

Keeping a close eye on the weather, should ice or snow be forecast, the gritters will be deployed and the six gritting routes - which make up 132km of roads - gritted.

Rob Gillespie, Hounslow Highways Service Director, said: "We pay close attention to weather forecasts throughout the winter season so we are able to react quickly and efficiently whenever the colder weather strikes."



Hounslow Highways' seven gritters and six snow ploughs are ready to roll

Councillor Mann meets apprentices

Deputy Leader of the Council, Amrit Mann visited the Hounslow Highways Offices at Jubilee House earlier this month to meet the apprentices.

Hounslow Highways currently employs seven environmental services apprentices, two highways apprentices and four business administration apprentices. They all joined between May 2014 and January this year and between them, perform a range of roles including highways maintenance, street cleansing and office administration.

Whilst at Jubilee House, Councillor Mann presented three of the environmental services apprentices (Glenn Pearson, Tom Royle and Tyler Kennedy) with certificates for the completion of their Level 3 NVQ in Environmental Services. The other apprentices are studying for their NVQs in Highways Maintenance and Business Administration respectively and are expected to complete them over the course of this year.

The Deputy Leader also spoke with other members of staff, including University student Asif Huq who is on a year's placement and James Mulvenna a member of the Ringway Graduate Scheme. He also met Samantha Radbourne, a full time member of staff who was previously on a placement and has been a permanent employee following the completion of her degree in 2013.

Rob Gillespie, Hounslow Highways Service Director, said: "Investment in young local people is an integral part of our philosophy at Hounslow Highways and we will continue to provide opportunities for school leavers and graduates to ensure they are provided with the appropriate training and experience in order to succeed. It is wonderful to see how our younger team members can progress quickly with the help of our more experienced employees, all of whom are generous with their time and knowledge."



Deputy Leader Amrit Mann with Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie (right) and the Hounslow Highways apprentices in front of Jubilee House

Hounslow Highways to sponsor Junior Citizen

Hounslow Highways will be assisting the Metropolitan Police in June for an event – Junior Citizen - which aims to educate Year 6 students about taking care of their local environment.

Barriers, litter bins and pedestrian fencing will be provided by Hounslow Highways at the week-long event.

Literature aimed at reminding residents of their responsibilities regarding waste disposal will also be distributed at the event as part of Hounslow Highways' wider cleansing enforcement programme.

Improved bus user access

A scheme to raise the level of the footway to improve access to bus ramps on Staines Road was completed in January.

The improvements will allow easier access for wheelchair and pushchair users to get on and off buses.

A further two schemes are planned for main roads in the borough later this year.

Rob Gillespie, Hounslow Highways Service Director, said: "We have a moral responsibility to ensure that all road users can safely access key services in the borough and these schemes reflect our ongoing commitment to improving the safety of the borough's infrastructure."



Completed footway works at a bus stop in Staines Road

CCTV cameras for staff safety

Hounslow Highways purchased ten mobile enforcement cameras to be used by Traffic Management Operatives, Community Environment Officers and Highways Inspectors to enforce against illegal activity on the Highway.

The purchase follows several occasions whereby Hounslow Highways staff were threatened or put in situations where they could have potentially been injured by members of the public.

The cameras will also help obtain evidence against fly-tipping, littering, trade waste offences and illegal crossovers.

Over 20 Hounslow Highways staff have been trained. The training was provided by the Metropolitan Police, to understand how best to successfully use the cameras in line with the relevant legislation.

Operation regenerate

Hounslow Highways participated in a clean-up of Frampton Road with the London Borough of Hounslow and the Metropolitan Police in January.

Hounslow Highways provided bags for refuse collection, litter pickers, gloves and a caged vehicle to transport the filled sacks at the end of the event.

This is part of a series of action days carried out between the three organisations since November. Hounslow Highways have escalated their cleansing enforcement by issuing more Fixed Penalty Notices to those caught disposing of waste illegally.



Officers cleaning up the public footway on Frampton Road

Works in your area

There are no CIP works programmed for your area in February.

Collaborative cleansing with Brentford Bees

Hounslow Highways has joined up with Brentford Football Club and the four pubs at the corners of the stadium to ensure the surrounding streets are kept clean on match days.

Brentford FC's move from League 1 to the Championship this season has brought higher numbers of spectators to Griffin Park. In the last two years the attendance has more than doubled from 4,500 (in 2012) to over 10,000. This has resulted in more litter being dropped outside the stadium and more robust cleansing activities needed to maintain the cleanliness of the streets.

Hounslow Highways now places 15 temporary bins around the stadium on match day mornings and empties the permanent bins in the area. Following the match, all of the bins are emptied, the temporary bins are removed and the streets are litter-picked to return the area to an acceptable standard. Staff members from Brentford FC also carry out a litter pick around the streets.

Publicans of The Griffin, Royal Oak, Princess Royal and The New Inn, at all four corners of the stadium, agreed that the extra bins had made a "huge difference" to the levels of litter on match days.

Hounslow Highways is investigating the possibility of installing six more permanent bins around the area and is consulting with the publicans on the best locations for these.

Hounslow Highways is also hoping to involve other local businesses, such as Off Licences and fast food outlets, to provide assistance where they can.

Hounslow Highways Operations Manager, Ian Lennox, said: "It is fantastic that local businesses and the football club have come together with us to help make a difference on match days. This is a community issue where multiple parties need to work together to manage it. The huge growth in spectators has certainly been noticed on the streets and we are all working together to ensure the area remains clean and safe."

Brentford Football Club Operations Manager Alan Walsh said: "Brentford FC has been working with Hounslow Highways and the public houses in the community to ensure that our local residential streets are kept to an excellent standard for our spectators, visitors and our local residents. We want to give the right impression and ensure that the match day experience is portrayed in the best environment for all to enjoy."



Clean-up team from Hounslow Highways and Brentford FC