

Road Maintenance in Your Area

Road Surface Improvement (Surface Dressing)



Sparrow Hatch Lane, Bethersden

When we plan to carry out the work and how long it will take

This is to let you know that, as part of the on-going maintenance and improvement of the highway network, Kent County Council will be working to improve the road surface of **Sparrow Hatch Lane, Bethersden** between the **Network Rail Bridge and Dowle Street Road**.

These road surface improvement works are programmed to start on the **6th August** and is programmed for **2 days** to complete. These activities will be undertaken during a **short working window** between the hours of **7.00 am and 7.00pm**.

This type of work can be affected by bad weather, so if it is not possible for us to carry it out at this time, we will arrange a new date and let you know via a letter drop to your home. We will also put up signs along the road, before we start, showing the date we plan to start work.

During these essential works it will be necessary to close the road completely so that we can carry out the works safely for both the workforce and road users. During this closure, a diversion route will be in place via Sparrow Hatch Lane, Fridd Lane, Pluckley Road (& vice versa)

The timings of works and how the 'working window' may affect you

Our surfacing improvement (Surface Dressing) is a very quick process and usually takes no more than **half a day** to complete. We therefore undertake a programme of several surfacing sites in a day, following on consecutively from each other, to maximise the economy of our surfacing. Consequently, it is not possible to give an exact time when we will attend your road in advance of the works as this is dependent on the progress at other sites during the day, however the works are programmed to be undertaken within the working window specified above.

Where we have specified the works may take place over 2 or more days, we would expect our operatives to be on site on **either** of these days, **again for a few hours in a single visit**. Surface Dressing is a quick process but is also heavily dependent on good weather and site conditions. By allowing for extra days we can ensure that unforeseen circumstances to our works can be accommodated and disruption to local residents is minimised.

What we plan to do

We will use a process called 'Surface Dressing' to improve the road surface. Surface dressing is quick to apply, which means less disruption to road users, residents, local businesses and the emergency services. It is a cost-effective way of prolonging the life expectancy of the road before any major repair works are required. It also benefits from having a low carbon footprint.

Surface dressing is applied directly onto the existing road in two stages. The first is the application of a hot binder which is sprayed onto the road surface and the second is the laying of chippings onto the binder. (Sometimes we lay 2 or more layers of chippings depending on the design). These layers seal the surface to prevent water penetration, restore texture and improve skid resistance. The carriageway may then be rolled using a rubber wheeled roller. This is to ensure the chippings are properly embedded and stick into the binder permanently. The continued action of the traffic also helps to embed the chippings as well.

To make sure all the binder is covered with chippings, we lay enough onto the road to ensure a full covering, and to make certain there are no gaps. There will be some loose chippings left, which is quite normal, and consequently we erect 20mph speed limit signs to slow vehicles down as they pass over the new surface. These signs will be on site until the road has settled down and all programmed sweeps have been carried out.

Generally, after 14 days of the completion of the surfacing the road markings will be reinstated.

Further Information on this treatment process

Further information on Surface Dressing, including a short video presentation, can be found on our website at www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/roads/road-resurfacing/types-of-resurfacing.

Alternatively, this video can be found on YouTube by searching for 'Kent County Council Surface Dressing'.

How you can help

It is inevitable that residents and businesses near the works will experience some disruption, but we will try to keep these to a minimum. Any pavements will remain open at all times, but vehicle access to properties will need to be restricted for a short period while work is carried out in front of each property. If you have any particular access needs, please let the workforce on site know.

We need your help to make sure the work is done as quickly as possible and to the best possible quality.

If your vehicle is usually parked on the carriageway, please make sure you park it somewhere else away from the site whilst the works are carried out, so the road is clear for us to resurfacing

If you need more information, you can visit our website www.kent.gov.uk/resurfacingupdates to find out how we look after the roads throughout Kent or report any faults you find on our roads. Alternatively, you can call us on **03000 41 81 81**.

For your safety and the safety of our workforce, please drive carefully and slowly through the roadworks.

WARNING – Beware Bogus Callers

Kent County Council Highways, Transportation and Waste do not allow works to be carried out on private properties. If anyone says they are working for us or our specialist contractors and offer to carry out any work for cash, they should be treated with caution. We advise you to contact Citizen's Advice on 03444 111 444 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm)