



## View from Wiltshire Council Cllr Rich Rogers

Since assuming the role of Highways Portfolio Holder, I have been working closely with the Wiltshire Council highways team to deepen my understanding of highways maintenance processes, specifically how pothole repairs are managed and major maintenance schemes prioritised. My main focus is to bring improvements to highways maintenance, to ensure our roads are safe and fit for purpose for all road users.

We have already implemented significant changes, such as the introduction of additional Bobcat machines capable of executing more effective and durable road repairs to address the prevalent issue of potholes across the county. This initiative has been made possible through an additional £10 million investment allocated by the council for road repairs over the next two years.

Furthermore, I have requested a comprehensive review of the major maintenance programme by the highways team to ensure that priority is given to roads that are most critically in need and of chief concern, including those within our local communities in Southern Wiltshire. Achieving this requires a delicate balance and some compromise, as repair allocations must be fair and equitable across the county. Considering the extensive road network, which spans approximately 2800 miles, it's essential to prioritise effectively and allocate resources where they are most needed. Nonetheless, I am optimistic that I can make a strong case for our roads to receive the attention they require. Please contact me if there are any particular roads you feel should be added to the maintenance programme.



In the meantime, the best way to report issues on our roads is via the mywilts app. Furthermore, if you have any suggestions for local highways or footpaths improvements, these can be raised for consideration through the Local Highways Footpaths Improvements Group (LHFIG).



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I recently attended volunteer events in Winterslow and Downton, which showcased the outstanding work carried out by volunteer groups within our communities. These groups play a vital role in delivering experiences, opportunities, and support that bring enormous benefits to our villages.

The events also aimed to address the decline in volunteering experienced since the onset of Covid-19 and to encourage new volunteers to get involved in this worthwhile pursuit. It was heartening to see over 50 volunteer groups in attendance across both events, ranging from the scouting organisation to luncheon clubs. Additionally, I was pleased to note that over 40 potential new volunteers attended to register their interest.



During the Downton event, we were also fortunate to have a presentation from Wessex Community Action, an organisation dedicated to supporting the voluntary and community sector. Their resources and assistance can be instrumental in furthering the efforts of volunteer groups and ensuring the continued success of community initiatives. Further details can be found at the QR code.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me should you require my assistance on any matter. rich.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk.