

Parish News

Edition 1 – January 2016



Welcome to your monthly newsletter, designed to keep you up-to-date with what's been happening in Amey Highways Gloucestershire over the last month across the county.

Happy New Year!



Lianne Butler-White
Communications &
Engagement Manager

While the majority of us enjoyed a rest over the Christmas break our teams were out there battling with fallen trees and flooding, courtesy of Storm Frank. 30th December went out with a roar as we received 19 calls on that one day alone for trees down in the county. Our Contact Centre teams and gangs did a great job keeping the county safe and we hope January will offer some calm respite for us all.

Some of you may remember our first newsletter which came out in March, and are wondering where we've been! Unfortunately I was away from the business over the summer, but now I'm back, we'll be getting information out to you on a regular basis.

Early in the year, before I went off, I was working closely with several parishes to understand what you need from us in terms of communication. The biggest message you gave me then, and indeed recently at the Chartered Parish Group meeting, was that there is some confusion about what services we are responsible for and the service levels you can expect. While this information is available through the TAMP and GCC policies, we understand that you want it in a concise, easy to read format. In response, we have put together the attached seven page Highways Guide which sets out the services Amey provides, the best ways to contact us, what happens to your reports, how we deal with safety defects and our contract service levels.

You have also told us that while the Customer Contact Centre has improved greatly this year, customers still feel they are not being kept up-to-date with their enquiries. We agree that this is an area of service which we can improve on, and we are looking at our processes to see where we can be more proactive.

We would like to keep you informed about the work we are doing across the county both in terms of service delivery and community support, and hope this newsletter achieves that. During the year we will let you know how well we are doing against our KPIs and update you on our routine programmes like grass and grip cutting, gully cleaning and winter maintenance. Please do share this newsletter with your parish residents if you think it is appropriate.

2015 was an exciting year in highways, and we know that the challenges we face will increase each year. We have worked hard to make sure we are in a position to meet those challenges efficiently and we are committed to working with you to deliver a good basic service against the inevitable declining availability of resources.

Winter update

Winter has been relatively kind to us in Gloucestershire so far, with the exception of a bit of wind and rain (!), but with the darkest months upon us it is worth reminding ourselves how to stay safe this winter, especially on our roads.



Vehicles and travel: Check the weather forecast, plan your route and drive with care. Keep up-to-date with the latest information by following us on twitter **@glosRoads**. Check tyres, lights and windscreen wipers regularly. Carry an ice-scraper and some de-icer. Brush snow off your vehicle and keep your lights and windscreen clean. Make sure you carry spare clothing, a good pair of boots and a blanket. Keep you mobile fully charged.



Winter tip!

Ice forecast? Covering your windscreen the night before is better than scraping off ice. You can also make your own cost-effective and environmentally friendly preventative ice retarding solution:

Simply mix 3 parts vinegar and 1 part water in a spray bottle. Apply to all the car windows (including side and rear) before going to bed at night.



Be flood aware: Driving in wet conditions can be hazardous, so please drive with extra care. Use your headlights when visibility is reduced by heavy rain. Double your distance from the vehicle in front; it will take you longer to stop. Never drive through water deeper than 30cm (one foot) or flowing water. Always test your brakes after driving through water. Only drive through water you know you can pass through safely.

Need to know more? Visit <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/winter> for more information, including a copy of the Adverse Weather Plan.

Grips and Gullies

The 2015 gully emptying schedule is on programme, with first cleans coming to an end in December. While some areas will have second cleans through to March, the main programme will start again in April. Grip cutting started in November and will also continue through to the end of March. Both the gully emptying and grip cutting programmes can be found on the GCC website through this link: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roadworks>



Community Involvement

Supporting 'Hamper Scamper' Christmas Appeal

Amey and GCC staff across the county donated food and gifts to the Hamper Scamper Appeal in December, helping Cheltenham Community Projects achieve their target to distribute 700 hampers at Christmas. Hamper Scamper is CCP's Christmas Giving Scheme, designed to spread a little cheer to some of the most disadvantaged children, young people, families and vulnerable adults at Christmas.

Hamper Scamper relies on the generosity of donors and volunteers. In 2014 the scheme provided 1500 gifts for children under 18 and homeless young people living in supported accommodation, and 557 food hampers for people living in poverty.

One good turn...

Earlier this year, we were lucky enough to be given the use of Lydbrook Band's car park to store units and plant for work we were doing in the area. The original agreement was for three months, but delays meant we needed the site for a further month. Luckily, Lydbrook Band extended the welcome and to show our appreciation Jack Osbourne and Kit Chan organised for their driveway to be re-tarmacked and the bandroom redecorated.



Ready for action: From left to right - Victor Escano, Jack Osbourne, Eirini Mellou, Paul Coombs, Luke Barnes, Terry Newman, Kevin Baynham and Paul Baynham

Robert Morgan, Secretary of Lydbrook Band said:

"We are extremely grateful to Amey for their kindness in helping us out - we are a local community brass band and donations such as this from major

companies allow us to spend our hard earned money on new instruments for our young training band members. Lydbrook band was formed in 1923 and Amey has now helped us to continue our great brass band tradition in the village. On behalf of Lydbrook Band I would like to thank Amey and all the team for the work on the bandroom driveway and internal decorations carried out in the past few weeks. We are extremely pleased with the end product and all the work that was carried out is a great asset to our band."



We're Recruiting!

PROW Inspectors



Our Public Rights of Way (PROW) team is looking for two new Inspectors to look after the Forest of Dean and North Cotswolds. PROW Inspectors investigate defects and secure resolution through minor works or negotiation with land managers, parish councils and volunteer groups. The role specifically includes:

- Accurate and effective collation of data
- Contract compliance on data quality management issues
- Timely and accurate reporting
- Compliance with health and safety legislation
- Effective communication with a wide variety of stakeholders
- Implementing a programme of inspections and investigations
- Project Management
- Walking reasonable distances over difficult terrain and in all weathers

Rights of Way law and practice qualification desirable but in-house training can be given.

If this sounds like a job for you, or someone you know, please get in touch with Michael.Barton@amey.co.uk.

Senior Civil Engineers

The design team, based in Shire Hall, is looking for two Senior Civil Engineers. This is a people manager and lead designer role.

Senior Civil Engineers ensure that good relationships with all external parties are maintained to enhance the reputation of the company and the delivery of projects to the customer. Specifically, the role includes:

- Developing designs for Integrated Transport Schemes in accordance with the Client's requirements and relevant design standards to achieve cost effective solutions
- Assist in the development and supervision of project team members
- Management of schemes where new or amendments to Traffic Regulation Orders are required.
- Assist in the preparation and monitoring of the budget for projects including the planning, monitoring and reporting of project resources and finances.
- Prepare and check feasibility studies, appraisal / assessment reports and other written documents.
- Identify blockages to scheme delivery as the design progresses and work with other departments (Legal, Street Lighting, Environmental, Operations etc.) to ensure issues are resolved efficiently and expediently.
- Management of and negotiations with client of design costs issuing Early Warnings and CEs/VOs as required within an NEC contract.

If you, or someone you know is a Professional Engineer (IEng/CEng + MICE, CMIHT or similar) and has experience in highways and the production of Integrated Transport schemes, please contact Robert.Emmerson@amey.co.uk

Operational Delivery

17 Schemes delivered in December...

Despite December being a very short – and this year a very wet month – we delivered 17 schemes in the county.

Surfacing

- Coopers Hill, Green Street, Brockworth

Improvements

- Kimbrose Shared Space
- A419 Watermoor R'bout Kerbing

Patching

- A429 Broadwater Bottom
- B4296 Spine Road East, South Cerney
- Spine Road West County Boundary to Neighbbridge County Boundary
- A48 Minsterworth
- Whiteway to Daneway Hill
- A38 Longford to Coombe Hill
- Llanthony Rd (western side of canal), Gloucester
- Hatherlay Rd, Gloucester

Footways

- Station Road, Stroud

Drainage

- B4063 Bamfurlong Lane
- Breadstone Lane, Berkeley
- Stambourne Lane, Berkeley
- A429 Fosseway
- Station Road, Chipping Campden

...and 379 'Minor Works' jobs including...

142 Carriageway and Footway repairs.

52 Signing Jobs

58 Drainage jobs

23 Horticulture works

49 Tree Jobs

11 Ironworks and Barriers

44 Road marking jobs.

Stats at a glance for November...

