

# Wiltshire Pothole Action Fund 2016/17



Update March 2017

## Wiltshire Pothole Action Fund 2016/17

Wiltshire has an extensive highway network of over 3,000 miles, which was badly affected by flooding in 2014. The damage to some parts of the road network was extensive, and was worst on minor unclassified roads, which have evolved over the years and often do not have the structural strength and drainage systems of modern purpose built roads.

Wiltshire Council treats highway maintenance as a priority and introduced the 'Local Highways Investment Fund 2014 – 2020' to address the backlog of maintenance required on the network. This increased annual road maintenance funding in Wiltshire to £21,000,000 in recent years, with an additional £3,000,000 annually for bridge maintenance. This represents an enormous increase in investment above the block allocation provided by Department for Transport. Good progress is being made in improving the county's roads, and the back log is estimated to have reduced by 30% in the first two years of the programme.

Wiltshire Council was pleased to receive £866,000 through the Department for Transport's Pothole Action Fund. This funding was in addition to the £15,217,000 received through the 2016-17 Highway Maintenance needs element and the £930,000 incentive element. This additional pothole funding has helped in addressing the immediate problem of damage to the road network, and was greatly appreciated.

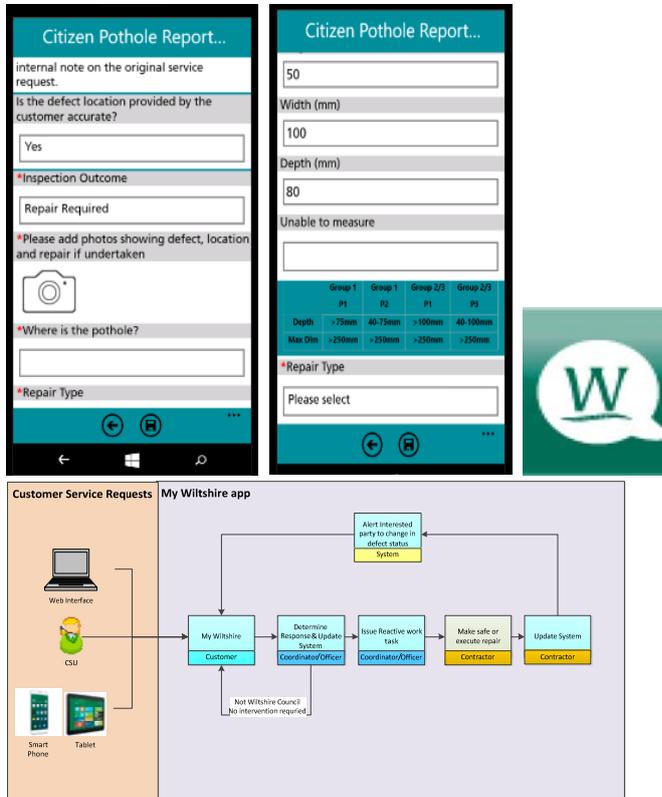
The Pothole Action Fund allocation did not displace the Council's increased funding on road maintenance, and was used in addition to the already planned increased programme of maintenance and renewal.



*The Pothole Action Fund was primarily used to fund four two man Pothole Gangs.*

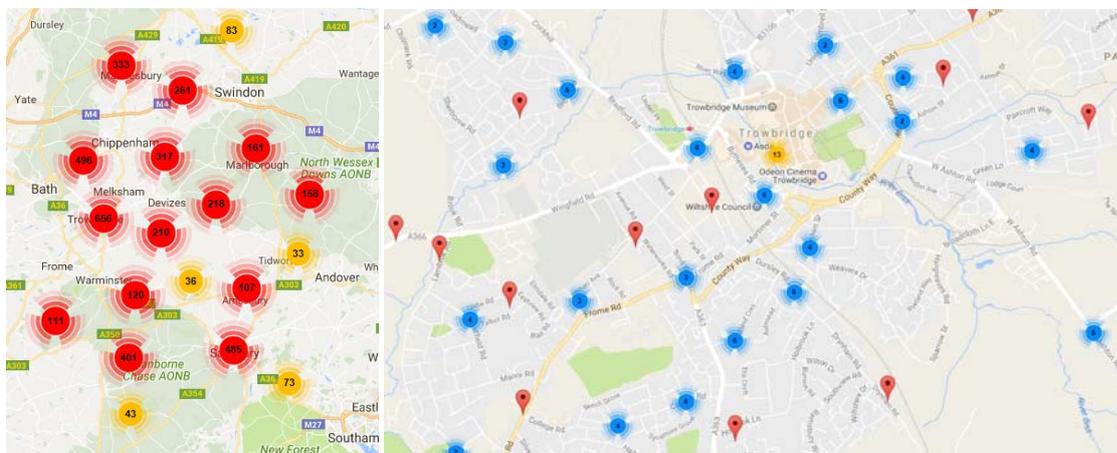
The additional funding was mainly used to fund four two man Pothole Gangs to respond to potholes reported through the Council's innovative My Wiltshire app. The reports from the public are reviewed before being passed on electronically to the gangs for treatment. When the work is completed they use the My Wiltshire system

to report completion, which then passes a message back to the member of the public. All reports can be submitted by the public through the My Wiltshire mobile App, or through the Council's website. All telephone and email are also entered into the My Wiltshire system.



*The My Wiltshire system as an innovative way to enable reporting and management of potholes*

The My Wiltshire system allows close monitoring of progress on addressing potholes. The completed potholes can be displayed on digital mapping, which it is intended to make available on the Council's website shortly.



The map display enables the view to be expanded to show the overall numbers and locations of potholes, and it is possible to zoom into particular areas to see the locations of repaired potholes.

The Pothole Gangs and the Parish Stewards also work on a 'find and fix' basis, and patrol the network to identify and repair potholes before they are reported.



*The Parish Stewards also use the My Wiltshire system to report on 'find and fix' potholes.*

The Pothole Action Fund was also used to operate a Velocity Patcher team to repair the rural minor roads on the network. This was repair work and preventative work to reduce deterioration. This proved particularly successful in dealing with these minor roads, and a more extensive programme of Velocity Patching work is planned for next year.



*Velocity Patcher process was used on minor roads across the network in Wiltshire in 2016.*

The additional funding for road maintenance from Department for Transport for potholes in 2016/17 is appreciated, and has helped repair immediate problems on the network. However, it is no substitute for a major programme of resurfacing which Wiltshire has been funding to address the backlog of road maintenance.