

## MOTION: ON ADDRESSING POTHOLES

Proposer: Cllr L Gregori

Seconder: Cllr T Reynolds

Potholes are a danger to all road users, and can lead to serious injuries and in some cases fatalities. It is estimated that there are about 6 potholes per mile on council-controlled roads in England and Wales.

Evidence suggests that the figure for the town of Andover is much higher. The perceived lack of action by the local highways authority, Hampshire County Council, has led to an increase in potholes whilst many residents have given up reporting on them.

According to the RAC Pothole Index, in 2023 motorists were twice as likely to have a breakdown as a result of repeated wear caused by potholes when compared to 2006.

Government figures suggest that last year the average repair bill after hitting a pothole is £320 with some motorists paying over £1000.

The Local Highways Maintenance Transparency report revealed Hampshire fixed 32,419 highway defects in 2024/25, a fall of about 59% compared to the 79,573 it repaired the previous year. By the end of December, only 22,172 defects had been repaired this fiscal year.

There is little or no sign of the situation improving with decreasing public confidence.

It is resolved that:

The Town Clerk writes to the Chief Executive Hampshire County Council inquiring what the local Highways Authority will implement to fix the potholes, to restore public confidence in the approach taken by the Highways Authority, and to encourage the public to report potholes.