**ADVANTAGES FOR REPAIRING THE ROAD SURFACE**

Johns Road is extremely unwelcoming and potentially perilous for residents and visitors on foot or in cars, as well as for horses and cyclists. While residents have had to get used to the condition of the road, visitors do not like it and, generally, will not drive down it – parking in Paynesfield Road and walking down. If they have been warned about the road then this means wearing stout footwear and bringing nicer shoes with them, as the surface is very loose and dangerous or, if they do not know the road, risking falling over. In the dark and wet it is even more perilous.

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Public service vehicles, such as ambulances, District Nurses, the Fire Service, Recycling Service, Postal Service, and delivery couriers all have difficulty negotiating the road or refuse to come down the road. At the moment there are District Nurses parking at the top of the road and walking the whole way down.

We have had a visit from the council who say that the recycling operatives are having difficulty pulling the wheelie bins along our road and it may be that we will be asked to take our bins to the top of the road for collection. At present the waste collection vehicle can only drive half way down the road and one resident has to take their bin further down the road so that it is collected when the vehicle approaches along Ninehams Road.

From the Recycling Officer for Waste Management at Tandridge District council:

“Johns Road is currently serviced by both our standard waste collection vehicle and also by a smaller vehicle. The smaller Garwood vehicle is required as there is very limited access to 2-3 properties at the north eastern end of the road. If the access could be improved, possibly including a turning area, it would allow our standard waste collection vehicle to collect from all the properties in the road. This would have both a financial and environmental benefit.

Our contractor has also reported concerns about the condition of the surface of Johns Road, from its junction with Paynesfield Road for a distance of approximately 150m. Their concern was such that the surface could cause significant wear and tear to their collection vehicle.”

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Recently there was a need for a Fire Engine to drive down the road at night, but it could only get half way down because of the road surface and overhanging trees. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service comment “that the present road surface, width and overhanging trees on the hill section of Johns Road would cause difficulties for access to those properties on the hill to our appliances. Although I am confident we would be able to tackle a fire in one of these properties our attendance time and speed of 'getting to work' would be compromised.”

Their suggestion is that improved access for the Fire Service would be to level out and widen the road and cut back overhanging trees and vegetation.

There is also the cost of repairs and wear and tear on our vehicles – damaged suspension; tyres coming off rims; punctures.

There are two options for repairing the top of the road where the potholes are: Option A to get a contractor to level and add various levels of materials suitable for a bridleway. And Option B to fill in the potholes with Type 1 material and tarmac. (Costings sent out with invitation)

Surrey County Council agree that we can include speed ramps in our repairs, but should leave a gap in the middle of the road for cyclists and horses.

It has been suggested by Surrey County Council and the contractors who have viewed the road that ‘make-do’ repairs and uncompacted surfaces will need constant repair, especially in wet weather, but that proper levelling, materials, and compacting will give a longer life (breakdown of costs were attached with your invitation)

However, the section of the road between Hornbeams and Brentor, which is sloping, will need proper repair as any loose surface will be quickly washed away. (costings included in Option A)

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