

Councillor Perry
Via Email

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Dear Councillor Perry

Re: Whalebone Lane Ward Resurfacing

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Highway Resurfacing Programme for Chadwell Heath Ward. I understand and support you pledge to the community for more resurfacing works within the Ward, but I do feel it is important to provide the wider Highways Maintenance Picture in advance before I address the specifics for you.

Highways Maintenance Context:

Barking and Dagenham's Public Highway Network consists of 1042 Roads maintainable at the Public Expense. These assets are made up of over 334km of carriageway accompanied by 620km of pedestrian pavements and footpaths. These themselves are split between our strategic Principal Road Network, and Local Borough Road Network.

Our Statutory obligations under the Highways Act are to ensure the Public Highway remains operational, functional, and safe for all our users, with an emphasis on protecting vulnerable road users, classified as pedestrians, cyclist, and motorcyclists.

The key to this is a robust planned maintenance programme based on condition surveys and supported by the mandated Highway Inspections regime and reactive maintenance team.

It is well documented that the UK's Highway network is suffering from deterioration through, increasing demand for road space, extreme weather conditions and more importantly years of under investment. The 2026 published Asphalt UK ALARM report highlights the England and Wales Highway Network backlog requires a onetime investment of £18.6 Billion pounds at today's costs and would take 12 years to deliver, demonstrating we are just part of the wider unfortunate picture.

The latest report can be found at: <https://www.asphaltuk.org/alarm-survey-page/>

At present 43km (12.8%) of the borough's carriageway and 14km (2.2%) of borough footways are in need of resurfacing, valued at circa £33m, but with the finite funding

in place we must prioritise our wide reaching demands accordingly, dictated by Statutory surveyed road condition indexes and risks.

Last financial year (25/26) we invested £5.65m, thanks mainly to LBBD continual Capital investment of £4.9m, DFT contribution of £0.55m and TFL providing £0.2m, in improving our highway assets.

This allocation enabled us to address circa 10km of borough roads defective carriageway conditions and 6km of the borough footways accordingly. Unfortunately for every road condition we address and turn its condition from red – (poor/in need of maintenance) to green - good, another road condition deteriorates from amber – (fair condition) to red – (poor/in need of maintenance).

However looking forward with our commitments to DFT completed in full last year, additional funding packages have been awarded to us valued at £6.5m over the next 4 years combined with our continual investment bid commitments of £10m split over the next 2 financial years, will enable us to make positive progression in vastly improving the conditions of our most important and valuable assets boroughwide.

Our latest Department for Transport Returns are available and aligned to:
[Highways maintenance block: formula allocations 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Transparency Report:
[Local Highways Maintenance Transparency Report](#)

Annex B Returns:
[Microsoft Word - LBBD - Incentive Element Annex B Report Final](#)

Department for Transport Allocations for 2026 to 2030:
[Highways maintenance block: formula allocations 2026 to 2030 - GOV.UK](#)

Chadwell Heath Ward Resurfacing:

Collier Row Road was resurfaced in financial year 2023/2024

Whalebone Lane North – Billet Road to the Roundabout was resurfaced in financial year 2023/2024

Lansbury Avenue was resurfaced and completed in March 2026

High Road Chadwell Heath was resurfaced and completed in May 2026.

We will be resurfacing the High Road, Whalebone Lane North, Whalebone Lane South (Tollgate) Junction late 2026/2027 undertaken as part of a Junction overhaul and upgrade improving functionality and pedestrian safety, funded by TFL and S106 contributions.

Whalebone Lane North, Rose Lane to Billet Road was due for resurfacing works starting next week but unfortunately had to be postponed accommodating Cadent Gas mains replacement works along the same alignment. We are now working in

tandem with Cadent Gas and programming these necessary resurfacing works for late August 2026 following the mains replacement completion.

Rose Lane is another key priority and will be resurfaced in mid to late August 2026, coinciding with the summer holidays minimising disruption to the local community.

Whilst we have highlighted immediate priorities for 2026/2027, we are still formulating the borough local roads elements aligning to available budgets, road space demands, and risks and coordinating with wider project implications.

Chadwell Heath Ward Roads will naturally be given due consideration for action as we formulate the upcoming programme.

In the meantime, the Highway officer for the locality continues to inspect the wards roads in full, and all defects meeting our defect intervention level policies are actioned for remediation in a timely fashion.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Davies

**Service Lead Highways
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