

# Pothole paranoia

After the gritting fiasco we might have hoped that conditions on our local roads would have improved over the past few weeks. But, with the council continuing to ignore the need to grit B roads and with frost and snow continuing to be a regular visitor this winter, road conditions remain hazardous, especially in the mornings.

To add to the problems our local roads have developed a rash of potholes, some of them large and deep enough to cause real damage to any vehicle that hits them. Indeed its no exaggeration to say that some pose a real threat to life and limb if they were to be hit by a motorcyclist or pedal cyclist. On our country roads, with no streetlights, there is a real risk of someone being caught out at night.

Given the danger we might hope that the worst holes would be repaired quickly, but some have been around for several weeks now, despite having been reported several times. We recognise, of course, that the sheer volume of holes makes it difficult for the council to carry out repairs on them all, but surely the most dangerous should be given priority?

The sad thing is that many of this year's crop of holes are last year's holes that have re emerged. The repairs last year have simply lifted out again. We suspect that many holes had tarmac thrown in as a quick fix and proper repairs were never carried out. Much of the money spent on repairs last year was probably wasted as these patches came out again.

Park lane between Parkgate and the Emley Business Park must rank as one of the worst roads in the country. In addition to hundreds of potholes, whole sections of road have simply broken up and one bend the road has collapsed. Kirklees has promised to carry out repairs but after months of waiting there is still no sign of action. This road is not a lone example as anyone using the roads around Lower Cumberworth can testify.

Lat year it took until well into the summer for all the worst holes to be fixed, with the current round of cuts it's likely it will take even longer this year. If it was simply an inconvenience to motorists that might be acceptable, but as we have already pointed out there is a real risk of serious accidents being caused by someone hitting these holes.

You can help to get these potholes fixed by contacting Highways Ross at the address below and reporting any holes that are causing you concern. The more people who report potholes the more chance there is of some action. As we have said many times before we are on the fringes of the Kirklees Empire and our needs are often overlooked. Only by speaking up will we have any chance of getting some action.

**To report potholes or damage to vehicles caused by holes contact [highways.ross@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:highways.ross@kirklees.gov.uk) or telephone 0800 731 8765**