

Roads Report for 2025

2025 is going to be an exciting year for the FRSA. Last year it became apparent that the regular cleaning of drains and sweeping/resurfacing of roads was going to be insufficient to deal with the challenges of heavier and more concentrated rainfall combined with cumulative wear on our roads caused by large vehicles and undermined in many places by patch mending after dig-outs by utility companies.

Towards the end of last year FRSA launched 4 new initiatives.

1. Firstly we undertook a complete survey of all the roadside gullies that we have responsibility for. We had previously thought the number was about 200 but in fact we have now located, photographed and recorded with individual reference numbers a total of 365. We have developed a google type street map which shows the exact location and condition of each gully and a copy of this can be made available to any contractor that works for us.
2. In support of this, we have reviewed the reports made by our drain-cleaning contractor to ascertain where the drains were not working properly due to blockage, broken pipes etc. A programme of remedial works has now been developed for most of the drains affected and the work will be split across 2 contractors and hopefully be carried out in the Spring.
3. We have also done a complete survey of all 75 FRSA roads to determine their condition, noting sections that appeared unsatisfactory. The assessments were against 4 main criteria of road lane markings (white lines), road surface condition, pot holes/ surface depressions and edge crumbling especially at road junctions. Photographs were taken of all adverse conditions noted and a severity allocation made. We are now considering how best to deal with the known adverse areas taking account of the fact that concentrating resources on many small areas may look best in theory but may be costly for contractors who are more used to having a smaller number of larger working areas. We will shortly be commencing our discussion with contractors in order to develop an optimal work programme and it is hoped that this work will be carried out during the Summer-Autumn period.
4. Finally, members will be aware of the heavy downfalls of rain that we experienced in November 2023 which lead to flooding of areas previously thought not to be at risk. The FRSA is not set up or financed to deal with every single flood risk but merely to maintain existing infrastructure to function as originally installed. To help us establish what flooding might be caused by such defects and what could be considered due to a trend of heavier more concentrated rainfall, we commissioned expert advice with the result that we are able to say with confidence which flooding areas might fall within the FRSA remit.