



## ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

21<sup>st</sup> June 2009

EMAIL ONLY

Ms Susan Laporte  
Highways Engineer  
Kent County Council Mid Kent Division  
Doubleday House St Michael's Close  
Aylesford Kent ME20 7BU

Yr ref: CO2/SL/Tun Wells

Dear Ms Laporte

I refer to your letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December addressed to Dr Whitbourn in which you stated as follows:-

“I note from your useful photographs that with the exception of the known temporary reinstatements in Mount Pleasant Road that all the other photographs relate to statutory undertaker works, the majority of which are British Telecom. I have therefore, forwarded a copy of your letter to our Streetworks team in order that the utility company can be asked to return to site and carry out reinstatements to match the existing surrounding.”

Following this promising response we find that the alleged “temporary works” still exist and various black tarmac “fill-ins” still exist. Why?

In order to remedy this matter I suggest you do the following:-

1.  
You comply with what you state in your letter and ensure that all British Telecom works, plus others, which have been done to a sub-standard level, be replaced with what should have been inserted in the first place.
2.  
Remove the numerous “tarmac pock marks” we now endure on Mount Pleasant Road which surround many of the trees. You say the work was temporary so why is this temporary work still there?

While I understand you have to schedule in works I simply do not find it reasonable to have temporary works still existing in an area where the work should have been undertaken with an awareness of what material should have replaced it in the first instance. If your department had ensured this work be done correctly in the first place you would now be in a position whereby you would be avoiding quite unnecessary additional spend and thus wasting Council Tax payers monies once again.

I was under the impression that when contractors did enact work, which affected pavements etc; that you would, as a department, ensure the work be done correctly and to the correct standard and with correct materials. If that be the case, who maintains the database of works, who ensures compliance and what is the dedicated telephone number to report such sloppy inadequate work?

Address: c/o Mrs Samantha Timms, Senior Committee Administrator, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1RS

Finally, I would appreciate you advise me who is responsible for the above in your department and also for:-

- Street Columns (lamp post replacements and maintenance/removal).
- Street Signage (broken and unnecessary).
- Roundabout maintenance (lack of it).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Thomas  
Chairman  
Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum