

Full Council – 10 November 2025

Conservative Group Motion

Holding Highways Contractors and Utility Companies Accountable for Unsafe and Substandard Reinstatement Works

This Council notes with concern the increasing number of highways works, and substandard reinstatement activities carried out by utility companies across Brent — particularly on Kingsbury Road, Westmoreland Road, and Dryburgh Gardens. These works have led to unsafe footways, prolonged disruption and unacceptable conditions for residents, businesses and road users.

This Council further notes:

- That on Dryburgh Gardens, outside several properties, Thames Water subcontracted a company whose backfill works failed to meet required standards. The ground has since sunk, leaving footways hazardous for pedestrians.
- That on Kingsbury Road, the footway was excavated near a BT chamber and reinstated with concrete rather than the original paving slabs. When contacted, Brent's Highways team confirmed no permit had been issued for these works. This raises serious concerns about illegal excavation, lack of oversight and whether Brent Council is maintaining a record of roads being dug up without authorisation and left in a dangerous state.
- That outside Morrison Patrol Station, two clear breaches have been identified and reported:
 - A footpath originally laid with paving slabs has been reinstated with low-grade asphalt;
 - A double yellow line across the carriageway has not been reinstated following trenching works.
- These reinstatement failures breach the “like-for-like” standard and pose trip hazards to pedestrians.

This Council further notes:

- That defects identified under the New Road and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) Section 81, where apparatus is unsafe or unrepaired, are subject to strict response timelines yet often remain unresolved due to disputed ownership.

- That defects identified and that come within Section 72 of the NRSWA — where reinstatement fails to meet prescribed standards—are enforceable and chargeable, yet enforcement remains underutilised.

As a result, this Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Publish a public-facing defect tracker for Section 72 and Section 81 of the NRSWA, detailing timelines, responsible parties, and enforcement actions.
- (2) Escalate enforcement under Section 72 of the NRSWA for all confirmed defective reinstatements, including chargeable inspections and remedial permits.
- (3) Report quarterly to Full Council on progress, enforcement outcomes, and resident feedback.
- (4) Reaffirm its commitment to public safety, transparency, and holding highways contractors and utility companies accountable for the quality and timeliness of their works.

Councillor Suresh Kansagra
Kenton Ward