



Date received:	8 th June 2026
Date responded:	7 th July 2026
Subject:	Fort Anne Road / Douglas Head footway maintenance and vegetation

Question:

This request concerns the right-hand pavement / footway on Fort Anne Road leading up towards Douglas Head, when travelling uphill from the Douglas town side towards Douglas Head. The footway appears to have become heavily overgrown with vegetation and, in practical terms, appears to have been left unusable or only partly usable by pedestrians.

Please provide the following recorded information held by Douglas City Council:

1. Responsibility and legal status

Any records held by Douglas City Council confirming whether this pavement / footway forms part of the public highway, a highway or footway maintainable at public expense, Council-maintained land, public open space, amenity land, or land maintained by or on behalf of the Council.

Any records identifying which public authority, department, committee, contractor, landowner or other body is responsible for maintaining this pavement / footway and the adjoining vegetation.

2. Council responsibility, involvement or non-involvement

Any records explaining whether Douglas City Council considers itself responsible, partly responsible, or not responsible for:

- maintaining the pavement / footway;
- cutting back or controlling vegetation affecting the pavement / footway;
- reporting the condition of the pavement / footway to the Department of Infrastructure or any other body;
- inspecting or responding to public safety issues affecting pedestrian use of this route.

3. Legal, policy or operational basis

Any statutory, legal, policy, operational, budgetary, environmental, biodiversity, land-management or safety basis relied upon by Douglas City Council for any action or inaction in relation to this pavement / footway and adjoining vegetation.

Any policy, guidance, service standard, maintenance schedule or operational instruction covering vegetation management, footway obstruction, public realm maintenance, highway-adjacent vegetation, or comparable pedestrian routes within Douglas.

4. Decision-making records

Any internal records, emails, inspection notes, maintenance records, risk assessments, meeting notes, contractor instructions, committee records, officer decisions or management decisions since 1 January 2015 relating to:

- the condition of this pavement / footway;
- vegetation overgrowth affecting pedestrian access;
- any decision to clear, maintain, inspect, report, or take no action;
- any decision to reduce, discontinue, or not undertake maintenance;
- any assessment that the footway is outside Council responsibility;
- any assessment that the footway is no longer required, unsafe, impractical to maintain, environmentally sensitive, or not prioritised.

5. Inspections, complaints and reports

Copies of any inspection records, defect reports, public complaints, councillor enquiries, officer notes, contractor reports, photographs, risk assessments, service requests or work orders relating to the overgrown pavement / footway on Fort Anne Road leading to Douglas Head since 1 January 2015.

6. Correspondence with the Department of Infrastructure or other bodies

Any correspondence between Douglas City Council, the Department of Infrastructure, contractors, landowners, utilities, public bodies or any other relevant parties concerning responsibility for, maintenance of, vegetation clearance affecting, obstruction of, or public safety issues relating to this pavement / footway since 1 January 2015.

7. Current position

Any current recorded plan, work order, inspection requirement, maintenance programme, committee instruction, officer decision or correspondence concerning whether this pavement / footway will be cleared, restored, maintained, reported to another authority, formally closed, or left in its present condition.

Response:

1. A central search of the Council's systems has been undertaken to assist with the FOI request. Copies of all records relating to ownership of the land have been provided at appendix 1, please note redactions have been applied to personal data. A map of ownership of the area has been attached at appendix 2.
2. Copies of all records relating to ownership of the pavement and maintenance have been provided at appendix 1.
3. Copies of all records relating to operational matters for the pavement have been provided at Appendix 1. The Council has also sought legal advice on this matter. This



information has not been disclosed, as it is considered legally privileged. Following the application of the public interest test, the Council has determined that the information should be withheld under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2015, which relates to legal professional privilege. A copy of the public interest test is provided at Appendix 3.

Douglas City Council's cleansing schedule is split into three main areas. Each area is inspected in turn, and a prioritised schedule is established. Teams are allocated to the areas in order of priority and the appropriate maintenance, if required, is carried out. Each team is provided with a specific area map that includes hot spots for attention. Each area is checked and cleaned, and the area map is returned and signed off. A post-clean inspection is then carried out by the manager.

Any issues affecting areas adjoining highways for which the Council is not responsible are reported to the Council's Byelaw Enforcement Team.

All cleansing is carried out in line with the UK industry standards – Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

4. Copies of all records in relation to operational matters for the pavement have been provided at appendix 1.
5. Copies of all records in relation to operational matters for the pavement have been provided at appendix 1.
6. Copies of all records in relation to operational matters for the pavement have been provided at appendix 1.
7. Copies of all records have been provided at appendix 1.



I have enquired with the Department of Infrastructure and they have advise by way of drawings that under highways and estates they're only responsible for and adopted up to the back of the pavement line. I have asked where this leaves that small piece of 'No Man's Land' where the issue is presenting its self, I'm still awaiting an update in relation to that. I'll let you know once I have a definitive answer.

Kind regards,

From: []

Sent: 09 August 2019 14:27

To: < >

Subject: /Fort Anne rd boundary

Dear

Please see the legal extent of the Estate boundary as evidenced by our records which clearly shows the boundary in the area where we met. You can see that it lies above the road to the fence.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 January 2023 17:33
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Fort Anne Road

Hi [redacted]
Somewhat predictably I think I am right and you are wrong 😊
The deeds are what is sent to lawyers and form the agreement of any sale.
I will pop down to the registrar tomorrow and obtain a copy of the original deeds, I think it is a 50/50 [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

Cheers

[redacted]
[redacted]
Douglas Borough Council
Town Hall, PO Box 2, Douglas, Isle of Man
IM99 1AD
e-mail - [redacted]
Phone - +44(0)1624 [redacted]
www.douglas.gov.im

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 January 2023 17:25
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Fort Anne Road

[redacted],
Completely understand where you are coming from and often I will bow to your map super geekiness. In this instance, that map I sent through, is the legally registered boundary deed. It is what has been legally registered and the next time that land is sold, this registration/boundary as shown will be used to create the legal conveyance maps. The only argument is a legal challenge to have the latest registered conveyance overturned.
We must bear in mind, this is not a planning map or an island OS map or an adopted highways map, or a Google Earth map, it is the land registry map of legally registered land deeds under the first registration process.
But if you want to obtain a copy of the title deeds then there is nothing prohibiting you from doing so. I am pointing out that this registered and would have to be subject to a legal process to challenge it.
Cheers,
[redacted]



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From:

Sent: 26 January 2023 16:41

To: ;

Cc: ;

Subject: Fort Anne Road

Afternoon all, one of our favourite little areas of contention raising its ugly little head again.

I am trying to close this one off once and for all as it keeps landing on my desk at least once a year every year.

Please see attached the maps showing the legal boundary of the private land, also clearly shows that the verge and the pavement are outside of the private land. This is subject to many complaints about the state of the verges needing to be cut back in some areas, overgrown weeds/moss on the pavements and the pavements being in poor repair.

The issues as I see and where we need to go as follows:

Legal Boundary

The attached maps show the legally registered boundary line. This is not me nor the owner claiming it is the boundary, this is the legal boundary registered at the Land Registry which would have been done as part of the First Registration process conveyance. This is legally established and registered as the boundary. If we do not agree with it then we have to mount a legal challenge through the courts to challenge the already registered deeds. I do not think this is a route we want to go down and I believe we must accept the boundary is where as shown on the attached maps.

This boundary line clearly shows the verges and the pavement are outside the curtilage of the private land. Again this is something we must accept or mount a legal challenge.

Do we all agree and accept this? If not, who wants to instigate a legal challenge to the legally registered deeds and under what basis?

Verges

If as stated above, the verges are not on private land then are we responsible for maintaining them as part of the transfer of authority back in 2014 or 2015?

This should be a yes or no. If yes we have been advised that they have not been maintained for several years.

If not then whoever manages our legal responsibility of the transfer of authority, where we do and do not maintain will need to raise this with the Government and reach some kind of agreement going forward.

Can someone advise the answers to this?

Pavements

The pavement areas are adopted highway and do not form part of private land. They are adopted public highways. Poorly maintained and damaged.

They are in a mess due to overgrown weeds, grass and moss which one could assume is overspill from the verges (not on private land as above Legal Boundary).

So are we responsible for the cleansing/clearing/weeding of these pavements?

If not, who is?

If we are, can someone please reach an agreement in writing with Government how they wish us to proceed because due to the poor state of the pavements and the amount of growth, if the cleansing team try to tackle this they are likely to rip up any remnants of the pavement structure and make matters worse. I think we need either (a) a written liability waiver from the Gov for potential damage caused by our clearing operations; or (b) a written

instruction not to undertake any clearing so we can show this to current and future complainants to explain why this is not being done; or (c) agreement from Gov in writing that they are going to repair the pavement and we should only commence clearing operations after this time.

Thanks for your time, input and answers greatly appreciated as I cannot progress this any further.

Cheers,

Douglas Borough Council
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e-mail -

Phone - +44(0)1624

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<http://douglas.gov.im/Content/Authority/Community/Images/Uploaded/71522681-5400-4340-B0F1-021a4396c4e9.jpg>

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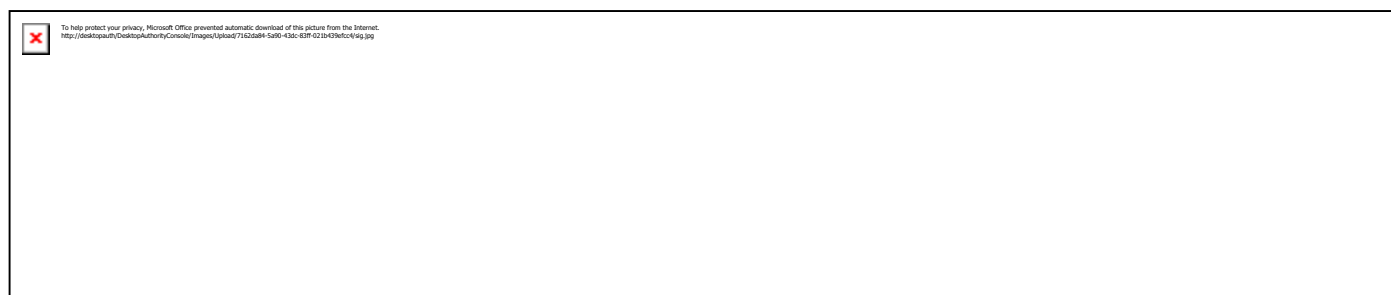
I will pop down to the registrar tomorrow and obtain a copy of the original deeds, I think it is a 50/50

Cheers

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Cheers,

From:
Sent: 30 January 2023 11:04
To:
Subject: RE: Fort Anne Road

Re the pavements.

The surface under the weeds is completely broken up and cannot even be swept. Some years ago was in discussion with DOI to ask them either to reinstate the surface so we could keep it clear or remove them as registered highway.

I was instructed at that time not to make them any worse by weed ripping or sweeping.

Regards

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Cc: ;
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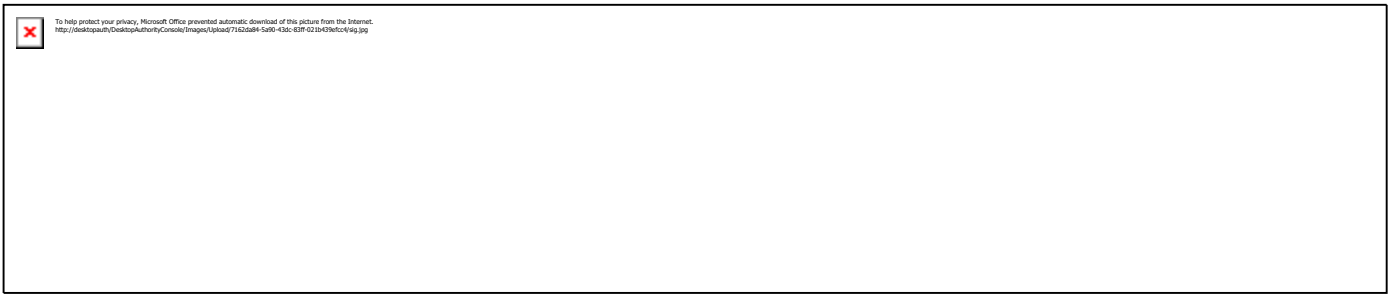
Cheers,

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[redacted]

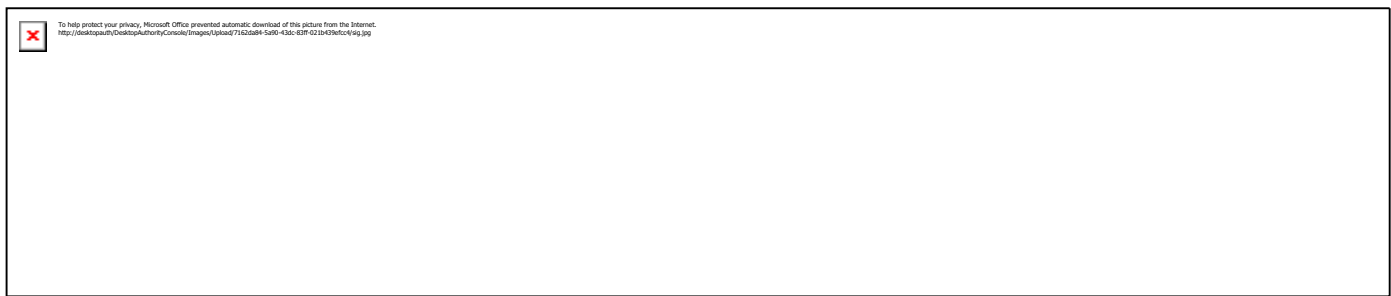
From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 June 2023 16:48
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

I suggest when installing the camera, we arrange it for 10am [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
Douglas Borough Council
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IM99 1AD

e-mail - [redacted]
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From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 June 2023 16:36
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

[redacted]

I suggested months ago someone from Waste/Cleansing gets a liability waiver from DOI for them to clear the oath of weeds. Not sure why we are even involved with the path other than dealing with any overhanging vegetation.

[redacted]
[redacted]
Douglas Borough Council
Town Hall, PO Box 2, Douglas, Isle of Man
IM99 1AD

e-mail - [redacted]
Phone - +44(0)1624 [redacted]
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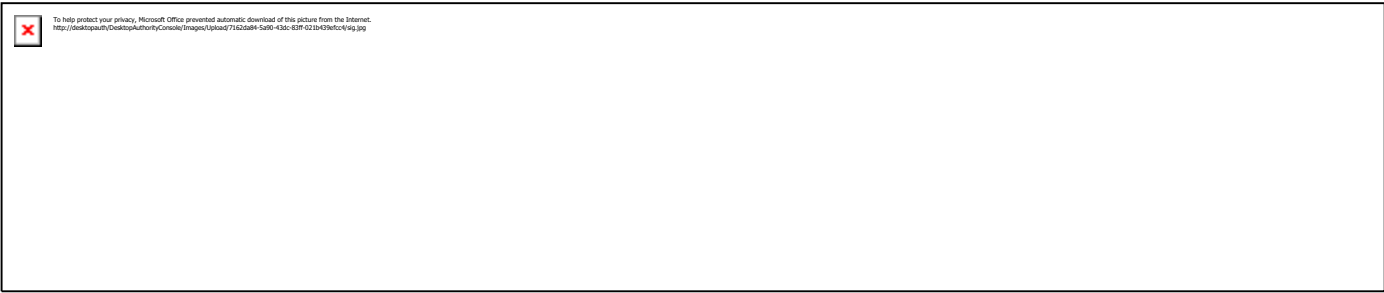
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From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 4:33 PM
To: ;
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Yes please, its Dol's, not DBC's

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IM99 1AD

e-mail -
Phone - +44(0)1624
www.douglas.gov.im



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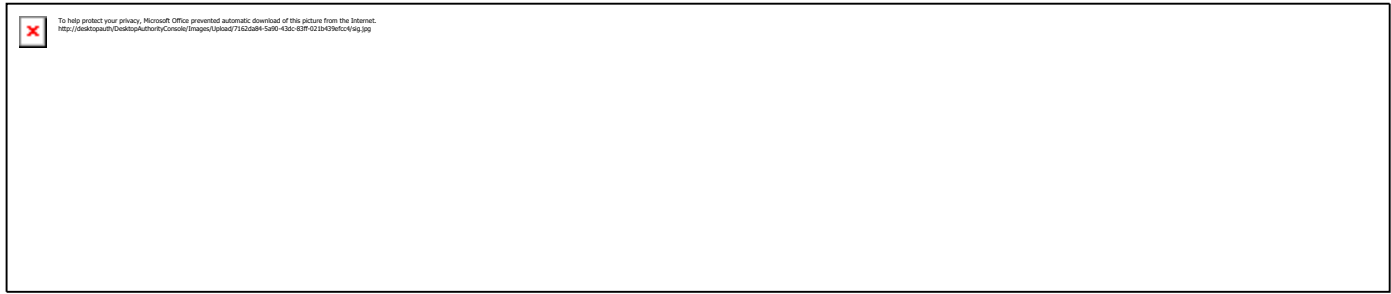
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From:
Sent: 13 June 2023 16:32
To: ;
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

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From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 11:29 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: FW: Douglas Head - Pavement

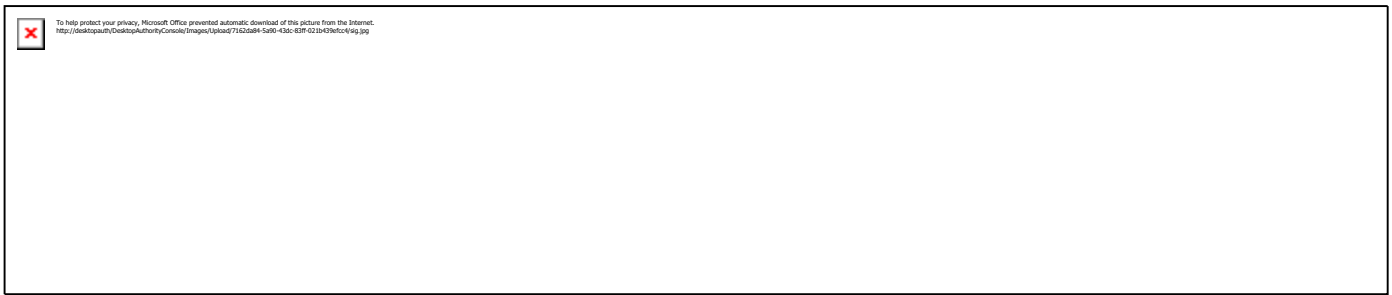
Hi

This is the latest correspondence on this issue.

Thanks

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From:
Sent: 05 June 2023 07:21
To:
Cc: '';
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear all

This area has been an ongoing issue for at least 5 years when I first reported that the pavement was completely broken up and could no longer be swept.

As a result the weeds have gained a foothold and prevent people walking on what is a dangerously broken up path with slippery surface and trip hazards.

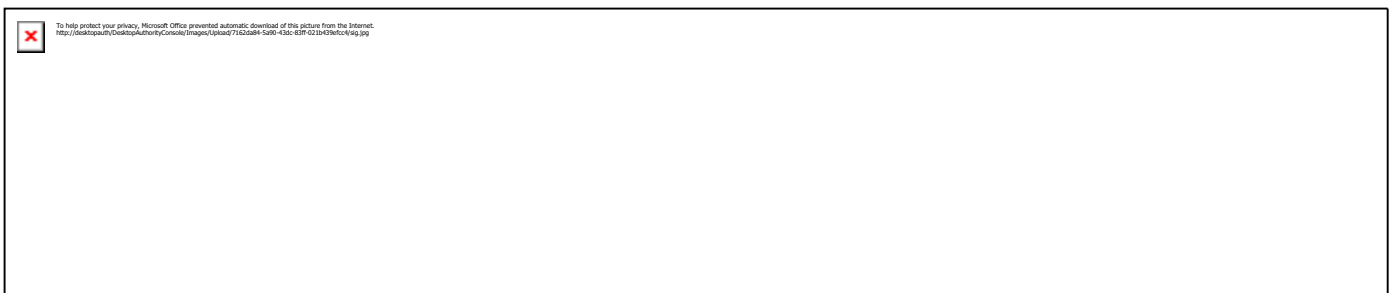
If the path is reinstated I would be more than happy to restart weed-spraying and sweeping of the new path.

Regards



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From:
Sent: 02 June 2023 16:39
To: '' < >
Cc: Cleansing <Cleansing@douglas.gov.im>; '' < >
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail, informing me of the correspondence with and his concerns.

I have copied in our (Douglas Borough Councils) Cleansing Department, who deal with footpaths within the Borough, I am sure they will schedule in a maintenance team to visit the area shortly.

Many thanks

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From: , [<mailto:>]
Sent: 02 June 2023 11:31
To: ''
Cc: Enquiries
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear

Of course we are not suggesting that this should be the stance taken on any of the footways, however with the restrictions on budget and manpower all authorities are experiencing, priorities are assessed according to footfall. As the opposite footway is more than adequate and well used, this area has probably just not been given priority.

I am sure that the area in the parking zone there can be looked at by our colleagues at DBC when maintenance schedules allow.

Regards



*Highway Services
Department of Infrastructure
Ellerslie Depot
Crosby
Isle of Man
IM4 2HA*

Tel: 850000



From:  [[!\[\]\(a86c7d1c9cb81c81614634a31267440d_img.jpg\)](mailto:)]
Sent: 02 June 2023 11:00
To: , 
Cc: enquiries@douglas.gov.im
Subject: Fw: Douglas Head - Pavement

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Thanks .

The pavement on the other side of the road is not of concern, it's the side that's overgrown where you can park your vehicles in the disc zone (where there is not double yellow lines) that is poorly maintained. As a resident paying tax to keep these areas maintained, I would expect better, especially as it leads to an area of natural beauty overlooking the whole of Douglas that many people travel to admire.

If we took the same approach as you suggest in your email below, does it mean that every road that Douglas corporation are responsible for maintaining that has a pavement on two sides, that it would be acceptable to only maintain one side of it? I think we both know the answer to this question is of course not.

In this particular circumstance, there is disc zone parking on the side that is poorly maintained. Anyone parking in this disc zone should expect to step onto a pavement that isn't a health and safety hazard.

I've copied in Douglas Corporation in the hope we can progress matters and get this pavement looking as it should.

Kind Regards



From: [redacted], [redacted] <[redacted]> on behalf of DOI, Enquiries <highways@gov.im>
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 10:16 AM
To: '[redacted]' <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for sending your pics in. Douglas Corporation is responsible for street weeding and road cleansing at this location, so should have kept this footway clear. The department look after the cleaning and weeding etc. of arterial routes.

There is ample clear footway on the opposite site of the road here for the entire route up to the start of Marine Drive which looks well kept. As the footway pictured here is alongside double yellow lines, I don't think the footway maintenance would have been given priority? I do however appreciate there are disc parking spaces further up where the footway looks like it needs some attention.

You can contact Douglas Corporation direct with your enquiry at enquiries@douglas.gov.im or I can contact them on your behalf?

Kind regards



*Highway Services
Department of Infrastructure
Ellerslie Depot
Crosby
Isle of Man
IM4 2HA*

Tel: 850000



From: [redacted] [[mailto:\[redacted\]](mailto:[redacted])]
Sent: 02 June 2023 08:57
To: DOI, Enquiries
Subject: Douglas Head - Pavement

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Good Afternoon

Please can the DOI attend to the now non existent pavement due to over grown weeds on Fort Anne Road, Douglas Head?

This is meant to be a walkway leading up to one of islands most picturesque locations and if people are unable to walk the whole way, at least be able to park their vehicles in accordance with the highways signage on the overgrown pavement side, however I don't believe it would be safe to even step out of the car and onto a pavement in this condition:







Kind Regards



Sent from my iPhone

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RAAUE: S'preevaadjagh yn çhaghteraght post-l shoh chammah's coadanyn erbee currit marish as ta shoh coadit ec y leigh. Cha nhegin diu coipal ny cur eh da peiagh erbee elley ny ymmydey yn chooid t'ayn er aght erbee dyn kied leayr veih'n choyrtagh. Mannagh nee shiu yn enmyssagh kiarit jeh'n phost-l shoh, doll-shiu magh eh, my sailliu, as cur-shiu fys da'n choyrtagh cha leah as oddys shiu.

Cha nel kied currit da failleydagh ny jantagh erbee conaant y yannoo rish peiagh ny possan erbee lesh post-l er son Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh erbee jeh Reiltys Ellan Vannin dyn co-niartaghey scrut leayr veih Reireyder y Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh t'eh bentyn rish.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 13 March 2024 07:44
To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]
Subject: FW: DCC Website reported issue: Weeds _ Leaves (RI594956496)

All

This pavement has been reported years ago to do as needing replacing. There is no tarmac or very badly broken tarmac under the overgrown bank.

The DOI advised at the time that they did not intend to repair the pavement as 99% of people walk up the seaward side of the road which is in good condition.

[Redacted] [Redacted] had many discussions with [Redacted] DOI about extinguishing it as a footpath however Im unsure if this was done.

Either way we cannot clear weeds etc and encourage people to walk on a dangerous surface.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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From: DoNotReply
Sent: 12 March 2024 20:04
To: [Redacted]
Subject: DCC Website reported issue: Weeds _ Leaves (RI594956496)

An incident of Weeds _ Leaves has been reported via the website, details are:

Reporter contact details

Name: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]
Phone: [Redacted]
Follow up requested: Yes

Contact via: Email

Incident details

What is the issue: The land side (opposed to sea side) of Fort Anne Road Douglas leading to Douglas Headland, the pavement is impassible due to weeds and overgrown hedge. Needs attention as area leads to island beauty spot. It's so bad now, that it needs a mini excavator to scrape the pavement. There is a 10 foot high bush growing out of the pavement!! Ask the City Council Lads who turned up today with instructions to tidy the opposite side that needs nothing done! They agreed it was shocking! Also the left side pavement on the old Castletown road driving southwards from the Nunnery Entrance to the whitehoe industrial estate has not been cleared of leaves for at least three years and is also impassible to pedestrians. It looks terrible!

Where is the issue: Landslide pavement Fort Anne Road Douglas Head and left pavement on old Castletown Road driving south from nunnery entrance to whitehoe

Kind regards,
Douglas City Council

Contact us

email: enquiries@douglas.gov.im

phone: 01642 696300

web: <http://www.douglas.gov.im>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DouglasCityCouncil>

From:
Sent: 23 April 2024 09:41
To:
Subject: RE: DCC Website reported issue: Weeds _ Leaves (RI594956496)

Let me come up with some wording and I will get back to you.

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From:
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 9:10 AM
To:
Subject: FW: DCC Website reported issue: Weeds _ Leaves (RI594956496)

Hi

Any suggestions so I can respond to ?

Cheers

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From: [\[mailto:\]](#)

Sent: 22 April 2024 14:18

To:

Subject: Re: DCC Website reported issue: Weeds _ Leaves (RI594956496)

Good afternoon

Further to previous correspondence below can I make a request for the trees growing out of the pavement on the Fort Anne Road to be removed as they are now overhanging the main road and preventing the use of the disc parking area?

The general condition of the area brings shame upon the council by the residence and visitors to the area which I note in the Council's latest community newsletter there are pictures of Douglas Headland describing your team as working hard to keep the area in good condition, the area as one of the top locations and attractions to our island. Yet 200yards down the road, the condition is beyond shocking!



Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Mar 2024, at 18:41, [redacted] <[redacted]> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your prompt response to my enquiries.

With regard to the neglect of the pavement on the Fort Anne Road, I wish to point out that the area is regularly used by vehicles parking in the area for which the vehicle passengers are unable to exit or enter the vehicles due to the inability to use the pavement. Presumably there has always been water running off the above fields onto the pavement as it does on many pavements throughout the island.

Until decisions are made to do something with the area then the pavements should be maintained. I will now write to the dOI and ask what they intend to do with the pavement which in its current condition is so unsightly and more dangerous in its current condition that it was previously with water running over it.

I note much of the Airport and road through kewaige to Douglas Harbour has received recent maintenance in advance of what was obviously due to be a visit to the island by someone important. [redacted]

The route is shocking! I hope our house sells and we can move to a more desirable area out of the town in the not too distant future

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Mar 2024, at 10:10, [redacted] <[redacted]> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your enquiry regarding Douglas Head Road and the Old Castletown Road.

I can advise as follows; the hard verges on the Old Castletown Road (L/H side travelling out of Douglas) are scheduled to be cleared and weed sprayed this weekend, this happens every year at this time as it is too cold to use herbicides any earlier.

With regards to the landward side pavement travelling up Douglas Head Road, the Department of Infrastructure took the decision several years ago, not to maintain this as a public footpath due to the amount of surface water leaching from the fields making it hazardous under foot, at that time it was their view that the pavement on the opposite side of the road negated its need. Indeed, there was talk by the Department about extinguishing the pavement as a highway, but I don't believe this ever happened. The surface is now badly broken up and incapable of being swept by mechanical sweeper. If the DOI were minded to fully reinstate the pavement then the Council would obviously keep it clean and safe for public use.

I trust this addresses your queries.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2025 14:13
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Fort Anne Road - pavement

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for your looking into the pavement issue. It has been ongoing for years.

The bushes are the responsibility of the land owners and hence it is something we have never done.

I will take a look up there but am unsure of who owns the land.

I've copied our byelaws officers to see if they are aware of ownership.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
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From: [redacted] >
Sent: 29 September 2025 14:03
To: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Fort Anne Road - pavement

Good afternoon [redacted]

Thank you for your reply.

I will look further into the footway issue however, please can you arrange for the overhanging bushes to be trimmed back so they don't overhang the highway?

Many thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: 29 September 2025 13:56
To: [redacted] >
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Fort Anne Road - pavement

Dear [redacted]

We informed the DOI over 4 years ago that the surface of these footpaths are completely broken up and dangerous to walk on, and that we were unable to clear the paths of vegetation and moss.

The paths have not been repaired and if we cleared the vegetation as discussed at the time if people were to walk on the poor surface it would be dangerous underfoot.

We do not intend to remove vegetation from the paths until they have been repairs in order to maintain safety.

Sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
Douglas City Council
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From: [redacted] >
Sent: 29 September 2025 11:54
To: Enquiries <Enquiries@douglas.gov.im>
Subject: Fort Anne Road - pavement

Good morning

We have had a report regarding the condition of the pavement on Fort Anne Road. I have attached pictures of the pavement.

Please can you arrange for the vegetation to be removed?

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]
Control Room Supervisor

DOI Highways
Ellerslie Depot
Crosby
IM4 2HA

Email:

DD: (01624) 850000



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Cha nel kied currit da failleydaghy ny jantagh erbee conaant y yannoo rish peiagh ny possan erbee lesh post-I er son Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh erbee jeh Reiltys Ellan Vannin dyn co-niartaghey scruiit leayr veih Reireyder y Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh t'eh bentyn rish.

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Cha nel kied currit da failleydaghy ny jantagh erbee conaant y yannoo rish peiagh ny possan erbee lesh post-I er son Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh erbee jeh Reiltys Ellan Vannin dyn co-niartaghey scruiit leayr veih Reireyder y Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh t'eh bentyn rish.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 June 2026 12:28
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Requested agenda items: Fort Anne Road refuse arrangements, pavement maintenance, and public-facing staff identification

[redacted]

I've just spoken to [redacted] about the first two items. I'm aware both issues get raised from time to time. The gentleman clearly doesn't like bins on the highways and [redacted] says he raises the same issue with every new politician. The Wardens check about monthly whether there are bins being left out that are not on the list. He says there are occasionally but in general if they can be removed they are. Ironically the creation of a communal bin area may need planning consent if the area does become a Conservation Area. [redacted] going to do a bin check today.

On the issue of the path, the advice I gave the Committee is ever so slightly inaccurate in that [redacted] has been advised by the Dol that the footpath is not used and therefore they intend to extinguish it as a footpath and not maintain it. This is why we haven't pursued the cutting back with the owners, [redacted]. [redacted] is checking whether he has anything in writing. If not we'll need to ask the Dol to confirm their plans.

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
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From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, 15 June 2026 12:03
To: [redacted] <[redacted]>; [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: Fw: Requested agenda items: Fort Anne Road refuse arrangements, pavement maintenance, and public-facing staff identification

Hi both

See below, this was discussed at ESC this morning.

On (i) below, from what was said this morning, the 'issue' is that a local resident does not like to see bins on the highway. We should take a report back to committee looking at what other options there are for this area - communal bins, etc. And we should cost them and provide a firm recommendation as to whether we keep the

status quo or whether we change the collection methodology on this one street and what the likely costs would be, and the pros and cons of same. The report needs to include for information the number of properties on this street that we already know cannot remove their bins from the highway and the reason. I wouldn't give the house number as this will be a public report but we can talk about numbers and causes. [redacted] will have this info. Before you start looking into this, might be worth chatting with [redacted] to see what the real issue is so we are addressing the real issue and not the way it has been put to us. It might need a bit of work by the Wardens up that street but I'm not aware it's one of our hot spot areas for people leaving bins out. I've not yet added to lists - you'll need to do that based on when you think you can bring a report back.

On (ii) below, we need to establish the area he is referring to and who the landowner is. If it's private, then we'll need to engage with the wardens to see what can be done. If it's not private and we have a responsibility for it, then we will need to look at what we can do to cut it back. If it's not private and it's not ours then we'll need to refer it to the DoI but they've already said it's ours (but they often say that when it's not). [redacted] made the point in committee that if we do cut back (or arrange to have it cut back by the relevant landowner) then it will leave an exposed poor pavement, but that's for the DoI to resolve. Depending on which way this goes it will either be a matter for the ESC or RCC committee OR it could just be an update by means of Briefing Note once the works are underway or completed. Again, not added to Lists because until someone looks into this, we don't know which way it goes. Leave it with you.

(iii) will need to be referred to the Chief Executive for her to consider taking a report to ExCo as it will impact all staff. Not sure how operatives would react to this, or indeed the trade unions, but it's too big an issue for any of the standing committees. Nothing for you to do on this one just yet. [redacted] said he'd re-write it and send it to the CX for her consideration.

Ta

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: [redacted] <[redacted]>

Sent: 10 June 2026 08:36

To: [redacted] <[redacted]>

Subject: Fw: Requested agenda items: Fort Anne Road refuse arrangements, pavement maintenance, and public-facing staff identification

Good morning ,

Please see below the email from . We can briefly discuss it as part of the pre-agenda meeting later.

Kind regards,

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available to members of Douglas Library. Download the Libby App, ask for a PIN number and away you go.

 Questions about recycling?

 Need additional boxes?

 Do you have space for communal recycling bins at your flats?

Call our recycling team on 696445 or email recycling@douglas.gov.im More information is available at www.recyclenow.im



Do you want to report a problem?



Overgrown hedges, fly tipping, dog fouling, gully problem etc..

Use our online reporting tool with which you can describe the issue, point to its location and upload images. The report then be send to the relevant council service. https://douglas-self.achieveservice.com/service/report_it

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From: < >

Sent: Tuesday, 09 June 2026 12:42:57

To: All Environmental Services Committee <AllEnvironmentalServicesCommittee@douglas.gov.im>

Subject: Requested agenda items: Fort Anne Road refuse arrangements, pavement maintenance, and public-facing staff identification

Dear Councillor and Council Colleagues,

Could you please include the motion below on the agenda of the upcoming Environmental Services Committee meeting? If it is too late to be included in this meeting, please can you include it in the following committee meeting?

Thank you,

--- Start of Motion Text---

Requested agenda items: Fort Anne Road refuse arrangements, pavement maintenance, and public-facing staff identification

Motion

That the Environmental Services Committee requests the Director of Environment and Regeneration to arrange officer reports on: (i) the feasibility, siting, cost, servicing and legal implications of communal refuse containers opposite Fort William buildings on upper Fort Anne Road / Douglas Head Road, to reduce individual bins obstructing pavements;

(ii) the condition, cleansing, vegetation clearance and enforcement options for the right-hand Fort Anne Road / Douglas Head Road footway towards Douglas Head; and

(iii) the feasibility of numbered or named identification badges for public-facing Council operational staff, including the Eastern Civic Amenity Site, refuse collection, grounds maintenance, gardening and other community-facing workers.

Brief supporting note

Residents have raised concerns about individual household bins being left on pavements near the Fort William Buildings, and have asked whether larger communal refuse containers could provide a safer and tidier alternative.

Residents have also raised concerns that the right-hand pavement on Fort Anne Road, when travelling uphill towards Douglas Head, has become overgrown, unattractive and difficult to use. Correspondence received from the Department of Infrastructure indicates that Douglas City Council has responsibilities in relation to pavement clearance and action concerning overhanging vegetation from adjoining land.

A further issue has been raised regarding the difficulty of identifying public-facing Council staff where a resident wishes to make a complaint, compliment, or raise a service matter. The Committee is therefore asked to consider whether numbered or named identification badges would be feasible for staff at the Eastern Civic Amenity Site, refuse collection crews, grounds maintenance staff, gardeners and other Council employees working in the community, subject to staff safety, privacy, operational and human-resources considerations.

--- End of Motion Text---

From:
Sent: 17 June 2026 13:41
To: ;
Subject: Re: Douglas Head - Pavement

Agreed. I don't think this was something that I made a decision on as it's not ringing any bells. , can you find out the legal situation with before we take any further action, so we don't end up scoring an own goal.

Ta

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From:
Sent: 17 June 2026 13:32
To: ;
Subject: FW: Douglas Head - Pavement

Hi Both

This is what I've been able to ascertain about the footway and the overgrown vegetation on Fort Anne Road.

It appears that several years ago advised the DoI that the footway surface was broken up and could no longer be swept and that sweeping and spraying ceased at that point. Since that time the vegetation from land owned by has started to extend over the footway. To date the Council has not taken enforcement action to oblige the owner to cut their vegetation back.

To resolve the situation effectively would involve the DoI undertaking to renew the surface, followed by the Council persuading the landowner or, failing that serving notice on the landowner to cut back the vegetation to allow the resurfacing to take place. Cleansing could then add the footway back into the cleansing regime. I'm happy to make an approach to the DoI but I'd welcome some advice from either of you as to the cleansing situation and whether the Council is within its right to refuse to sweep and spray if the footway surface is not suitably maintained. I don't want to open a can of worms that backfires on us.

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 10:39

To: [redacted]

Subject: FW: Douglas Head - Pavement

Some interesting comments from DoI in this chain

[redacted]
[redacted]

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From: [redacted] <[redacted]>

Sent: 05 June 2023 07:21

To: [redacted] <[redacted]>

Cc: '[redacted]' <[redacted]>; [redacted] <[redacted]>

Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear all

This area has been an ongoing issue for at least 5 years when I first reported that the pavement was completely broken up and could no longer be swept.

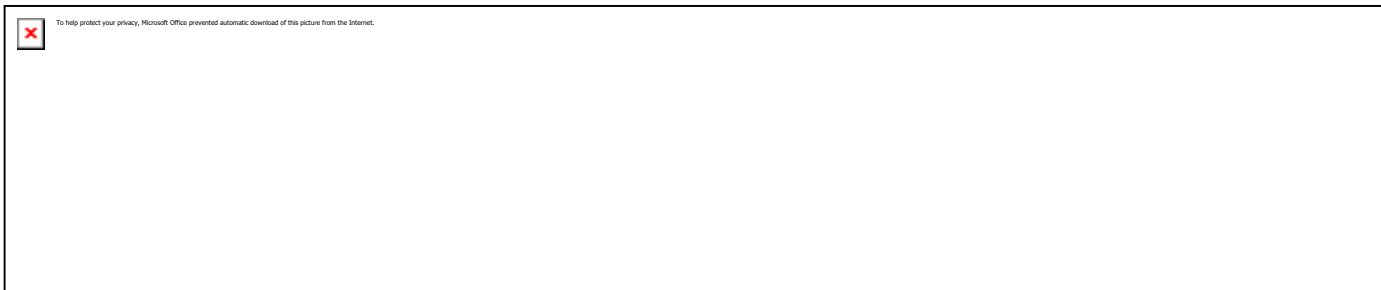
As a result the weeds have gained a foothold and prevent people walking on what is a dangerously broken up path with slippery surface and trip hazards.

If the path is reinstated I would be more than happy to restart weed-spraying and sweeping of the new path.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Douglas Borough Council
Town Hall, PO Box 2, Douglas, Isle of Man
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From:
Sent: 02 June 2023 16:39
To: '' < >
Cc: Cleansing <Cleansing@douglas.gov.im>; '' < >
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail, informing me of the correspondence with and his concerns.
I have copied in our (Douglas Borough Councils) Cleansing Department, who deal with footpaths within the Borough, I am sure they will schedule in a maintenance team to visit the area shortly.

Many thanks

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From: [redacted], [redacted] [[mailto:\[redacted\]](mailto:[redacted])]

Sent: 02 June 2023 11:31

To: [redacted]

Cc: Enquiries

Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear [redacted]

Of course we are not suggesting that this should be the stance taken on any of the footways, however with the restrictions on budget and manpower all authorities are experiencing, priorities are assessed according to footfall. As the opposite footway is more than adequate and well used, this area has probably just not been given priority.

I am sure that the area in the parking zone there can be looked at by our colleagues at DBC when maintenance schedules allow.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Highway Services

Department of Infrastructure

Ellerslie Depot

Crosby

Isle of Man

IM4 2HA

Tel: 850000



From: [redacted] [[mailto:\[redacted\]](mailto:[redacted])]

Sent: 02 June 2023 11:00

To: [redacted], [redacted]

Cc: enquiries@douglas.gov.im

Subject: Fw: Douglas Head - Pavement

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Thanks [redacted].

The pavement on the other side of the road is not of concern, it's the side that's overgrown where you can park your vehicles in the disc zone (where there is not double yellow lines) that is poorly maintained. As a resident paying tax to keep these areas maintained, I would expect better, especially as it leads to an area of natural beauty overlooking the whole of Douglas that many people travel to admire.

If we took the same approach as you suggest in your email below, does it mean that every road that Douglas corporation are responsible for maintaining that has a pavement on two sides, that it would be acceptable to only maintain one side of it? I think we both know the answer to this question is of course not.

In this particular circumstance, there is disc zone parking on the side that is poorly maintained. Anyone parking in this disc zone should expect to step onto a pavement that isn't a health and safety hazard.

I've copied in Douglas Corporation in the hope we can progress matters and get this pavement looking as it should.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted], [redacted] <[redacted]> on behalf of DOI, Enquiries <highways@gov.im>

Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 10:16 AM

To: '[redacted]' <[redacted]>

Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for sending your pics in. Douglas Corporation is responsible for street weeding and road cleansing at this location, so should have kept this footway clear. The department look after the cleaning and weeding etc. of arterial routes.

There is ample clear footway on the opposite site of the road here for the entire route up to the start of Marine Drive which looks well kept. As the footway pictured here is alongside double yellow lines, I don't think the footway maintenance would have been given priority? I do however appreciate there are disc parking spaces further up where the footway looks like it needs some attention.

You can contact Douglas Corporation direct with your enquiry at enquiries@douglas.gov.im or I can contact them on your behalf?

Kind regards

[redacted]
[redacted]

*Highway Services
Department of Infrastructure
Ellerslie Depot
Crosby
Isle of Man
IM4 2HA
Tel: 850000*



From: [redacted] [[mailto:\[redacted\]](mailto:[redacted])]

Sent: 02 June 2023 08:57

To: DOI, Enquiries

Subject: Douglas Head - Pavement

Caution: **This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.**

Good Afternoon

Please can the DOI attend to the now non existent pavement due to over grown weeds on Fort Anne Road, Douglas Head?

This is meant to be a walkway leading up to one of islands most picturesque locations and if people are unable to walk the whole way, at least be able to park their vehicles in accordance with the highways signage on the overgrown pavement side, however I don't believe it would be safe to even step out of the car and onto a pavement in this condition:







Kind Regards



Sent from my iPhone

Isle of Man. Giving you freedom to flourish

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RAAUE: S'preevaadjagh yn çhaghteraght post-l shoh chammah's coadanyn erbee currit marish as ta shoh coadit ec y leigh. Cha nhegin diu coipal ny cur eh da peiagh erbee elley ny ymmydey yn chooid t'ayn er aght erbee dyn kied leayr veih'n choyrtagh. Mannagh nee shiu yn enmyssagh kiarit jeh'n phost-l shoh, doll-shiu magh eh, my sailliu, as cur-shiu fys da'n choyrtagh cha leah as oddys shiu.

Cha nel kied currit da failleydagh ny jantagh erbee conaant y yannoo rish peiagh ny possan erbee lesh post-l er son Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh erbee jeh Reiltys Ellan Vannin dyn co-niartaghey scruit leayr veih Reireyder y Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh t'eh bentyn rish.

From:
Sent: 22 June 2026 08:13
To:
Subject: RE: FOI - Douglas Head Road pavement

/

My recollections, I have no records of the actual meeting, is that I was at a meeting at the Sea terminal involving the DOI and (this was when we worked under payment from them). The pavement was discussed as the surface below the vegetation was completely degraded and could not be jet washed or weed ripped.

The DOI contract manager (I can't remember his name for definite but it may have been) agreed with that they would be extinguishing the footpaths right of way as there was no funds for repair and the footpath was not needed due to the large footpath at the seaward side of the road.

Regarding complaints, again I have no email records, the person who ran a driving school complained on 3 occasions about the state of the pavement opposite the cottages just above the entrance to Fort Anne. This was approximately 3 years ago and he was given the information above.

I do not recall any other complaints in the past 13 years.

Sorry I have no evidence of the meetings or complaints.

Regards

From: < >
Sent: 19 June 2026 10:19
To: ; < >
Subject: RE: FOI - Douglas Head Road pavement

Good Morning

As discussed, I believe that allowing it to become unserviceable was a conscious decision by the DOI (and its earlier iterations), and this likely goes back decades. From recollection there are several issues which make any attempt to clean, futile, thus.

- Surface fretting – likely due to a combination of factors including prolonged exposure to leachate, oxidation, and general ageing of the asphalt. The surface has deteriorated to a condition where it is no longer suitable for maintenance using mechanical cleansing equipment.
- Encroaching vegetation – vegetation from adjacent land is contributing to further deterioration. There is no record of the adjoining landowner being required to maintain vegetation on the public-facing side of their boundary.

- Lack of drainage provision – the pavement has been subject to ongoing leachate runoff from adjacent land, leading to persistent contamination and creating a continuing health and safety risk. Remedial works would likely require installation of a drainage ditch or similar system, which would in turn require regular maintenance. Responsibility for surface water management in this location falls to the DOI.

As you know there is a perfectly serviceable footpath on the opposite side of the road which is more than adequate for the volume of foot traffic and I believe this is the rationale taken by the DOI against costly reinstatement and new drainage infrastructure.

I've copied to [redacted], who I know has wrote to the DOI on numerous occasions as well as enquiries from the public over the years, hopefully he can give more information for the FOI.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Head of Waste Services
Douglas City Council
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From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 June 2026 08:30
To: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Subject: FOI - Douglas Head Road pavement

Hi [redacted],

 [Douglas FOI Request.docx](#)

Attached is an FOI regarding the pavement overgrowth on Douglas Head Road. [redacted] is reviewing the legal position but please can you furnish me with everything that you have on this as to why we do not clean this. There is an email trail below which is a result of [redacted] pursuing this on a separate note, which may help to jog your memory.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: < >

Sent: 17 June 2026 13:32

To: < >;

Subject: FW: Douglas Head - Pavement

Hi Both

This is what I've been able to ascertain about the footway and the overgrown vegetation on Fort Anne Road.

It appears that several years ago advised the DoI that the footway surface was broken up and could no longer be swept and that sweeping and spraying ceased at that point. Since that time the vegetation from land owned by has started to extend over the footway. To date the Council has not taken enforcement action to oblige the owner to cut their vegetation back.

To resolve the situation effectively would involve the DoI undertaking to renew the surface, followed by the Council persuading the landowner or, failing that serving notice on the landowner to cut back the vegetation to allow the resurfacing to take place. Cleansing could then add the footway back into the cleansing regime.

I'm happy to make an approach to the DoI but I'd welcome some advice from either of you as to the cleansing situation and whether the Council is within its right to refuse to sweep and spray if the footway surface is not suitably maintained. I don't want to open a can of worms that backfires on us.

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From: < >

Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 10:39

To: < >

Subject: FW: Douglas Head - Pavement

Some interesting comments from DoI in this chain

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From: < >
Sent: 05 June 2023 07:21
To: < >
Cc: '' < >; < >
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear all

This area has been an ongoing issue for at least 5 years when I first reported that the pavement was completely broken up and could no longer be swept.

As a result the weeds have gained a foothold and prevent people walking on what is a dangerously broken up path with slippery surface and trip hazards.

If the path is reinstated I would be more than happy to restart weed-spraying and sweeping of the new path.

Regards

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From:
Sent: 02 June 2023 16:39
To: '' < >
Cc: Cleansing <Cleansing@douglas.gov.im>; '' < >
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail, informing me of the correspondence with and his concerns.

I have copied in our (Douglas Borough Councils) Cleansing Department, who deal with footpaths within the Borough, I am sure they will schedule in a maintenance team to visit the area shortly.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: [redacted], [redacted] [[mailto:\[redacted\]](mailto:[redacted])]

Sent: 02 June 2023 11:31

To: '[redacted]'

Cc: Enquiries

Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear [redacted]

Of course we are not suggesting that this should be the stance taken on any of the footways, however with the restrictions on budget and manpower all authorities are experiencing, priorities are assessed according to footfall. As the opposite footway is more than adequate and well used, this area has probably just not been given priority.

I am sure that the area in the parking zone there can be looked at by our colleagues at DBC when maintenance schedules allow.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

*Highway Services
Department of Infrastructure
Ellerslie Depot
Crosby
Isle of Man
IM4 2HA*

Tel: 850000



From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: 02 June 2023 11:00
To: [redacted], [redacted]
Cc: enquiries@douglas.gov.im
Subject: Fw: Douglas Head - Pavement

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Thanks [redacted].

The pavement on the other side of the road is not of concern, it's the side that's overgrown where you can park your vehicles in the disc zone (where there is not double yellow lines) that is poorly maintained. As a resident paying tax to keep these areas maintained, I would expect better, especially as it leads to an area of natural beauty overlooking the whole of Douglas that many people travel to admire.

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I've copied in Douglas Corporation in the hope we can progress matters and get this pavement looking as it should.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted], [redacted] <[redacted]> on behalf of DOI, Enquiries <highways@gov.im>
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 10:16 AM
To: '[redacted]' <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Douglas Head - Pavement

Dear [redacted]

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Kind regards



*Highway Services
Department of Infrastructure
Ellerslie Depot
Crosby
Isle of Man
IM4 2HA*

Tel: 850000



From:  [<mailto:> ]
Sent: 02 June 2023 08:57
To: DOI, Enquiries
Subject: Douglas Head - Pavement

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Good Afternoon

Please can the DOI attend to the now non existent pavement due to over grown weeds on Fort Anne Road, Douglas Head?

This is meant to be a walkway leading up to one of islands most picturesque locations and if people are unable to walk the whole way, at least be able to park their vehicles in accordance with the highways signage on the overgrown pavement side, however I don't believe it would be safe to even step out of the car and onto a pavement in this condition:

What would the public interest arguments for withholding be?

The Council could reasonably argue that disclosure would:

- Reveal the specific legal questions on which the Council sought advice.
- Reveal concerns about liability, statutory duties and potential claims relating to the pavement.
- Undermine the Council's ability to obtain frank and confidential legal advice from its Advocate. Legal professional privilege is recognised as carrying significant inherent public interest weight in favour of non-disclosure.
- Potentially prejudice the Council's position in any future dispute with DOI or any personal injury claim arising from the condition of the pavement.

What arguments favour disclosure?

A requester could still argue there is a substantial public interest in:

- Understanding how the Council interprets its delegated highway maintenance duties.
- Transparency in decision-making affecting public safety.
- Accountability for decisions not to maintain a public footway.
- Understanding the basis upon which the Council has declined to undertake maintenance activities.