

2022



Streets Ahead Newsletter





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Introduction

Welcome to the 2022 Streets Ahead Newsletter. We've had a busy, yet exciting year since our last issue, maintaining and improving Sheffield's roads and street scene as well as supporting local projects.

In the last 12 months we have continued to resurface more roads and pavements across the city. The benefits of smoother and safer surfaces are endless, and we hope you are all starting to notice the improvements in your neighbourhood.

As well as the work on the city's roads, we've continued to play an active role in the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership, fulfilling our commitment to work with all partners on behalf of Sheffield's street trees. In the last year alone, the work of the partnership has resulted in Sheffield becoming a Tree City of the World, a certificate of compliance for managing street trees sustainably and the production of an exemplary Street Tree Guidelines booklet.

Despite having very little snowfall this winter, seven consecutive storms meant our teams were working around the clock in challenging conditions. Whilst the storms brought down several highway trees and caused some localised flooding, there was thankfully no significant damage.

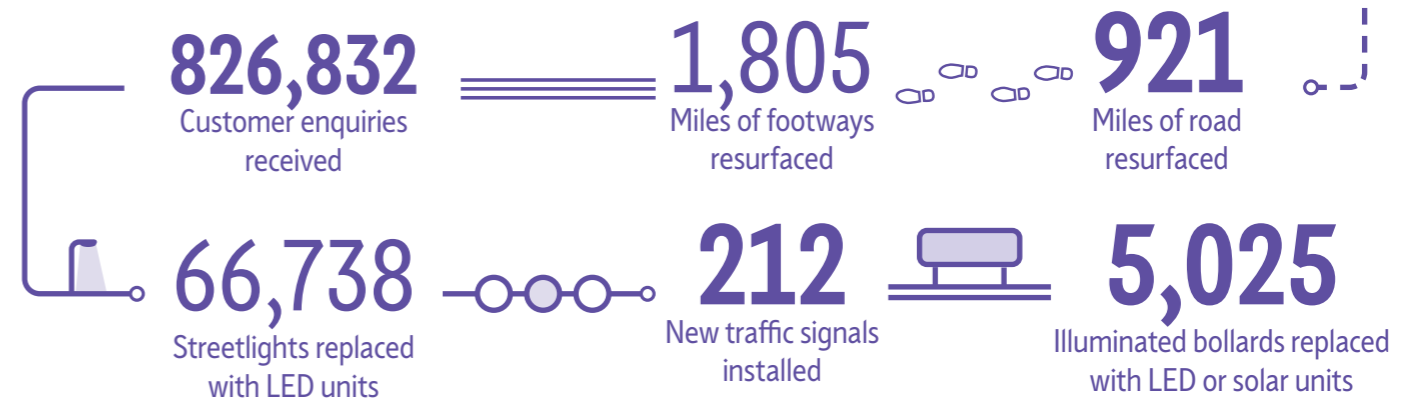
Summer arrived with a bang this year and we've been delighted to have been able to support Sheffield's action – packed events schedule, from helping with litter clearance during the Women's Euros to supporting the various council teams working at Tramlines Festival. It was great to see Sheffielders come together for these iconic occasions and our teams loved being involved.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience as we've delivered our works this year. I hope you find this edition of our newsletter informative and interesting.

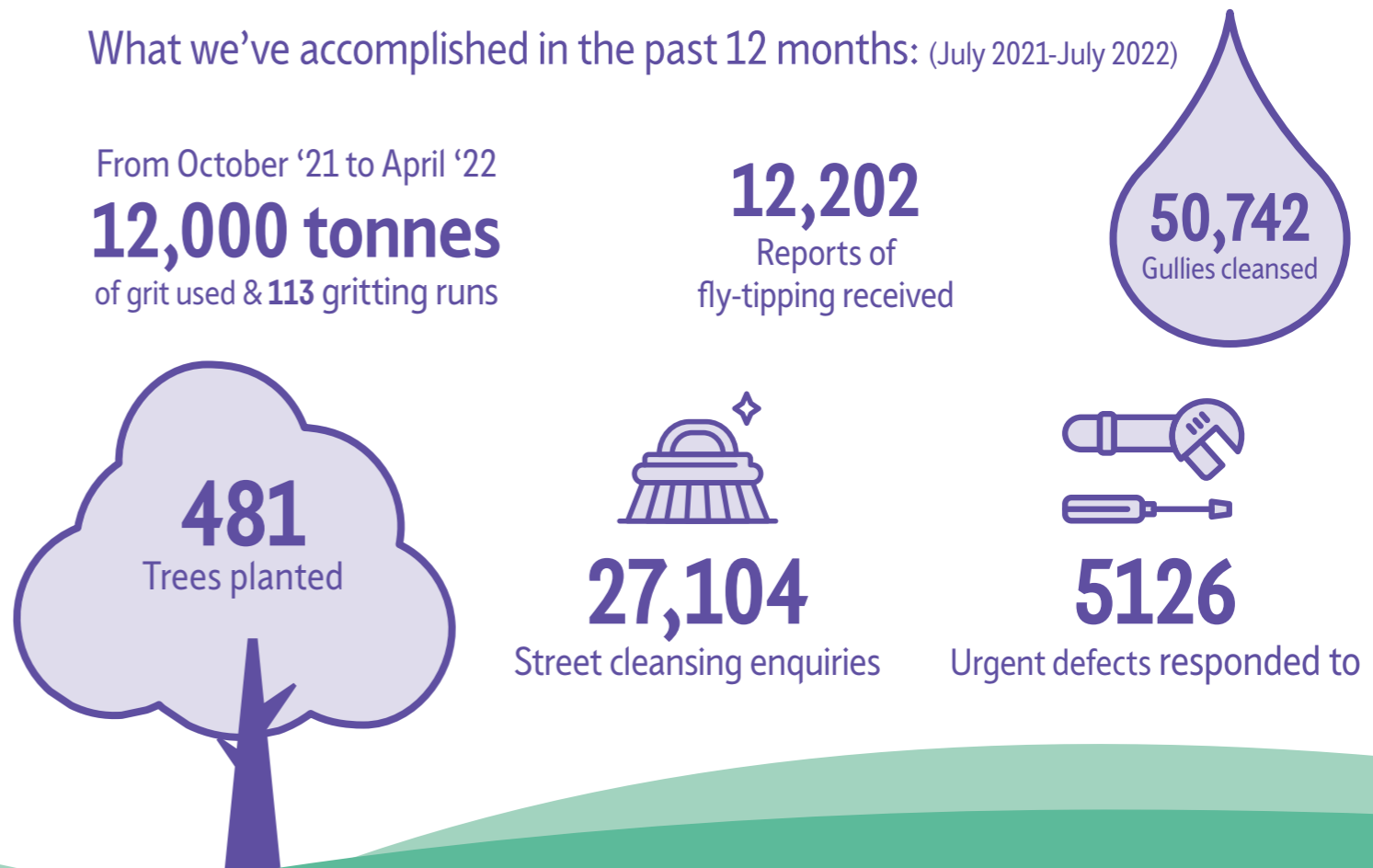
Peter Bamfield - Business Director, Amey Streets Ahead

Achievements so far

What we've accomplished since the start of the contract:



What we've accomplished in the past 12 months: (July 2021-July 2022)



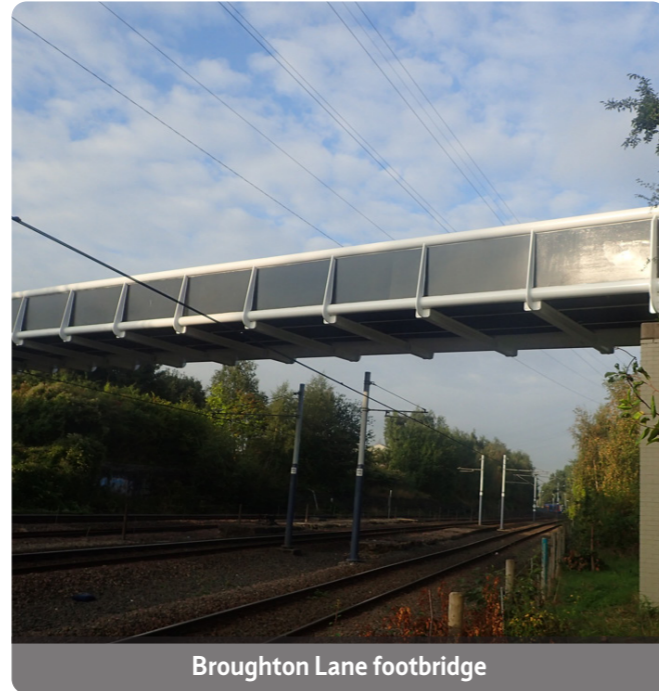
Bridging the gap

Sheffield has a multitude of historic bridges that span all manner of roads and waterways, and form part of the collection of over 3000 structures our teams maintain, including numerous culverts under the city's streets.

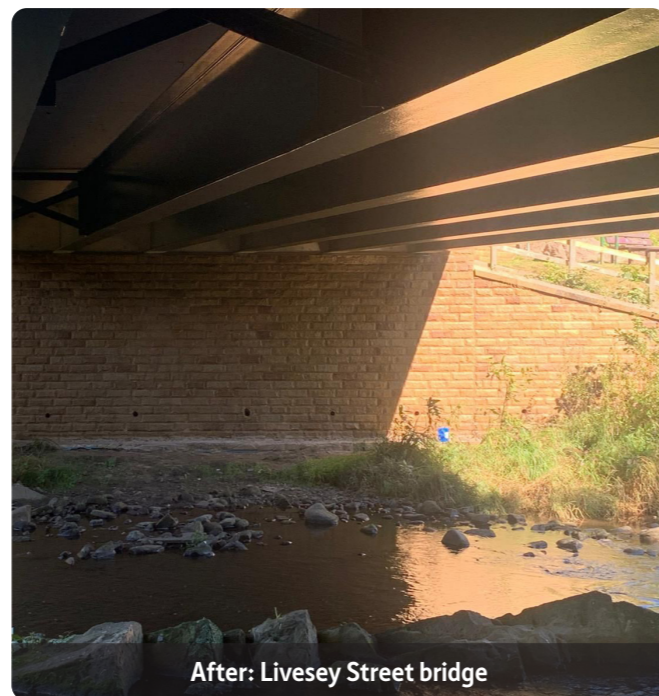
This year, we completed the refurbishment of the steelwork on two bridges in Sheffield.

Livesey Street bridge, which spans the River Don in Hillsborough is prone to vandalism and in addition to repainting the main beams, the work involved removing graffiti and applying an anti-graffiti coating to the stonework.

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complete the works on Broughton Lane Bridge we worked with both Network Rail and Supertram to coordinate track usage which ensured the safety of workers and the users of the railway and Supertram.



Broughton Lane footbridge



After: Livesey Street bridge



Before: Livesey Street bridge

Resurfacing roads and pavements

Our recent resurfacing programme involved one of the busiest routes in and out of the city, Meadowhead and Chesterfield Road. The road was closed in three phases with work undertaken at night to minimise disruption.

After that we resurfaced Jordanthorpe Parkway, working around the roundabout at the end of Dyche Lane and down past the ambulance station.



Jordanthorpe Parkway



Little London Road

Following this we resurfaced Hollowmoor Road in the north of the city, before moving onto Little London Road, resurfacing from the junction with Chesterfield Road, underneath the railway bridge, up to Broadfield Way. Network Rail were on-site to ensure that we worked safely in and around the bridge, all of which went very smoothly, and the work was completed on schedule.



Little London Road

Winter

Our winter maintenance period runs from 1st October to 30th April, and when freezing conditions arrive, we grit 60% of the city's highway network in priority order, from all the main roads that link Sheffield to other major towns and cities and the motorway network, to roads that provide access to local hospitals. We also keep over 2200 grit bins stocked up, re-filling them regularly to ensure grit is available in communities when it's needed the most.

From late November 2021 our teams were gritting the city's roads regularly, especially on higher ground. Despite the number of winter storms, especially the three storms in quick succession during February - Dudley, Eunice, and Franklin, all of which brought extremely strong winds and heavy rain to Sheffield - there was much less snow than last year.

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“Our Arbs teams were already stretched by the time Storm Eunice arrived, having already dealt with 34 urgent reports and 16 fallen trees earlier in the week due to Storm Dudley. Despite very challenging conditions, our teams worked around the clock, responding to 51 urgent calls in a 5-hour period.

In total, we responded to 210 urgent reports of damaged and fallen trees and 85 reports of flooding. Several roads were closed temporarily as the teams worked to clear surface water.”

This Winter we gritted Sheffield priority routes a total of 113 times using approximately 12,000 tonnes of grit salt to help keep the roads clear of snow and ice.



Street tree partnership update

Since 2019, as part of the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership and as outlined in the Sheffield Street Tree Strategy, we have worked with our partners to make sure that the approach to replacing trees locally is transparent, inclusive, exemplary and sustainable.

In the last two years, the work of the partnership has resulted in the production of a Street Tree Guidelines booklet, an award for becoming a Tree City of the World and a certificate of compliance for managing street trees sustainably by the world's largest Forest

Certification Scheme, PEFC UK. These achievements would not have been possible without the hard work of the partnership members.

In March April 2022, the partnership welcomed a new chair, who is already playing an active role in steering the invaluable work of the group. Nathan Edwards, Director of Urban Wilderness, took over from Liz Ballard, CEO of Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, who has helped drive delivery of the Sheffield Street Tree Strategy since 2019.



Dean and Alf sorting out the flower beds on Fitzalan Square

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Ground force

Our Grounds Maintenance team are a busy bunch, working all year long to keep the city looking clean and green. Their work is varied, involving clearing leaf litter and detritus from roads and pavements in the autumn, cutting back shrubs and clearing flower beds ready for planting spring bulbs, to maintaining grass verges and cutting grass.

But one of the most colourful parts of their work is during late spring and summer when all the flower beds in the city come alive with vibrant colour. Alf and Dean are tasked with keeping these flower beds weed-free, working across the city, systematically making sure that no matter where they are, the flowers are blooming lovely!

Glyphosate trial

Back in 2021, the council committed to reviewing and reducing its use of glyphosate across Sheffield.

Since then, we have worked alongside the council to look at alternative non-chemical weedkillers as well as completely chemical-free options. We no longer apply glyphosate in shrub beds, floral displays, rose beds, hedgerows and planted areas, or around street furniture on highway verges and we're pleased to say that by the end of the year we will achieve a **25% reduction** in glyphosate use as a result of these changes.

We're also trialling a completely glyphosate-free area in Brincliffe with further trials in other areas planned for the near future. Local residents are being asked to give their feedback on any changes they experience before responses are reviewed and next steps agreed with the council. Watch this space!



Street cleansing team

It's an unfortunate fact that our street cleansing team are rarely anything other than very busy. With two teams made up of 100 operatives, they work around the clock, emptying 3000 litter bins to keep Sheffield litter-free.



Recent events in the city centre, such as Tramlines and the UEFA Women's Euros, has meant that additional teams have worked day and night to keep the streets clean, emptying the additional bins placed in the city centre.

Supporting local litter picking and community groups

In addition to our own teams, Sheffield's army of volunteer litter pickers continue their crusade to rid the city of litter! This year has seen even more groups getting involved from all corners of Sheffield and we're very grateful for all that they do to keep Sheffield clean.

If you want to get involved, take a look at the information on our website about how you can go about this safely, the equipment you can request and how to report your litter picks to us: www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/pollution-nuisance/organise-litter-picks.html



Just some of our local litter picking heroes!



Apprentices

Our apprentices are almost half-way through their two-year apprenticeships at Streets Ahead and are continuing to learn new skills and gain invaluable work experience. Both Ryan and Toby are Degree Apprentices and are thoroughly enjoying their time with us.



Apprentices from left to right: Luke, Liam, Thomas, Joseph & Ryan

“I used to be a car salesman and now I’m working at Amey! I’d like to go far, and this is definitely a good career. The job is really good. They give you a lot of freedom and a lot of trust.” (Ryan)

“Amey offers the best of opportunities along with amazing benefits and many different pathways for a career, and I saw the best one for me to kickstart my journey in Amey. I hope to spend my time learning as much as I can, taking it all in and using it to my advantage.” (Toby)

Since 2012, a total of 97 young apprentices from Sheffield have been employed by Amey and many of them have gone on to secure a permanent job on the contract. We’ve already begun to recruit new apprentices for this year – more information on the Amey website:

www.amey.co.uk/your-career/early-careers/

National careers week

Pupils from Bents Green School in Gleadless spent a whole week with Streets Ahead as part of their Week of Work earlier this year.

From tours of the Olive Grove depot to learning all about the different jobs our employees do, and of course, meeting Phil the Bin, the pupils were kept busy and entertained throughout! We loved having them and look forward to seeing them again soon.



Bents Green School

Amey challenge cup

Four teams of year 9 school girls from 3 schools in Sheffield, Meadowhead High School, All Saints Catholic High School and Ecclesfield Secondary School, took part in the Amey Challenge Cup this year. In the first event since 2019, the school girls were given the task of designing a structure to replace a collapsed bridge over the River Teme. After a fun-packed day and some serious judging, Ecclesfield Secondary School were crowned the winners!



Ecclesfield winners

School assemblies

Our Education Officer has delivered litter assemblies to almost 4000 school pupils in Sheffield during the past academic year. Even Phil the Bin, the Streets Ahead litter mascot, got in on the act, visiting schools to help the pupils understand the harmful impact of litter on the environment.



Phil the Bin with pupils from Rainbow Forge Primary School

Fundraising for Cancer Research UK

Streets Ahead have continued to fundraise in support of Amey’s employee chosen charity, Cancer Research UK. Earlier this year, Streets Ahead were awarded a platinum certificate for our donation of 74 bags of unwanted clothing and household items, which equalled a donation of over £1,600!



Jude De Couto and Dave Smith at Olive Grove depot

Keeping you informed

Those of you directly affected by Streets Ahead works will either receive a letter advising you of arrangements before we start any work or be notified by roadside signs.

Reporting service issues

If you would like to report any issues, please contact us:

Online at www.sheffield.gov.uk/reportmystreet

By email: streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk

By phone: **0114 273 4567**

Feedback

We would love to hear your feedback on this newsletter and if there is any more information you would find useful.

Please email any comments or suggestions to streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk.

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