

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR**Question submitted by: Councillor Mark Coker****To Cabinet Member:** Councillor Bill Wakeham**Question:**

Again on the night of 2nd november highways were called to many locations around the city to deal with major flooding issues, almost of these i am told were due to leaf fall.what actions did you take prior to the night to make sure that leaf fall was cleared, were all the hot spots and known flooding areas swept before as in line with the last street scene and highways flooding plan?

Response:

Leaf fall is a major challenge, annually over 150 tonnes of leaves are removed from Plymouth carriageways to help prevent flooding and slip hazards for both vehicles and pedestrians. This is a constant battle over the autumn and early winter period, often areas fully cleansed of leaves and can then be completely covered in leaves within a very short period of time – especially during high winds.

The highways designated flooding hot spot areas were all swept in the lead up to the 2nd November, Monday 31st through to Wednesday 2nd. However, our Highways colleagues have confirmed that some of the locations that flooded were not the usual hotspots. With high winds and rain on the evening of 2 November it's quite likely a large proportion of leaves would have fallen over the course of that evening. Highways and cleansing staff work closely to coordinate resources during times of severe weather, and have since discussed this evening and options to improve our approach in future.

Signed: Councillor Bill Wakeham**Dated:** 18 November 2022