

# REPORT

**TO:** Members of Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Chair, Trevor Norriss

**REFERENCE:**

**DATE:** 23 January 2006

**SUBJECT:** Chairman's Report for February 2006

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Welcome to the first meeting of the new year and also the first of the new enlarged Committee. I hope Councillors and staff have had an enjoyable break and are ready for the challenges ahead.

I have asked for a report to this meeting updating the Committee on any major problems experienced over the break. It appears, with a couple of exceptions, things have been relatively quiet – this is certainly different from last year.

This Committee and Council are going to have to prioritise necessary works/projects for the year ahead and I do not have to remind Councillors of the downturn in the economy of the district, recent revaluations and the effect this is going to have on ratepayers across the district – many on reduced or fixed incomes. The time has come to review our rating system and focus more on targeted rates for services received.

The rationing of water in many areas is becoming an ever-increasing problem and an update of what Engineering Services is doing and proposing is also timely (hopefully at this meeting).

The nightmares of the refuse collection experienced last year also appear to have settled down, apart from the increasing cost and the Committee and staff will have to look at options for the future.

Finally, many thanks to Peter Thomson and staff who were on duty over the Christmas period and hopefully you have had some time to recharge the batteries now!

Regards

Trevor Norriss  
Chair - Engineering Services Committee