

Spencer Wright
Business Adviser

Telephone: (01785) 276523

Sent by email to :
swrightbusinessadviser@outlook.comEmail: amanda.felton@staffordshire.gov.uk
Please ask for: Amanda Felton

RR/AJF

22 November 2017

Dear Mr Wright

RECEIPT OF PETITION – BRANSTON ROAD CLOSURE

I refer to the petition, signed by local residents seeking to minimise the impact on local residents and businesses, during the Branston Road Closure. I can advise you that receipt of the petition will be reported to Cllr Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial (incl. Highways & Transport).

Staffordshire County Council working with Amey Highways aim to deliver the highway improvements associated with John Taylor Free School whilst ensuring disruption is kept to a minimum for local residents and businesses.

The works remove part of the existing road to provide the new realigned road and drainage system; the reason for the road closure. They have been planned to be delivered in an economical, efficient and safe manner. Whilst these works are underway Staffordshire County Council and Amey are also providing accesses to housing sites to the North and Burton Rugby Football Club to the South. This means that future disruption will be kept to a minimum once the works are complete in summer 2018.

The planned traffic management proposals for the highway works are:

- Current road closure – 11th September 2017 until 6th December 2017.
- Second road closure – 11th January 2018 until 31st May 2018.
- Between 6th December 2017 & 11th January access will be available, although temporary traffic lights will be in place.

Following feedback from the local community, Staffordshire County Council has challenged Amey Highways to investigate ways to see if the second road closure planned for 20 weeks could be reduced.

Cont'd ... /2



This review will include:

- Current logic, sequencing and method of working.
- Alternative forms of traffic management, such as traffic control and one way systems.
- Increased working hours (Monday-Friday)
- Weekend working.
- Increased level of resources.
- Design review which may allow productivity to be increased.

Whilst reviewing the current programme it will also be investigated to see if the road can be opened for evenings and weekends, however this will be dependent on programmed operations, economic viability and whether it is safe to do so.

The current road closures are only utilised when it is absolutely necessary. It is determined by considering what operations are being undertaken and if this can be carried out in a safe manner to both the passing traffic and contractor's workforce. Traffic lights will be used as an alternative to road closures, providing that the construction works can be undertaken safely.

There is currently no statutory compensation for businesses affected by road works. Successive Governments have taken the view that businesses should not have the right in law to any particular level of passing trade, and that traders must take the risk of loss due to temporary disruption of traffic flow along with all the other various risks of running a business. Therefore, there is no statutory provision for compensation by the Highway Authority (as opposed to a utility) if a business is affected by road works.

Once the review has been completed, Amey Highways will present their report to Staffordshire County Council. Following this, the information will be shared with the local community.

I trust the above answers your queries and that you are assured we are doing what we can to reduce the disruption to residents and businesses in the local area.

Should you require further information regarding your petition please contact Richard Rayson on 0300 111 8000.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Felton
Executive Support Officer