

Wednesday 10 March 2010

Reproduced below is an email dated yesterday to Gloucestershire County Councillor John Cordell in response to an enquiry about the way in which the work on the new traffic calming scheme is being carried out.

Dear Cllr Cordwell

I have been asked to respond to your email below.

I have checked with our site manager, and he has confirmed that our operatives did not leave the site until 4.30pm. They were also on site just after 06.00 yesterday morning to ensure that traffic management and site segregation measures were set up with the minimum of inconvenience. On finishing site works yesterday, the operatives also collected materials ready to commence work without delay this morning.

Our programme for completing the build out works (outside number 13) by Wednesday was based on implementation of the full road closure. This would have enabled us to work on both sides of the road concurrently. However, following discussions with local residents and businesses, we have amended our method of working to mitigate the impact of the closure on them. To achieve this, we will only work on one side of the road at a time. Although this will extend the overall duration of the works, it is anticipated that the impact on traffic requiring access to the area will be significantly reduced. We also anticipate that the road closure works will still be complete by this Friday, i.e. within the original closure period.

The current programme for completion of the whole works is as follows:

8th to 12th March - Construction of build outs and alteration of kerbs in Church Street (under road closure)

12th March – Removal of existing and installation of new road markings (under road closure)

15th to 17th March – installation of new / revised traffic regulation signs (no traffic management)

(There may also be some road marking works after these dates if we are unable to complete all of this work due to parked vehicles, etc)

May I also take this opportunity to apologise for not ensuring that you were kept informed of our proposals and any embarrassment this caused to you - and also the inconvenience caused to local residents and businesses.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Marcus Anning

Construction Manager

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Jacqui Moore at Mungos has suggested that traders submit questions to the next meeting of the County Council on 31st March to highlight the problems that have been experienced and express the anger of the town's business and residential community.

John Cordwell outlines the procedure below for those who decide to take up her suggestion:

"Members of the public can ask written or oral questions of the responsible county councillor (portfolio holder) at meetings of the full County Council. This next meets on 31st March. Written questions have to be submitted by 10:00 a.m. on 24th March. Oral questions can be asked on the day, with permission of the chairman, and could be a follow-up to a written question. You could use this as a means of further highlighting local concern."

He also doubts that compensation for lost trade will be forthcoming but adds that it might be worth trying, suggesting that evidence for the loss would more than likely be required.

Jacqui is thinking of a question along the lines of:

"Do councillors consider that 48 hours written notice (over a weekend) is adequate notice for businesses to prepare for a road closure?"

or

"Do councillors regard the retail and businesses of Wotton U Edge as a valuable asset or are they happy to allow the failure of these businesses in difficult economic times?"

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