

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

14 June 2010

Report of the Director of Kent Highway Services

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 A228 MALLING ROAD - SOUTHERN GAS NETWORK MAINS REPLACEMENT WORK

Summary

Emerging information on the coordination work for the imminent major scheme of gas mains replacement work on the A228 near Kings Hill.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 As a result of the high rate of gas escapes along the A228 Malling Road between Kings Hill and Mereworth, Southern Gas Networks, in agreement with Kent Highway Services, have brought forward a scheme to renew the gas main.

1.1.2 In recent years, those who work live in or commute through Kings Hill will have experienced the unfortunate delays caused by frequent emergency works. The decision has been taken to replace this section of pipe to ensure the future gas supply for Mereworth, Kent Street and parts of Wateringbury and to prevent further repeated disruption to the highway user.

1.2 The replacement works

1.2.1 The 1200m section of iron gas main to be replaced is approximately 60 – 70 years old and will be renewed at considerable cost to Southern Gas networks. The new pipe will be medium density polyethylene, resistant to corrosion and an all welded construction which will minimise the risk of future escapes.

1.2.2 Southern Gas Networks have several construction methods available to them, however the decision on which will be used will depend upon ground conditions. Due to the minimal amount of existing plant in this road, the most likely method to be used will be an open cut trench using a rock wheel trench machine. This fast and efficient process will facilitate the timely completion of works.

1.3 Road Closure

1.3.1 For safety reasons, the works will be carried out under a full road closure. This work cannot be conducted with live traffic on the road. As well as safety concerns

for highway users and the workforce, the scheme duration would be vastly increased using any other traffic management method.

1.3.2 The closure will be undertaken in two phases:-

- the first between Beaufighter Road and Kent Street
- the second from Kent Street to The Street, Mereworth.

1.4 Diversion Route

1.4.1 The diversion route for traffic will be A26 Maidstone Road, Mereworth, B2017 Seven Mile Lane, A20 London Road, A228 Ashton Way, Kings Hill.

1.4.2 As part of the traffic order to close the A228, we are keen to prevent motorists "rat-running" the single track lanes between the A228 and Seven Mile Lane. Therefore considerations are being made to place additional measures such as a hard road closure at the junction of Beaufighter Road and Beech Road and the banning of right turns for northbound traffic on Seven Mile Lane into Beech Road, Willow Wents, Comp Lane and Teston Road.

1.4.3 We also propose to place additional traffic management on the junction of Seven Mile Lane and A20 London Road at Wrotham Heath in order to prevent vehicles turning right, which we believe could present safety issues.

1.5 Programme

1.5.1 The works will commence on 25th July 2010 and the closure will be in place for the duration of the school summer holidays. The timing of the scheme has been planned to coincide with this period of decreased traffic flows and also decreased gas supply demands. The workforce will be present on site during the extended daylight hours offered by the summer months.

1.5.2 Under the Kent Permit Scheme which now governs all works carried out on the highway by utility companies, Kent Highway Services are dedicated to promoting collaborative working. We are therefore inviting all Statutory Undertakers who have works they wish to carry out under this closure to approach us with their proposals. We will endeavour to incorporate these works and also those of any private landowners ie. Frontage maintenance into the closure thus saving many hours of highway occupation. One example of this is a proposal to carry out improvements to the junction of Gibson Drive and the A228. Negotiations are currently being held between the relevant parties and we hope that the majority of these works will be achieved under the road closure.

1.5.3 Following completion of the works, it is proposed that the entire section of road will either be resurfaced or extensively repaired by our Countywide Improvements team. We then intend to impose a restriction on the A228 preventing any further non-essential works for a period of up to 12 months.

1.6 Legal Implications

1.6.1 The necessary temporary traffic restrictions will be processed using powers within the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 and associated regulations.

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.7.1 None directly applicable

1.8 Risk Assessment

1.8.1 Safety and risk avoidance have been a primary consideration in the proposed approach to this scheme.

Background papers:

Nil

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