

28 May 2021

CARRIAGEWAY RECONSTRUCTION & RESURFACING WORKS IN YORK AVENUE, EAST COWES

Dear Resident

Given recent issues arising from the switch to the last phase of the York Avenue reconstruction work, this bulletin is more detailed than usual, as we are keen to address the points that have been brought to our attention by the local community. In doing so, we would again like to thank residents and local elected members for bringing issues to our attention, and for your understanding as we seek to complete this work with as little disruption as practicably possible.

In terms of the timescale for remaining work, the current schedule is for the reconstruction work to finish on Thursday June 17. The resurfacing work is then due to be undertaken at night between June 17 – 24 (excluding the weekend). During the resurfacing phase, it will be possible to open the road during the day between 06:00 – 19:30 as there will be no large areas of excavation in the carriageway.

As per previous updates, the scheme has been a challenging one throughout, primarily due to the clay-rich conditions we have encountered. This has meant that we have had to excavate to a full depth in every section. In addition, we have encountered many utility services – some unmapped – which we have had to excavate around by hand in many cases. On discovery of poor-condition services, we have been working with utility companies to allow them to upgrade their services where possible. Whilst that will hopefully reduce the need for future maintenance (and disruption), and is therefore best practice, it has unfortunately hindered our own progress.

Though the schedule is always subject to change due to various reasons, we will continue to do all we can to complete the scheme in line with the above dates.

The phase four diversion route has also prompted concerns, particularly last week during the bedding down period when people's unfamiliarity with the arrangements was compounded by additional traffic causing congestion in the town due to unseasonal inclement weather impacting on Red Funnel sailings.

After making several initial adjustments to the traffic arrangements, we also instructed a qualified highways safety engineer to conduct a full site audit, which found the site layout safe and fully compliant with network safety regulations. As a result of the audit, however, we did implement one minor recommendation – additional signage at the Ferry Road/York Avenue crossing.

In a further effort to keep traffic flowing over the forthcoming Bank Holiday weekend, during which the current phase four section of carriageway will remain closed, we will be manually operating the temporary traffic lights in York Avenue during peak times. This will allow a proactive response to local traffic flows over the long weekend.

With regards to reports of traffic speeds in Clarence Road and Yarborough Road, the safety engineer found that the natural road geography along the diversion route should ensure compliance to the 30mph limit. In addition, and as previously stated, the effectiveness of a lower speed limit would depend on police enforcement, and it is unlikely such police resources would be available. There is also the concern that slower speeds would lead to a build-up of traffic in the town centre, which we would wish to avoid.

On the matter of parking, it was always anticipated that this phase would create most pressure on availability of spaces, and the decision to keep the Adelaide Grove/York Avenue junction closed (in effect, making Adelaide Grove a cul-de-sac) was taken so that we could remove parking restrictions in this area.

We will also be implementing a “No Waiting At Any Time” restriction on the junction of Clarence Road / Yarborough Road to assist with the flow of HGV vehicles and buses along the diversion route, which in turn will enable the traffic to move more freely through the town.

We do appreciate that a road improvement scheme of this scale and complexity does cause some inconvenience, and we hope the above demonstrates that we are keen to work wherever possible with the local community to reduce the impact. We continue to monitor the situation and are in regular dialogue with elected representatives and other stakeholders to ensure the arrangements are as safe and effective as possible.

For further information on this scheme please visit our website: [Island Roads | York Avenue, East Cowes.](#)

In the meantime, we wish to extend our appreciation for your understanding, patience, and co-operation during these essential highways works.

Island Roads