

8 August 2023**Community meeting****Upper Street, Leeds, traffic management review****Comments and suggestions**

More than 120 members of the local community attended the meeting at St Nicholas Church, Leeds on 8 August 2023.

The purpose of the meeting was for South East Water and Kent Highways to seek feedback from the local community on the current traffic management measures in place on the roads in and around Leeds.

South East Water and Kent Highways then reviewed the points raised at a further meeting on 11 August 2023.

Below are the points raised by community members on a road-by-road basis and the responses to the comments made following the review.

Of the 120+ attendees, below are details of the roads represented at the meeting.

Road name/location	No. residents with an interest in that road in attendance*
Chegworth Road	35
Lower Street	15
Kingswood	10
Caring Lane	7
Forge Lane	8
Broomfield Road	8
Langley	6
Avery Lane	5
Otham Lane/Street	3
Burgess Hill Drive	3

Upper Street	3
Burberry Road	3
Park Barn Road	3
Brogden Crescent	2
Fairbourne Lane	1

*Not all attendees provided the road/area they are interested in when arriving.

General comments

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
Signs highlighting size restrictions, not weight, should be placed on all roads	Signage is being reviewed on a daily basis.
High level of feeling that the gate men not being fit for purpose	We recognise the gatemen have not been performing as expected and we have been changing personnel. Following the meeting on 8 August we have further reiterated what is expected of them and will continue to closely monitor their progress.
Can the location of where the gate men are situated be reviewed?	Yes, we have reviewed the locations of the gatemen and as a result they have been removed the one from Caring Lane, but the others will remain on Upper Street and Horseshoes Lane where we believe they are having a positive impact.
There are too many signs	The locations and effectiveness of the signage is being constantly reviewed.
Signs are not in place or go missing	We review the signs daily and those that go missing we replace as soon as practicably possible.
Can there be signs at key locations on A20 and at the southern end of the village listing which roads are closed to discourage motorists from trying to enter?	We are continuing to review signage
Leeds needs a bypass	This is not applicable to this project

Other utilities should have been contacted to enable them to work in Upper Street too when the road is closed, to avoid future closures.	We undertake HAUC meetings which make other utilities aware of any upcoming works, aiding communication and collaborative working between utility companies. We held meetings with gas companies in regards to our work in Upper Street, but the offer of joint working was not taken up.
Why can there not be a one-way system	This is due to safety and the risk of head on collisions from people not understanding the one-way system, or those trying to circumvent the system when they think it may be clear.
Cutting back of trees and hedges on some routes would help with line of sight and visibility.	Kent Highways will review the need to cut back trees and hedges on Forge Lane.
What further traffic management will be put out in September when the schools go back, as problems are going to increase?	We will continue to monitor and review traffic and flow as the project progresses.

Upper Street

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
Can there be permits for residents and delivery lorries	Permits are available and have been delivered to site. Gang members will hand these out to residents of Upper Street on request.
Burgess Hill Drive is being used as a turning circle, can something be done to prevent this?	The Gatemen have been briefed to only let cars and delivery vehicles through as well larger vehicles who are going to a specific address within the closure
Can there be whole carriageway reinstatement outside Churchill Cottages?	South East Water will reinstate the trench as per the Highways Specification. Any further requests for resurfacing would need to be taken and raised to Kent Highways.
Can the gatemen be moved to The Plough Public House to head off traffic from Sutton Road	Gatemen locations have been reviewed and we believe they are in positions which will help to stop large vehicles and allow them to turn or take alternative routes. This will be constantly reviewed.

Horseshoe Lane

No comments.

Avery Lane

No comments.

Back Street

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
<p>Can the road closure location at the Caring Lane/Forge Lane junction be reviewed? There is concern that too much traffic is now being forced down Forge Lane.</p> <p>It was noted that those in Caring Lane and Caring Road are happy with the closure location.</p>	<p>This setup will remain as it is currently but will be reviewed on a regular basis.</p>

Caring Lane

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
<p>Caring Lane continues to be used as a rat run</p>	<p>Access needs to be maintained for residents and business.</p>
<p>Clarification was requested on whether hard closure is still planned to be in place at Caring Lane/Forge Lane/Back St junction. It was noted by some that this seemed to be working as it is currently and that the road is wider than most so can cope with two way traffic better (as per above comment on Back St)</p>	<p>Please see above.</p>

Caring Road

No comments.

Old Mill Road

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
Still being used as a rat-run with HGVs going down and no passing places. Need better signage at A20 to say road is closed ahead. Perhaps road closed ahead with arrow on A20 required as road closure signs are further down	Additional signs will be put in place on the A20 warning motorists of closure before reaching Old Mill Road.

Forge Lane

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
Can Forge Lane be closed?	Due to access needing to be maintained to residents, the narrow nature of the road and the need to ensure there is a sufficient flow of traffic around Leeds, it is not possible to have traffic management on Forge Lane.

Lower Street

No comments.

Penfold Hill

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
Can Penfold Hill be closed?	This is not possible due to it being a turning point and the need to maintain access to residents and businesses.

George Lane

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
Noted that there are too many signs on George Lane and it's not clear the road is closed.	Signage is constantly being reviewed.

Burberry Lane

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
Can the road closure sign the was on Burberry Lane be replaced? It was there until recently.	The sign has now been replaced.
Could the road closure by the compound be lifted?	Removing the closure here would create a much shorter and unofficial diversion. It would increase the risk of vehicles meeting head on and be used by a higher number of motorists therefore creating a bottleneck. Removing the closure would also create another access to Leeds resulting in the risk of larger vehicles using the roads.
Signage at north end of Burberry Lane needs review (location and on approach from Penfold Hill)	Signage has been reviewed and changes have been made.

Park Barn Road

No comments.

Duck Pond Lane

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
Could a 'Broomfield Road closed, no access to A20' sign be placed on Duck Pond Lane?	See below.

Could Duck Pond Lane be opened as it could help get traffic onto the official diversion? See sheet	The closure is to remain in place, but will be reviewed on a regular basis.
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Broomfield Road

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
General comment: Traffic is travelling at speed along Broomfield Road and Lenham Road.	No response, general comment made.
Could the road closure location be moved a little further south, nearer to Park Barn Road?	This is not possible as there is nowhere for traffic to turn near Park Barn Road.
Could road closure sign be placed on Broomfield Road at the junction with Ashford Drive in Kingswood	Signage approaching Ashford Drive from the south stating: "Broomfield Road closed ahead – No access to A20" to be put in place.
If Broomfield Road is to stay closed, could there be traffic management put in place to ease problems on the tight turn?	Additional traffic management is not proposed at this time.
Can Broomfield Road be reopened as closing it is adding to the local problems?	Broomfield Road is to remain closed.

Chegworth Road

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
General comment: Traffic is travelling at speed along Broomfield Road and Lenham Road.	No response, general comment made.

Can vehicle size limit signs be issued along the road?	This is being reviewed.
Could temporary two-way traffic lights be installed to slow the traffic flow down in the narrow locations?	This is not possible as the road is too narrow and could stack traffic, resulting in the jumping of red lights. Due to the rural location the risk of theft is high.
Visibility is a concern at the junction with Lenham Road	Kent Highways has stated this is an existing issue with this junction and advised we will not change physical infrastructure of road network as part of this project.
Can additional traffic management be put in place during harvest, which starts shortly?	This is not possible as the road is too narrow.
Concerns raised about vulnerable road users, such as horse riders.	We have reviewed placing 'Slow' signs along the road, but there is no where for them to be safely placed due to the narrow nature of the road.

Kingswood

No comments.

Chartway Street

No comments.

Other roads

Comment	South East Water and Kent Highways response
Gravelley Bottom Road requires traffic management additional traffic is impacting this road.	There are no plans to add any additional traffic management to this road.
Greater signage required on the A274 highlighting no HGV access to the area.	Signage will be reviewed.

Church Road requires traffic management to limit the amount of vehicles travelling east to west through the area.	Traffic management is not possible here, however we are investigating the potential of additional signs at each end.
Otham Lane requires traffic management due to traffic increase. This will push vehicles onto the official diversion (Willington Street).	We are investigating placing additional signs at either end of the road.
General comment: Willington Street – HGVs blocking roads.	

Next meeting

St Nicolas Church, Leeds, Maidstone, ME17 1RL.

6pm to 8pm

