

14 September 2023

Community meeting

Upper Street, Leeds, traffic management review since schools returned

Comments and suggestions

There were 26 members of the local community who attended the meeting at St Nicholas Church, Leeds on 14 September 2023.

The purpose of the meeting was for South East Water and Kent Highways to understand any new issues arises in relation to traffic management in and around Leeds since the schools returned after the summer break.

South East Water and Kent Highways then reviewed the points raised at a further meeting on 22 September 2023.

Below are the points raised by community members and the responses to the comments made following the review.

Of the 26 attendees, below are details of the roads represented at the meeting.

| Road name/location | No. residents with an interest in that road in attendance* |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ulcombe Hill | 1 |
| Park Barn Road | 1 |
| Chegworth | 2 |
| Farmers Close | 1 |
| Wykeham Grove | 1 |
| Forge Lane | 3 |
| Caring Road | 2 |
| Broomfield Road | 2 |
| Avery Lane | 2 |

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| Gravelly Bottom Road | 1 |
| Upper Street | 2 |
| Holly Farm Road | 1 |
| Old Mill Road | 1 |

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

General comments on the work and traffic management

| Comment | South East Water and Kent Highways response |
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| Chegworth Road is still a problem and has gotten worse since schools went back. Could there be a gateman moved there to stop lorries going through, or more signage, possibly pictorial? | Bigger signs have been ordered. We can look at pictorial ones, but there will always be some who choose to ignore signs. Moving a gateman would impact on the scheme. |
| Can we have new large signs on Caring Lane, and there's no gateman on Caring Lane | We can look at pictorial signs for Caring Lane also. |
| The lady gateman is amazing | General statement – no response |
| Going a lot better than I thought it would | General statement – no response |
| Caring Lane is jammed, we were promised no other works would happen in the area while this project was taking place | There have been emergency works by other utilities but we have been stopping all other planned work and where possible delaying South East Water repair work. M20 is controlled by National Highways and so we have no control over that. |
| Back Street has got significantly worse since schools have gone back, especially with speeding transit vans and the cones are not enough to deter them | We will review this and put extra cones out. Unfortunately there are some who have worked out the available routes and we have also had damage to our equipment being moved out of the way. |

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| Extra traffic is causing damage to property | Report traffic offences and any damage to the police. |
| Will there be compensation for fuel, late fees for childcare and so on. | No. All of our projects cause a level of disruption and if we gave compensation for all, it would cause an increase on bills. |
| Is the gateman at Leeds Castle gone? | The gateman was loaned to Leeds Castle for their Artisan Fair. |
| Will the working area at Forge Lane move back towards Langley? | No, we're working south to north and have to connect into Forge Lane. It is not going further than that. Forge Lane will be closed for about three weeks. |
| Can we still get residents' permits? | Yes. They are for those who live on closed roads or have to pass gatemen to access their properties. Please email liz.faulkner@theclancygroup.co.uk with proof of address to receive one. |
| Can there be signs stating the road is closed beyond Forge Lane? | Signs are already in place. |
| Road closures aren't all showing up correctly on Google Maps | We will see if we can look into this. |
| When will the work start on Forge Lane now the programme is ahead of schedule and how early will we be notified? | The date will move forward but we can't give an exact date at the moment. When we have completed the drilling, we will be able to reprogramme. We hope to have the date confirmed next week and once signed off, we will update residents. |
| There's a water leak on Caring Lane that is getting dangerous | We have tried to delay all emergency works but we will review this and investigate the possibility of night work to repair this. |
| Rather than South East Water patching the holes they've dug, could the road be resurfaced at the same time as the patches won't last? | South East Water provides a two-year warranty for any reinstatement relating to their works. If Highways had the budget, it could be done but instead there is the possibility of sealing the road and this will be investigated. |
| Will Lower Street be closed? | There are currently no plans for work on Lower Street, however, if the burst rate gets worse, this could change as it moves on the priority list. |

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| If more water is being brought into the area, will Southern Water have the capacity to deal with the additional waste water created? | Developers are required as part of the planning process to notify all relevant utility companies, and so Southern Water would be aware of the increased demand. |
| Will Upper Street be open when Forge Lane is closed? | We will have to have both roads closed at the same time in order to make the connections but will work as quickly as possible to complete this. |

General comments relating to Highways

| Comment | Kent Highways response |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Potholes are getting worse as a result of the increased traffic on many roads | Report them using the form on the Kent Highways website. |
| Increase in amount of rubbish being thrown from vehicles in Forge Lane and Back Street | Highways will speak to Maidstone Borough Council about this. |