

From: Dash, Kevin - GT HTW
Sent: 24 June 2014 13:21
To: Simkins, Charlie - MEM
Subject: Sandyhurst Lane road closure.

Dear Charlie.

In response to your enquiry regarding the forthcoming Westbound closure of Sandyhurst Lane for gas main replacement works.

Firstly for your information I have inserted the statement below provided by Southern Gas Networks.

This work is essential and forms part of our ongoing mains replacement programme in the area to maintain the safety and reliability of the gas supply network. We will be replacing the existing metal pipes with plastic (polyethylene) pipe, which has a minimum lifespan of 80 years. This means less long-term disruption, and a safe and regular supply of gas to homes and businesses."

With reference to the proposed traffic management, following site and office based meetings it was decided due to the location of the existing gas mains that for the safety of the workforce, and all road users / pedestrians the safest method of working was to close Sandyhurst Lane to Westbound traffic.

In addition to this; when the works enter the A20 the main is situated in the Ashford Bound slip road / slow lane, at this point the footway will be closed and pedestrians will be re-routed into the carriageway, again for safety reasons this necessitated a road / lane closure, as it was deemed unsafe to merge slow moving traffic leaving Sandyhurst Lane straight into the outer Ashford bound fast lane.

As with all works we actively encourage the contractors to explore all avenues in order that the work be completed within and where possible before the expected completion date, so as to minimise inconvenience to all, in this situation a lane closure has the potential to reduce the duration of the works and the impact on all road users.

Finally any order to close a road is not taken lightly and all options are considered before a closure is agreed, at no time would an order be granted purely for the convenience of a contractor or utility. Our prime concern is and will always be safety for both the contractors operatives and all classes of road users.

Please contact me should you require further information

Kind regards

Kevin Dash

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