

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 8 MARCH 2021****AGENDA ITEM 05****WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS****Question 2: Mark Sugden - Claygate Parish Council****Re: Works on the highway**

Could the Local Committee advise what further action could be taken to ensure repairs affecting highways, especially those to be undertaken by utility companies such as Thames Water are completed more quickly, given the significant disruption in Claygate with the recent closure of Red Lane and latterly Hare Lane?

Officer response:

Both of the works in question relate to delays in Thames Water completing unplanned emergency works. In the instance of the Red Lane closure, SCC's Highway Contractors Kier initially attended site on 8th February in response to the development of a void in the carriageway structure necessitating a road closure to ensure public safety. On 9th February Kier advised Thames Water that a broken surface water drain was the source of the void. Despite several follow up requests, Kier's Traffic Management measures had to remain in place until Thames Water finally completed the necessary repairs on the 26th February.

The Hare Lane closure was for Thames Water themselves to repair a leaking clean water main and commenced on 26th February. With the leaking main in the centre of the carriageway a road closure was the only suitable traffic management measure. Whilst the actual mains repair was completed promptly, despite SCC requests for prompt reinstatement of the carriageway this work was not completed until 4th March and the road re-opened.

SCC's Streetworks Team always apply legislative powers under the New Roads and Street Works Act and the Traffic Management Act, wherever appropriate, however in this instance no legislative penalty applies for a delay to attend site (Red Lane) and the works were completed within the 'reasonable' period granted under the permit for Hare Lane so no 'over run' charges are applicable. Given the lack of urgency to re-open the road once the repair was made in this instance, SCC's Streetworks Team are now reviewing the duration of the 'reasonable period' allowed for such works.

Officers in SCC's Streetworks Team have escalated concerns over the delays on both these works to Thames Water's Senior Management and are awaiting detailed explanations as to why these delays occurred and assurances that swifter completion will be forthcoming in the future on such works.

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