

Evesham Road s278 Highways Community Forum

Venue: Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse

31st July 2023 17:00

Questions received at the community event by the residents.

Reponses to the questions raised are provided below:

	General Questions
1	<p>What is the completion date for the scheme?</p> <p>The estimated timescales as per the contractors' program is late September. We are currently working with the contractor Montel to accelerate work where possible. However there remains site risks that may have an impact on the completion date.</p> <p>As soon as we have confidence on completion and when the traffic management will be removed, we will be better placed and more informed to post it on our website and share with stakeholders.</p>
2	<p>What are the reasons for the delays?</p> <p>The issues listed below have had the most impact on the programme:</p> <p>i) Additional ground investigation works to identify where utilities are located to ensure the design works follow the relevant design plans issued.</p> <p>ii) Diversion of an existing foul sewer - An existing chamber was discovered during the works which was buried below ground level preventing construction of a culvert wingwall (The exact location of this chamber was not known or shown on Severn Trent sewer records). Some delay was caused obtaining the necessary approval from the Environment Agency for the proposed pumping works re. proximity to shottery brook.</p> <p>iii) Additional statutory service providers works/utility providers. This included additional works required for BT, Virgin Media, Cadent Gas and Severn Trent Water. The additional works were required to both enable a reliable network for the local community and to divert previously unknown services.</p> <p>iv) Flooding of the site - due to the extensive catchment area of the Shottery brook it has not been feasible to over pump the water from the brook during periods of heavy rainfall due to the volume of water and the number of pumps which would have been required considering the limited space available. The method of working, allowing the works area to become flooded during periods of heavy rainfall was agreed with the Environment Agency. Unfortunately, this has led to delays due to additional works to pump out and clean the working area before being able to re-commence construction works. The rainfall this July has been higher than the average for the month.</p> <p>v) Design issues - Some delays have been due to delays receiving Geotechnical reports, Environment Agency permits and structural design approvals for the temporary works and permanent works.</p>

	General Questions
3	<p>Why was the roundabout not located on new development land offline to the existing highway to reduce the impact on live traffic?</p> <p>The design of the roundabout was constrained by land within the developers' control and adopted highway boundaries. The approved design is the optimum solution which complies with current design standards.</p>
4	<p>Was the fact that the area is a flood plain considered in the design of the Evesham Road scheme?</p> <p>Yes. Details of the drainage design for the development site including the Evesham Road roundabout site as detailed within the Flood Risk Assessment available via. Stratford District Council Website (Planning application reference 09/02196/OUT).</p> <p>As part of the design, the existing Shottery Brook was widened to increase the capacity of the existing brook, upgrading of the existing culverts to increase the capacity of the existing system and the installation of a new flood compensation area. This is designed to store flood water and slowly disperse it downstream. This will reduce flooding in the local area and store excess water. Further to this, the new drainage system has buried water storage crates, located underneath the new roundabout and a new hydrobrake. The hydrobrake will slow down the water discharge into the brook from the new roundabout and store it in the storage crates. This will limit the amount of water being discharged into the brook in times of heavy rainfall.</p>
5	<p>Why were the exact location of existing utilities not ascertained ahead of the works to avoid the delays caused as a result of encountering them during the construction phase?</p> <p>Plans showing the location of underground utility services are provided by the statutory service authorities. The statutory utility companies do not guarantee the accuracy of these drawings. A ground penetration survey was also conducted prior to the works commencing on site. Even with this information, additional uncharted services were encountered.</p> <p>It was considered if the uncharted services could be incorporated within the new works. Unfortunately, this didn't turn out to be the case. These also had to be adjusted due to the depth, to eliminate future maintenance problems and to ensure the local community have reliable services.</p>

	General Questions
6	<p>Montel operatives have been observed on site on their mobile phones as well as smoking and do not appear to be working efficiently. The site is untidy and filled with litter. Is WCC going to contact Montel to address this?</p> <p>Site staff have been reminded to keep the areas tidy. Operatives will be re-briefed about smoking on site and on appropriate use of mobile phones. Montel will continue to focus on these issues.</p>
7	<p>The gradient of some of the dropped crossings installed on Luddington Road are severe - can these be reviewed/amended?</p> <p>This is currently being reviewed. It may not be possible to amend existing footway/carriageway levels due to existing gradients.</p>
8	<p>What are the penalty clauses on the contract for delays caused by the contractor?</p> <p>There is provision within the contract to apply penalties if delays are deemed to be caused by the contractor. This will be considered by Wards Williams.</p>
9	<p>Are there ways to feedback on Montel's performance on this project and is WCC going to be taking this into account? Has any consideration been given to the removal of Montel from Warwickshire's Construction Framework contract?</p> <p>On completion of construction works, contractor's performance is captured on WCC's Contractor Performance Monitoring form. This is completed by the contract Project Manager and by WCC. Feedback is captured from councillors via the Councillors Satisfaction Questionnaire. Residents can provide feedback through councillors or on the S278 Team Enquiries inbox s278teamenquiries@warwickshire.gov.uk</p> <p>The feedback for this scheme will be taken into consideration when appointing contractors for future schemes.</p> <p>Montel have successfully completed several schemes in the County. There have been no concerns regarding their performance to date.</p>
10	<p>How often has the Project Management team visited the site?</p> <p>The Project Management team has a full-time presence on site with a Clerk of Works and a Site Supervisor. In addition, the WWA team visit the site weekly.</p>

	General Questions
11	<p>Will WCC conduct an investigation on the project management of the Evesham Road scheme?</p> <p>A review will be carried out on all aspects of the scheme delivery detailing 'lessons learnt' with actions to be implemented on future schemes.</p>
12	<p>The service road outside properties: 10 - 18 Bordon Hill is in a poor condition following the utility services works. Is the road going to be resurfaced?</p> <p>The Bordon Hill service road is outside of the Montel contract and resurfacing is not currently planned. The works undertaken on this road by Cadent Gas to upgrade corroded connections to private homes. An inspection of the current condition following the attendance of the utility company will be carried out.</p>
13	<p>Why were the houses in the new development allowed to be constructed and occupied ahead of the completion of the highway works on the Evesham Road scheme?</p> <p>There are currently no properties occupied on the new development. Vistry has constructed new homes and is working in accordance with the conditions imposed by the Planning Authority.</p>
14	<p>How many people attended the forum?</p> <p>Estimated number in attendance is 150.</p>
15	<p>Is a follow up meeting going to be arranged and when?</p> <p>Yes, a meeting is arranged for 20th September. Final details are being prepared and letters/notices will follow shortly to both our residents and councillors.</p>
16	<p>Why has there been no previous resident's forum?</p> <p>We regret that a residents' forum was not held sooner however we look forward to welcoming everybody to the next meeting in September.</p>
17	<p>What are the dates for the proposed road closure of the Luddington Road?</p> <p>Luddington road will need to be closed for a short period of time to enable final surfacing. This is likely to take place mid-September. Exact dates to be communicated via letter prior to works.</p>
18	<p>Why was Montel not in attendance?</p>

	General Questions
	The meeting was scheduled at short notice and was organised when members of the Montel team were taking pre-booked annual leave.

	<u>Existing pedestrian crossing point on Luddington Road</u>
1	<p>Why was the interim Stage 3 Road Safety Audit for the pedestrian crossing point on the Ludington Road not carried out earlier and prior to the construction of the crossing?</p> <p>The original scheme does not include a crossing point (opposite the racecourse entrance). Following concerns raised by residents, WCC have been liaising with the Developer and their designers to find a solution to address the issue. Unfortunately, due to site constraints, it has taken longer than anticipated to arrive at solution that can be implemented.</p>
2	<p>Are dropped kerbs going to be installed at the location of the existing pedestrian crossing point on the Ludington Road and when?</p> <p>Yes. An instruction has been issued to Montel to install a dropped kerb and to remove vegetation. The vegetation works are programmed for mid-September. Due to traffic management constraints the kerbing works are programmed to be carried out at the end of the current contract.</p>
3	<p>Are the visibility issues at the pedestrian crossing point on the Luddington Road going to be addressed? Is the existing Ash tree obscuring visibility going to be removed?</p> <p>Yes, an interim Road Safety Audit has been carried out specifically to investigate this issue. This is a formal process to go through for the resolution of any issues raised which is currently on-going. An instruction has been issued for the removal of the existing ground level vegetation with a view to assessing whether the tree needs to be removed. The removal of the tree was raised at the last forum. WCC Design Services to consult with WCC Forestry prior to felling. It should be noted that the completed works will be subject to a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit.</p>

	<u>Traffic Management</u>
1	<p>How dynamic is the temporary traffic management with regards to adjusting to varying traffic flow and demand? The TM does not appear be reactive enough and as a result queue lengths and waiting times are excessive. A resident with young children that regularly uses the route for school drop-offs stated that it regularly takes her 45 minutes to get to and from school and that her 9-year-old son is experiencing anxiety as a result of the delays caused by the road works.</p> <p>A meeting with WCC and Montel to discuss the traffic management has been arrangement for Mon 21/08/23.</p> <p>The temporary traffic signals on site are manually controlled Monday to Friday 07:00 -19:00 during the day and during selected racecourse events. When traffic is built up in more than one direction, the operative controlling the lights, will judge which direction is building up the most and adjust the sequence accordingly.</p> <p>Out of these hours, the traffic signals are set on an automatic “smart” mode.</p> <p>This will monitor traffic at all heads and adjust green times from the pre-set values, if necessary, to increase traffic flows.</p> <p>These settings are designed to optimise traffic flow and reduce delays as much as practically possible.</p>
2	<p>Is Warwickshire County Council or the Contractor going to put any measures in place to control/stop people jumping the lights and is there any CCTV installed to identify offenders?</p> <p>Warning signs have been installed on the temporary traffic signal heads to discourage members of the public jumping red lights.</p> <p>There are no CCTV installed for traffic management purposes.</p>
3	<p>Some residents have issues with the visibility of the traffic lights – can this be addressed?</p> <p>We have investigated this extensively, however, to ensure traffic flows are maintained it is not practical to install traffic signal heads for each access off Bordon Hill as this would create more delays.</p>

	<u>Traffic Management</u>
4	<p>A resident who owns a camper van has been asked by Montel to park in a different area away from their usual parking spot to facilitate the works. The new parking area currently sits within Montel's traffic management and the resident would like confirmation whether their campervan would be insured?</p> <p>The owner was made aware of the insurance coverage "doubts" as soon as it came to light, and the owner agreed for the camper van to be moved back onto the property - driveway.</p>

	<u>Communication</u>
1	<p>Why have residents not been kept informed throughout the works?</p> <p>Letters to update the residents have been provided at various intervals by the contractor, Montel throughout the project when considered appropriate.</p> <p>We acknowledge that the frequency of the updates may not have been as frequent as suggested.</p> <p>Regular updates have been provided by WCC to the Stratford Herald Media when specific enquiries have been made during the scheme. Councillors are always copied in.</p> <p>We will be providing a further community forum in September to provide an update on the scheme. We look forward to welcoming everybody to the next meeting in September.</p> <p>In addition, we will be providing a regular fortnightly update on the scheme to Councillors in the form of a newsletter which will be circulated by email.</p>

	<u>Shottery Brook Flows</u>
1	<p>Were the existing flows and velocities of the shottery Brook considered taking into account existing ground levels at the locations of the pumps considered in the design of the pumps as well as the flooding history of the area?</p> <p>Existing flows and velocities were considered. Please refer to the response to question 2(iv) above.</p>
2	<p>When was the initial volumetric flow modelling undertaken and based upon what data?</p> <p>The data for the existing flows was taken from the Flood Risk Assessment that was carried out before the project commenced. In addition to this, Montel carried out live flow rate analysis at the start of the project.</p>
3	<p>Were gravitational potential and elevational changes fully considered in the plans for the work?</p> <p>The drainage design was carried out using Microdrain computer software which is the standard used for highway drainage design. The programme considers the topography via design ground levels and invert levels.</p>