

S278 spotlight

As all motorists know, roadworks and traffic lights usually mean an unwanted but necessary delay or disruption.

As a result, it helps to have a dedicated team between complaints and issues raised by members of the public, businesses, MPs, local media and the wider community and the engineers on the ground undertaking work across the county.

That is where Warwickshire County Council's S278 team come in.

Managing numerous developer-led schemes involving permanent alterations or improvements to a public highway, the team often have to have the difficult conversations face-to-face, by email or over the phone.

This could be a complaint about a long queue at traffic lights and road closures or hosting a public consultation about a proposed or live scheme.

But this function ultimately helps residents of the county and visitors to travel safely across Warwickshire.

Recent schemes include the improvement made at Gallows Hill in Warwick, the long-awaited traffic signals at the Harbury Lane/Fosse Way junction, the Wolvey Roundabout and improvements to Greenmoor Road, Nuneaton.

In fact, the S278 team have completed over 60 projects since 2020, including the Evesham Road roundabout and have approximately 70 projects in the pipeline over the coming years.

Working with developers, residents and businesses across the whole of Warwickshire to ensure the projects get delivered on time, but more important safely.

This is what S278 Engineer Gadar had to say...

What are the biggest challenges you and the team face?

One of our biggest challenges is managing time-sensitive projects that directly impact the public.

For example, I have just finished working on the construction of a new footway in Stratford-upon-Avon to provide safe access for residents to the local school. This project has presented numerous challenges, including road construction, boundary issues and drainage complications, which caused delays in the design approval process. Ensuring the project's timely completion before the school reopens has been intense. However, it is extremely rewarding to see the children able to walk to school safely now the project is finished.

What would you say to prospective candidates thinking about a role in the S278 team at WCC?

A role in the S278 Team is incredibly fulfilling and offers endless learning opportunities. The projects are diverse, and each day brings new experiences and challenges, making it an exciting and rewarding career path.