

Information regarding A35 Drainage and Resurfacing Work in 2018

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: 1.1.1 FW: Patching / Resurfacing - Chideock A35

Date: Thu, 19 Oct 2017 07:38:29 +0000

From:

To: chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk <chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>

CC:

Dear Sirs

I have been forwarded your e mail as I am the Regional Operations Manager for Connect A30/A35 Limited. Connect employs SWH/BB (the Operator) to manage the A30/A35 on its behalf, however some of the issues you have raised are Connect's responsibility and we therefore felt it appropriate to respond directly.

We are sorry that the Parish Council feels dissatisfied with the responses it has received regarding the correspondence listed below. We know that the Operator responds in an appropriate manner to issues raised, and we have, where appropriate, added some further background to each of the items listed below to give further context. Connect has also received correspondence directly from residents fronting the A35 in Chideock, which we have also responded to, or have referred the matter to Highways England where we are unable to provide an answer or consider that Highways England is best placed to consider and respond.

We have recently provided information to Highways England for a response to correspondence from Sir Oliver Letwin MP regarding Chideock, confirming that, subject to resolving some contractual issues with Highways England, we will be undertaking the identified drainage repairs in the Spring of 2018, and will be resurfacing the carriageway through the village in September 2018. This is despite the carriageway currently meeting its contractual in-service requirements. We know that this has been an issue for the Parish for some time, however we also note that it is possible that the resurfacing operation alone may not resolve all the issues that have been raised by residents.

We consider the overriding issue through the village is not the condition of the surface course itself, rather it is largely attributable to the number and location of the various covers and ironwork within the carriageway which are the responsibility of Statutory Undertakers. Wherever a cover has been identified as causing an issue, we have, in accordance with our contract requirements and responsibilities, contacted the relevant Statutory Undertaker and requested that repairs are undertaken. In some cases, this has happened, however some Statutory Undertakers appear to be slow in responding. We have no power to force a Statutory Undertaker to attend site and effect a repair or improvement; we can only request their assistance. In addition, due to the location of the various covers in the carriageway and the large number of Heavy Good Vehicles (HGV) which use the route, issues will inevitably arise with noise from such vehicles continually driving over some covers. It is our opinion therefore that resurfacing alone will not resolve some of the reported issues. We will continue to report defects and issues with Statutory Authority apparatus and endeavour to encourage them to repair such promptly, however their response is largely outside of our influence.

I trust that you can see from the details and comments provided that we are doing as much as we can to alleviate or explain the issues that are arising. We will continue to provide responses to issues raised and undertake any repairs that are reasonably practicable and our contractual responsibility to do so.

Regards

David Groves MCIHT

Regional Operations Manager | Balfour Beatty | Connect Roads

From: Chideock Parish Clerk [<mailto:chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>]
Sent: 16 October 2017 09:27
To: Kirby, Andrew
Cc: LETWIN, Oliver
Subject: Patching / Resurfacing - Chideock A35

Dear Mr Kirby

This is to inform you that Chideock Parish Council (CPC) is extremely dissatisfied with responses to date regarding patching and resurfacing of the A35 in Chideock. Plans and promises made this year are summarised below.

27th April 2017: Letter from Nick Harris, Operations Director Highways England to Sir Oliver Letwin Re-surfacing in Chideock scheduled for Spring 2017 will not take place as a significant drainage issue has been identified.

Plans for the drainage works and the re-surfacing will be developed in the Autumn.

[It was our intention to meet this programme. However, construction and contractual issues with the drainage repairs meant that we would be unable to undertake the works in the spring, which meant that the repairs would have to move to the Autumn of 2017 at the earliest, with resurfacing to follow in the Spring of 2018. Unfortunately, the drainage issues were more difficult to resolve than expected, and this has meant that the intention is now to undertake the drainage repair works in the Spring of 2018, with the resurfacing to follow in September 2018. As you may appreciate, due to traffic flows, Summer Embargo's, Bank Holidays and other activities on the network which restrict our ability to attend site \(known as Road Space booking\) there are only two windows of opportunity to undertake works in Chideock. Drainage repairs require works to be undertaken at the times of lowest "flows" and these restrictions combined mean that our timeframe for undertaking these works are restricted to a few weeks in Spring and Autumn. It does not take a large delay in one of these timeframes to mean that the works have to be pushed back to the next opportunity, and, unfortunately, this is the case in this instance.](#)

17th July 2017: Email from Andy Kirby to CPC

We hope to do more patching in the Autumn.

[It was decided that as the carriageway was to be resurfaced, undertaking patching works that may not resolve the issues raised was not practicable.](#)

We won't know about re-surfacing until later in the year.

Earliest date is Spring 2018.

[As described above.](#)

Because of the possibility of further patching, Chideock residents were asked to let the Parish Clerk know of any issues they had.

10th September: Email from CPC to Andy Kirby.

Issues made by 3 residents relayed.

Andy Kirby asked to contact residents to precisely define locations of issues.

[As no further patching was programmed for Chideock this Autumn, precise locations were not of use at this time.](#)

11th September 2017: Email from Andy Kirby to CPC.

No further patching possible.

Will get areas reported checked this week.

[Due to the fact that no further patching was to be undertaken, the Operator undertook a check of the surfacing through Chideock to ensure no defects requiring immediate attention or other mitigation were present.](#)

11th September 2017. Email from CPC to Andy Kirby

Chideock Parish Council was expecting further patching in the Autumn.

Why the change?

[It was decided that as the carriageway was to be resurfaced, undertaking patching works that may not resolve the issues raised was not required.](#)

11th September 2017: Email from Andy Kirby to CPC (sent same day before contact could be made with residents to determined problems precisely)

Lack of money.

Some areas on A30/A35 are worse than Chideock.

Apologies if this was poorly worded. Resurfacing works are allocated on a needs basis, and in this case other sections of the network had a greater need.

Please provide answers the following questions: -

1. Where on the A30/A35 is patching, which is of higher priority than Chideock, due to take place in the near future
2. Are the above sites adjacent to listed buildings with shallow foundations? Do you have instruments capable of measuring vibration?
3. On 11th September 2017 you promised to contact Chideock residents who have problems. You failed to arrange any visits. Do you intend to stand by your promise?

We programme surfacing works based on complying with our contractual requirements, taking into account any additional extenuating factors that may be relevant. As has been stated above, contacting residents to discuss patching was not considered appropriate as no further patching works were programmed for 2017 due to a full resurfacing operation being programmed for 2018. As has also been noted above, the Operator has continued to monitor the carriageway through Chideock to ensure a safe route is maintained.

Chideock Parish Council requests an early reply.

Yours

Sal Robinson

Chideock Parish Clerk

CC: - Sir Oliver Letwin MP, Nick Harris Highways England