

**B3344 ROAD CLOSURE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
MONDAY 14TH MARCH 2016 at 6.30pm**

Present:

Cllr T Allen
Cllr U Arnold
Cllr Mrs J H Blair
Cllr R A Bray
Cllr G J Gribble
Cllr E E Kelly
Cllr A J Kerswell
Cllr S P Leigh
Cllr Ms C O Richardson
Cllr M Tregoning

Cllr J Hart (Devon County Council)
Mr J Drewett (Bovis Homes)
Mr S Pye (Bovis Homes)
Mr M Gilmore (Bovis Homes)
Mr M Wells – Town Clerk

Apologies for absence:

Cllr R J Ashby
Cllr D K Elphick
Cllr Mrs Klinkenberg
Cllr C W Robillard

The meeting was chaired by the Town Mayor, Cllr U Arnold.

B3344 Road Closure

The Town Mayor introduced the guest speakers and handed over to Cllr Hart.

Cllr Hart explained his understanding of the closure which required further clarification from Town Councillors and the Town Clerk in order to provide a clearer understanding of the application process that took place pre-closure in 2015.

Cllr Hart referred to the South Devon Link Road and how fortuitous they were when the Railway line was closed towards Dawlish due to the storm damage. This enabled culverts to be put under the railway line without affecting the rail service.

Cllr Hart explained that the County Council will make mistakes at times and will try to consult wherever possible; however there must be an understanding that they cannot please everyone, all of the time. Where a road is wide enough, the work will be completed in phases in order to keep part of the road open, however when the road width does not allow this, the road will require closing. Cllr Hart agreed that local knowledge in instances such as this is very important to DCC.

It was highlighted that at the current time, the works to the highway are on track and therefore the road is scheduled to open on Saturday 26th March.

Questions Posed

- Q1. The closure notice did not advertise a restriction to pedestrians?
- As there is no pavement access along the proposed section of closure, there is only a requirement to advertise a prohibition to vehicular access only.
- Q2. The state of the adjacent footpath around Bradley Ponds is a nonsense.
- This is a permissive right of way and therefore no requirement on the landowner to maintain it.
- Q3. Cllr Hart was congratulated on the way in which the South Devon Link Road was handled and the progress reports and vital regular communications with residents etc. However, the absence of any communication with our Town about our road closure showed a lack of concern for the residents who use the road for getting to work and the local businesses, who have lost custom because of the closure. There are serious issues for Chudleigh Knighton also with rumours that a business may potentially close as a result of the effect the closure has had on passing trade.
- Cllr Hart suggested that a quarterly liaison group meeting between the developer and the Town Council might be more productive (action). The South Devon Link Road had a liaison group set up from day one. We are where we are with the damage that has been done and we should now look to repair any damage from now on.
- Q4. It has been highlighted that access to Bradley Ponds for the Fishing Association has ceased, of which there are a number of paying membership holders. In addition, the Public Transport Operator has been affected and it is concerning that they have contacted Bovis and up until recently had not received any response or remuneration for any additional expense as a result of the closure and their subsequent diversion routes.
- Pedestrian access is still available to the ponds, however there is no off road parking access and it is not feasible to provide this at the Bovis visitor car park. Technical personnel present were not able to respond to the question about the lack of any response or remuneration to the bus operator.
- Q5. A key issue which did not help the Town Council in trying to establish the facts was the delayed and inadequate response to our FOI request. It was 2 weeks after the agreed response date, jumbled and incomplete.
- No justified reason could be provided for this.
- Q6. It is understood that water run-off from the development site is flowing into the ponds. Are you aware of this and what is being done to stop this from happening?
- Bovis have provided straw hay bales to filter any run-off to the pond, although this might still happen, we attempt to reduce it as much as possible.
- Q7. Does the developer provide wheel washing facilities for site transport as it is clear from the condition of the roads that this is not either used or effective.
- Wheel wash facilities are a condition within our site works method statement and are used accordingly.
- Q8. If the flood prevention work is not fit for purpose, who ultimately pays for this in the future?
- Bovis remain responsible until sign off and then DCC will adopt responsibility for the roads and the Environment Agency for water drainage etc.
- Q9. How will the waterways cope with the additional run off etc?

- There will be the same flow rates downstream as the onsite holding tanks release water at a measured rate, rather than all at once.

- Q10. It is understood that there is a problem with toads on a development site in Bovey Tracey – is this at Bradley Bends?
- There was an issue raised recently at our site in relation to the depth of some of our trenches, however our Ecologist in conjunction with the Devon Wildlife Trust resolved the issue promptly.
- Q11. The signage that is in place at the lower end of Fore Street is not clear. Can the signage be clear for works vehicles that they should access the site along Le Molly Littry Way rather than via the Town Centre? Also, signs stating 'Business as Usual' at the bottom of Fore Street need replacing, which has been reported previously following the recent bad weather.
- Bovis agreed to action this.
- Q12. In the event that further support is required by the Town Council or further issues arise can we seek agreement that we can feedback direct to Cllr Hart?
- This was agreed by Cllr Hart who provided his direct contact details.

The Town Mayor thanked those present for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.