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Tramworks - news and updates

November 19 2014

Hello again,

This is the promised "special" about the tram works. My thanks to Andrew Parkin, one of my constituency team, who is currently spending most of his time dealing with the huge number of emails and phone calls about the tram works.

It is perhaps a mark of the poor communication and bad planning that so much of our time is being taken up doing the job that others should be doing. However, we make no complaint and Andrew and I will continue to help everyone struggling with the tram works.

As ever,

Anna

When will it open!

Because of significant delays to construction, it is now highly unlikely that the tram will be fully operational until after Easter. There are meant to be 6 months of testing and if we use this timescale, the tram will not take its first paying passengers before June.

I have asked TWA if there is any way for the testing phase to be shortened without compromising safety and they have agreed to consider this.



Chilwell Road/High Road

TWA anticipate opening the road up to access from the 'Central College end' by November 26, along with shoppers' car parks at Wilmot Lane and Chilwell Road Methodist Church. This will replace the current access at Holly Lane.

The 'High Road end' won't be open to through-traffic until December 21 after signalling works are finished at the Middle Street junction. This is very disappointing to traders who will face another Christmas without proper passing trade but I am told that NET/TWA are in negotiations with Nottinghamshire County Council to find a way to open the road earlier than currently planned.

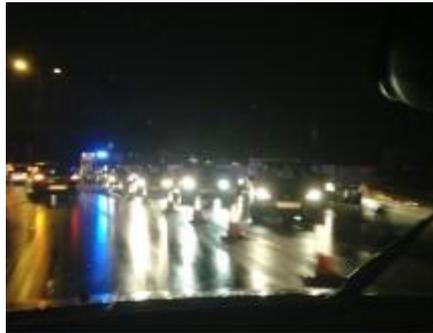
Compensation top up and some clarification

Chilwell/High Road Hardship Fund. The City Council have agreed to continue supporting traders by topping-up the hardship fund as soon as possible. I now hope the County Council follow the City's example and match their input.

Financial Assistance Package. Many businesses believe the Financial Assistance Package will be available for a full year after the tram works are completed. However, NET say that the original agreements only allow for a recovery period to continue for a third of the length of the duration of the works. As it stands, this will give traders around 7 months of compensation after the works are completed but NET have agreed to consider extending this to a full year. I will continue to make the case for traders and shops.

Traffic Chaos...

There have been serious traffic delays over the last week, particularly with road works at Bardills Island and Middle Street causing gridlock around Beeston, Bramcote, Chilwell and Toton. I understand that faulty temporary traffic lights and poor signalling have further added to the problems.



I have taken these issues up with NET but if you do see any particular problems, let me know and I will get on to those responsible.

... made worse by works on the A52?!

The Highways Agency has begun important drainage works on the A52 between Bardills and Bramcote roundabouts. These will last for seventeen weeks with lane closures and speed restrictions in both directions overnight (around 7pm to 7am most evenings).

If the current traffic problems are not sorted by NET and TWA asap, I have real concerns that the A52 works will make traffic intolerable in the south of the constituency at a time when shops need as much trade as possible in the run up to Christmas. I've written to the Highways Agency to ask that they do all they can to alleviate traffic congestion and I will let you know when I receive a response.

Out of hours number finally working again!

NET's emergency out-of-hours number has been experiencing some problems but it's now back up-and-running. If you are a resident/business and you need to get in touch with NET, you can call 0115 942 7777. Please also email me on anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk or ring the constituency office on 0115 943 6507.

Fencing fiasco?

Fencing along the tram tracks on Holkham Avenue, Brookland Drive and Lime Grove Avenue still hasn't gone up and residents have been kept in the dark about ownership and maintenance.

In October, TWA agreed to get Tramlink to meet with residents to answer their questions but this has still not happened. After over 2 years of waiting, it's hard to believe this issue still hasn't been sorted out. I have contacted TWA (again) asking them to keep to their promises and work with residents.

News for cyclists

Despite fears that it's too narrow, I am told that Chilwell Road/High Road will remain open to cyclists. Distances between the track and the pavement have been maximised to allow for bikes, a dedicated cycle route will run behind the Chilwell Road tram stop and there will be toucan crossings at Central College, Hall Croft and Devonshire Road.

However, there have already been a considerable number of serious accidents, with cyclists suffering very nasty injuries after getting their wheels caught in the tram tracks.

A number of constituents have contacted me to say that rubber inserts, which go inside the tram tracks, would protect cyclists' wheels getting caught. I have received a very long, technical response from NET as to why these rubber inserts cannot be used. I will however continue to press NET to make sure cyclists are kept safe.

TWA have asked me to publicise the cycling safety page on the NET website which can be found by clicking [here](#).

Residential Parking let down

There are very real concerns that parts of Beeston and Chilwell will become large "park and rides" for commuters using the tram. Already there are serious problems on a number of roads where commuters park up for the day, depriving residents of parking places and often parking in an inconsiderate or dangerous way. Last Thursday, Nottinghamshire County Council ignored constituents and, in effect, voted against considering any new residents' parking schemes in Beeston and Chilwell for at least two years.

I am particularly disappointed for residents on Cator Lane North and in the Dovecote Lane areas where this is a longstanding problem. I went to a residents meeting on Dovecote Lane in August and despite people campaigning for a solution for several years, they continue to be ignored. I met Cator Lane North residents and they too have had their petition ignored. We can but battle on.

Christmas plans

Beeston BID is working with Nottingham City Council, NET and TWA to put on an extra Christmas event for Chilwell/High Road on **Saturday 13th December**.

I will let you know when I have more details but please support all local shops in the run up to Christmas!

Bits and Bobs

Uni Boulevard Crossing - The crossing at the Beeston-end of University Boulevard has not worked properly since the beginning of October. Given that the road is so busy and that cyclists also use the crossing, the lack of lights is particularly dangerous, especially as it's now so dark during rush hour. I understand this is a City Council problem and I have emailed them again this morning asking them to get it fixed.

Cracks in the tram works - Rumours have been spreading that cracks appearing across the concrete will mean that the tram tracks in many areas will need to be dug up. These are especially noticeable outside West End surgery on Chilwell Road. I have been assured by TWA that these are not serious problems and they will investigate all cases straight away - let me know if you see more.

Town Street cones - Constituents have asked me why cones have been placed along Town Street in Bramcote. I understand these are to do with the road works on the A52 though there are plans to resurface Town Street next year.



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