

Bridge Road Temporary Closure & Associated Traffic Management

Introduction

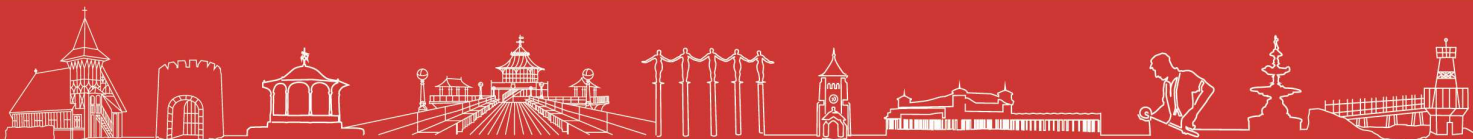
As the Highway Authority we have many responsibilities and statutory duties which includes keeping traffic moving. We have a small team co-ordinating activities that need to happen on the road network. One of our main priorities is to minimise disruption while maintaining safety to the public and those involved in activities taking place. Over a period of 12 months we have co-ordinated around 10,000 sets of highway works which equates to over 800 works per month.

Development sites are the most challenging because of the need to try and co-ordinate a number of utility services in addition to any infrastructure, sometimes this is made even more difficult due to the specifics surrounding the location. Bridge Road is a complex situation due to its proximity to the A370, and from safety concerns raised which were listened to by officers and relate to an increase in traffic volumes exiting at a point where collisions have occurred in the past.

We continue to work with the developer who have been very co-operative and who have taken on board additional advice given by the Highway Authority.

We are aware that there is a desire locally to look at having permanent traffic signals at the junction of Bleadon Road/A370, however, temporary traffic signals would not replicate or be representative of how permanent signals may/may not work. This would require separate feasibility and modelling work to be undertaken.

We have received a number of questions from the community in relation to the works, and hope the following will be of assistance.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Bridge Road have to be closed?

The road is being dug up to provide services and infrastructure for the new housing development. We have worked with the developer to ensure all the services installation is co-ordinated under one road closure which reduces the impact to the community

Why are HGVs being sent over Celtic Way when it's not wide enough?

Celtic Way is a C classified road. We understand that these roads are narrow and awkward in place. However, access is needed for HGVs to provide services and deliveries to the local area. Usage of such roads is not uncommon as HGV's regularly navigate such roads as they form a significant part of the national road network

What can be done to stop drivers from ignoring the one way system?

We have been monitoring the use of the junction since the one way system has been put in place and we have found that there are a small number of road users ignoring the one-way restriction. These manoeuvres are illegal and are putting others unnecessarily at risk. We are working with the developer and we have also engaged with the Police on this matter

Why can't temporary traffic lights be installed on Bleadon Road whilst Bridge Road is closed?

Multi-way temporary traffic signals would be needed on Bleadon Road and Accommodation Road junctions. The impact of this arrangement would lead to substantial delay's to traffic on the A370 which is a very busy road carrying in the region of 1,300 vehicles an hour, compared to an estimated 136 vehicles an hour for Bleadon Road & Bridge Road (combined).

This would be further compounded when other sets of temporary traffic signals are nearby

Bleadon Road is already a dangerous junction so why isn't it just left as it is?

We have suggested temporary traffic management following concerns about the increase in traffic using this junction due to the Bridge Road closure. The increase in traffic using this junction could potentially increase the risk of collisions. The use of a one way system addresses the safety concerns and also prevents disruption on the A370

Why is the weight restriction being ignored?

The weight restrictions on Celtic Way, Bleadon Road and Bridge Road exempt vehicles over 7.5T that require access to Bleadon to provide deliveries and services around the area. Therefore, vehicles over 7.5T can legitimately use these routes

Why don't you do a temporary speed limit reduction on the A370 to allow people to safely exit from Bleadon Road?

The speed limit at the junction of the A370 with Bleadon Road is currently 40mph. Reducing the speed limit on its own will not necessarily translate to reduced speeds without enforcement taking place and/ or other supporting temporary traffic measures which would impact the A370

Will you be compensating businesses in Bleadon for loss of trade?

No, whilst we sympathise with businesses who may be adversely effected by the impact of works, the Highway Authority/Council are not in a position to compensate businesses affected by road works

Why have the tree works on the A370 been given priority?

We haven't prioritised the tree works on the A370. This work requires specialist equipment and were in place before the Bridge Road closure was proposed. The tree works are necessary due to the hazard they present and the close proximity of trees to the road

Can the tree works/other works be done after Bridge Road reopens?

There were two road closures planned further along the A370 by the hospital but we have postponed these until the Bridge Road closure is removed. The tree works that are being carried out under temporary signals cannot wait due to the proximity and hazard the trees present. The other works in the area are needed for electricity supply for the developer works on Bridge Road. We have co-ordinated these temporary traffic signals so there are not two sets of lights on the A370 at the same time. One will follow on from the other

The School bus is dropping children off on the A370 which is dangerous?

The School bus is a private provision and something North Somerset has no control over. It serves a School outside of North Somerset. We have undertaken further enquiries and are aware that alternative arrangements have been made

Why were we not notified that both entrances to Bleadon Village would be closed at the same time?

Both entrances are not closed. Bridge Road is closed and Bleadon Road is operating as a one-way, with no exit. We understand the developer, who is responsible for the work, has posted letters to nearby properties and advance signs have been in place. Information relating to upcoming works and/or activities on/affecting the highway is also available at www.one.network

Why did you not have an NSC rep at the Parish Council meeting?

Unfortunately, we have very limited resources which need to be prioritised. Prior to the meeting we liaised substantially with the Parish Council and answered all of the concerns raised at the time. However, we did provide a statement in advance explaining why temporary traffic lights could not be used and attending the meeting would not have changed the outcome.

What provision has been put in place for pedestrians as there's no footways? The increase in traffic puts them at greater risk.

We are working with the developer in relation to the potential provision of extra signage relating to pedestrians.

Why has signage been placed on the footway forcing pedestrians into the road?

Signage should not unnecessarily obstruct footways. We will continue to monitor this and ensure the developer resolves any issues with signage.

Why is there concern about the increase in traffic onto the main road at either Bridge Road or Bleadon Road now when there will be an increase in traffic when the new housing has been developed?

The housing development is on Bridge Road and will have the benefit of both junctions (Bridge Road & Bleadon Road) open when the road closure is not in place, therefore, this would split traffic and options available for road users rather than sending traffic through one junction.