

Response to Enquiry to Surrey County Council from Tatsfield Parish Council regarding the Proposed Works on Ship Hill from 22Jan – 21 Apr is shown below:

Now Delayed by 1 week

“Thank you for your enquiry which has been passed to us in the Streets team.

Starting on 29 Jan

The works are on behalf of Thames Water to replace the existing fresh water main. The main is aging, with leaks in the area increasing, the works are becoming more critical to avoid future issues. It will include approximately 700m of new main, 6 new connections, new/ replaced fire hydrants, new air valves and service relays to properties.

They originally wanted to undertake these works under temporary traffic signals, but following further reviews of the site and the works they realised they wouldn't be able to safely undertake these works without a road closure. They need to dig 1m deep with strong-wall fencing, excavator, dumper and other plant they will not be able to safely maintain road widths required for the road to remain open even with temporary traffic signals. Additionally, just to clarify further the complications; the location of the current main is just off set from the centre white line, and the new main is proposed to be the other side. When undertaking the connections, they will need access to both mains.

To break down the phases. Approx 2-3 weeks per phase, hopeful for 2 weeks but after the first phase we'll be able to make a better estimation.

Phase 1: Ship Hill to be closed between Church Hill & Borough Road between 22/01/24 - 04/02/24.

Phase 2: Ship Hill to be closed between Borough Road & Ninehams Road between 05/02/24 - 18/02/24.

Phase 3: Ship Hill to be closed between Ninehams Road & Vern Place 19/02/24 - 03/03/24.

Phase 4 & 5: Can run concurrently between 04/03/24 - 25/03/24.

Following this, Traffic Management (TM) will be removed for testing and chlorination. On the assumption they don't find any issues, they will then need to cut and cap off the old main. They will have to do this at either end of the works, requiring approximately 1 week for each. The TM cannot be confirmed until they can confirm where exactly they need to undertake this, keeping the road open where possible but if it is not safe then we will have to close it again.

With regards to the diversion route. Unfortunately, none of the alternate roads are as wide as Ship Hill, we're having the diversion signs set up so eastbound traffic will be sent down Lusted Hall Road and westbound traffic via Church Hill. This will hopefully alleviate some issues caused by the narrow roads. We will continually monitor the diversion route and signs and will make changes if needed/ where possible.

Thames Water have contacted our passenger transport team with regards to closing the bus route. We will work with passenger transport should there be anything we can do with regards to their alternate routes.

It may also be worth noting, we originally looked at utilising the summer holidays, but at the time Thames Water had a proposed closure of Westerham Hill (not in Surrey) in the summer. Disappointingly this has now been changed to this Xmas period and we've only just been made aware. Our Streetworks network coordinator has asked as to whether this scheme can now be delayed to summer, however this would come at the increased risk of further leaks to the main.

I hope this helps in giving an understanding into the situation and thank you for taking the time to bring this to our attention.

M Rowe

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Highways & Transport Service. Environment, Infrastructure & Growth

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