

## A3038 Priory Bridge Works

### Sewer Connection to the Firepool Regeneration site

#### Q & A Sheet

Taunton's flagship Firepool regeneration development is progressing well and has reached a crucial stage. The next phase of work requires the site to be connected to the town's sewerage system.

This has to happen in order for the development to remain on track.

This is a challenging operation as the connection point is four metres below Priory Bridge Road.

Much of the connection works have been completed along Canal Road but the last section is likely to cause some disruption. A deep trench will be required from the junction with Canal Road along Priory Bridge Road to the connection point opposite the entrance to Kwik Fit Tyres.

We have met with the contractor undertaking the works for Somerset Council to discuss the best way to carry out this essential next stage of the Firepool development and to try to keep traffic moving.

The safest way to undertake these works is to put in place a one-way system allowing traffic to exit from the A3038 Station Road towards Priory Bridge Roundabout. Traffic will not be able to proceed into town beyond Deller's Wharf (Junction into Morrisons).

#### **When?**

The works are planned to take place from the 31 July 2023 through to the 1 September 2023.

#### **Why now?**

The Firepool regeneration has reached an important milestone. These works have been timed to take place during the school summer holidays when traffic volumes are lower and more consistent. The works are also being timed around other works that have been planned in for Taunton.

#### **Why can't the works be carried out under traffic signals?**

The works are located between two sets of traffic signals and the complexity of these two signalised junctions this close together means temporary traffic signals would not be effective or safe. Our assessments show this one-way system is the most effective way of keeping traffic moving during these difficult works.

#### **Why can't the works take place at night-time?**

The works require a deep excavation, and it would not be possible to close down the site safely during the day. With nearby residential properties the noise of excavations would disturb these residents and so an element of considerate working is required.

### What traffic management will be used?

A one-way system will be put into place on Priory Bridge Road. Traffic will only be able to exit via Station Road onto Priory Bridge Road. Traffic will not be able to proceed onto Station Road beyond the Deller's wharf junction (Morrisons junction) from the Priory Bridge (Shell garage) Roundabout direction.

Traffic wanting to head into town will be diverted from Priory Bridge Roundabout via the A3087 Trenchard Way, Station Approach back onto the A3038 Station Road.



### What will be the Diversion route be?

A fully signed diversion route will be signed from the Priory Bridge Road roundabout; however the travelling public are free to find an alternative route if they wish.



### **Are these works going to be really disruptive?**

Yes, unfortunately there will be some disruption. The school summer holiday has therefore been chosen as peak hour flows are reduced, there will be less school traffic and the one-way system is deemed as being the least disruptive option.

### **Are any other works taking place?**

Yes, we are planning to utilise the one-way system to carry out some signal works on the Deller's Wharf junction, replacing a damaged pole and renewing the signal heads with more efficient LED units. We are also looking to ask Openreach to carry out some fibre works. There will be, towards the end of the scheme, overnight road closures to allow some resurfacing works to take place as the road surface also needs urgent maintenance.

Immediately following these works, essential overnight resurfacing works will be taking place on the Wickes Roundabout from the start of September. These works have been planned as overnight road closures in order to lessen the impact of the works.

This combined approach will minimise future disruption and allow other essential works to be undertaken in one go.

### **What about businesses in the immediate area?**

These businesses are being contacted separately to give them time to prepare for these works and to identify if any specific arrangements are needed.

### **Will the Cricket Ground be affected?**

We have engaged with Somerset County Cricket Club in order to minimise impacts on their matches and to enable the Club to provide travel advice to spectators and supporters before travelling.

### **Will we be stopping other works in the town?**

There will still be essential gas works taking place on East Street and East Reach.

Wales and West will be returning to complete works and so reinstating the one-way system on East Street along with a partial lane closure on East Reach (Outbound) from the 31 July for three weeks, this will be put in place with some side road closures.

Traffic will still be able to enter the town via East Street from the junction with East Reach as at the start of the works.

We will certainly be reducing and limiting other works to reduce disruption while works are ongoing on Priory Bridge Road, East Street and East Reach. The only thing we cannot plan for are emergency works, such as water and gas leaks.

### **Why are we allowing Wales and West Utilities to undertake works at the same time?**

The works are far enough away to not impact each other, and the one-way system approach has been designed so as not to interfere with traffic flows diverted as a result of each of the works.

### **Where Can I find out more about these works?**

One.Network is a free network tool showing present and future works not only in Taunton, but also in Somerset, and can be accessed via: <https://one.network/public>

More information on the Firepool regeneration project can be found at: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/significant-planning-projects/firepool-taunton/>

Wales and West can be contacted on: 0800 912 2999

If you have any questions or specific access arrangements as a result of the Priory Bridge works please contact the Contractor's Project Manager David Collin on 07519 115287.