

Reference
10727940

Date
05th June 2024

Cadent Gas Limited
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Dear Ms Hallett
Ufford Parish Council
c/o Manor Farm
Hollesey
Woodbridge
IP12 3NB



By email to: ufford.pc@hotmail.com

Dear Ms Hallett

Further to your letter of 1st June 2024, I'm happy to provide Cadent's response to the points you raised. For ease of understanding, I've numbered our response to correspond with each point raised by yourselves.

1.1 Impact on Village Lanes

Our Operational Team met with Suffolk County Council yesterday to discuss our traffic management plans. In light of your concerns, we have agreed to review the plans and consider additional options, including the possibility of directional closures on the roads you mentioned specifically. This would effectively make these roads one way to avoid the issues you described regarding a lack of passing places. Once these plans have been reviewed and agreed with Suffolk CC, we will share with you and the wider community.

1.2 Impact on Local Businesses

We appreciate your concerns regarding the impact of our works on local businesses and will do all we can to work with these businesses to minimise this impact. All our signage will include reference to local businesses remaining open and all businesses will have a route of access maintained at all times.

Following our current period of exploratory work, we aim to have a confirmed plan of works within the next 15 working days. At this point, we will arrange a meeting with local businesses to understand their individual concerns and discuss ways in which we are able to support them; this will include providing detailed information on the Cadent small business compensation scheme.

It is our intention, subject to the necessary consents, to implement the main road closures within the school summer holiday period to reduce the impact on the wider population. We do understand that this may have a resultant effect on the farming community, however, we are confident that we will reduce this impact through a carefully considered traffic management plan.

It is important to note that, irrespective of our works, the local housing developer, Nest, have a commitment to conduct works which will necessitate the closure of the



B1438 before mid August. We remain in consultation with Nest to 'share' this road closure to further reduce the impact to residents. We will do all we can to ensure that the road is not closed twice.

1.3 Impact on Public Transport

We have a further meeting later this week with the local bus companies where we will discuss the impact of our works on established bus routes and whether alternative measures can be agreed such as Cadent covering the costs of a replacement shuttle bus. As previously mentioned, our intention to carry out works during the summer holiday period should, we hope, mitigate some of the issues around the disruption to public transport routes / school buses.

1.4 Impact on Neighbouring Villages

I believe I have covered the majority of your points in my response to point 1.1. I will leave Suffolk CC to comment on the Sizewell C works and the resultant impact of this project as this will undoubtedly be something they consider when agreeing traffic management proposals.

1.5 Impact on Delivery and Services

As previously advised, all our signage will make it clear that business remain open and wherever possible, we will maintain some form of access to every property. We will be discussing impacts to individual businesses during the meeting I mentioned above. In terms of access to private homes, again, our signage will clearly indicate the routes which are closed and signpost to agreed diversion routes.

2. Test Hole Sampling

We are continuing to conduct test hole sampling at locations agreed with the Highways Authority and confirm that a minimum of 6 locations will be used. The results of these will enable us to determine whether we are able to complete the replacement of the main through the use of directional drilling. As discussed during the recent meeting, using directional drilling would allow us to reduce the length of time for our works, however, this method of delivery is dependent on the results of testing. Once we have these results, we will update the Parish Council, Suffolk County Council and local residents on the planned engineering methodology.

3. Alternative Solution

We have considered completing this project by utilising the existing route of the main, however, for a number of reasons; primarily those associated with the safe delivery, ground conditions and ecological impact of the work, this is not a viable solution.

4. Next Steps

- 1 – response to this point provided above
- 2 – as advised above, we are in the process of reviewing and producing an updated plan:
 - A: Wherever it is legally possible to conduct our work without necessitating a road closure (New Road and Street Works Act 1991 [NRSWA] outlines our legal



obligations), we will do so using appropriate traffic management. However, where NRSWA requires us to put in place a total road closure, we will have no option but to comply with this.

B: Wherever possible, we will be working on a Monday to Saturday basis (with Sunday working only when necessary) ensuring that we balance the desire to complete our works as swiftly as possible with the need to remain respectful to local residents in terms of noisy and disruptive working during unsociable days and times.

C: It would not be possible to reopen roads at weekends where active engineering work remains in place in accordance with NRSWA.

D: Our webpage will provide up to date information on our works and will include contact details for our customer team

3 - agreed

4 - as advised previously, we agree to communicate with all affected local businesses within the coming weeks to understand their concerns, provide support and discuss the Cadent small business compensation scheme. Note that the terms of this scheme are not within Cadent's direct control as the terms under which claims are considered is defined in law. That said, we will work with each business to ensure that they are treated fairly and equitably in line with the terms of this scheme.

5 - agreed

6 - we will be happy to arrange and attend fortnightly sessions at the commencement of our works with a view to these moving to monthly meetings once the work is up and running. It's important these meetings are constructive and collaborative so we would suggest that we work to a pre-agreed agenda.

We appreciate your understanding that our work is necessary to ensure the ongoing safe supply of energy now and into the future. The work to upgrade and replace this gas main is mandatory and we are legally obliged by the HSE to ensure it is completed. Whilst we have confidence in the existing infrastructure in the short term, replacement is required in order to maintain safe transportation of gas. Therefore, delays in delivering this work could have safety implications which would need to be explained to the HSE if the works did not proceed. As such, while we are very keen to work with you to ensure we devise a plan which ultimately results in minimal disruption and inconvenience to the communities of Ufford and surrounding districts, this work must ultimately be done within a reasonable time frame and we have the opportunity to now complete the works in conjunction with the road closure required by Nest for their sewer works.

Yours sincerely

Eleanor Lewis

East of England Head of Customer Experience – Cadent Gas