

Report on meeting with CCC Highways on 26/11/2025

Present

Barry Wainwright, Dee Laws (via audio)
Bob Turner (CCC Street Works Senior Inspector)
Phil Sharpe (CCC Street Works Inspector)

Reason for meeting

After I made a response to a proposed TTRO for the closure of the A605 at the BP Garage, Bob Turner asked if we could have a meeting to discuss that matter and several other works which they had planned for Whittlesey. Rather than attend on my own, I asked if I could include Dee Laws, which was agreed.

Discussion

Phil & Bob explained that they had a great many works 'queueing up' for Whittlesey roads and wanted to get our point of view on the timing of them, and what mitigations could be put in place.

1. Closure of A605 at BP Garage in January 2026

They explained that they understood that this work would be very disruptive and had held a second meeting with Anglian Water to fully understand what work was to be undertaken. Unfortunately, they had been assured that a full closure, day and night, was unavoidable. The work was to connect the water supply and sewerage to the mains and, as the mains was about 10 to 14' deep, in the centre of the road, full closure was necessary.

The permit has been approved for a five-day closure, with four days working expected and one day contingency. They are hopeful, if work goes well, to complete the work in 3 days.

We asked about the possibility of closing Crosshand Way to traffic to prevent the A605 traffic using Crosshand Way and Stonald Road. They responded that they were not legally allowed to close a road unaffected by the works. They said they could put signage up to say that HGVs were not allowed on Crosshand Way, but those signs would probably be ignored.

In the event that North Bank or the B1040 were closed due to flooding, they stated that the permit could and would be rescinded at any time up to the close of business the day before work was due to start.

2. S278 works opposite BP Garage

The developer wishes to carry out some S278 works (connection of surface water drainage). This work has been approved to take place AT THE SAME TIME as the water connection. As the work is all on the pavement adjacent to the new development, there will be no conflict. The S278 works are only expected to take two to three days.

3. Power Connection to the same development

The developer has requested that they need to make a power connection to the new development, to prevent the houses deteriorating over the winter period.

This work will be done with a footpath closure. There will be the need to put in a temporary pedestrian crossing lights across the A605 for the duration of the works. There should be minimal disruption to traffic flow.

This work may take place as early as w/c 8th December

[Work actually commenced on 1st December, but extension granted to Monday 8th, due to 'drill' not being available]

4. Tree Felling on Peterborough Road

Highways were suggesting that they could postpone this work until the spring, but Dee & myself thought that would lead to a risk of some of the very poor condition trees falling in adverse weather.

They have instead agreed to discuss with the contractor to get them to complete the works as soon as possible. Work could take as long as three weeks, but will not require a full closure, though there will be some single lane working. Work hours are to be restricted to 10am to 3pm.

[This work has actually commenced on 1st December]

5. Ralph Butcher Causeway & Bridge

Both CCC representatives stated that they had also been caught unawares by the announcement that the bridge closure was to be delayed to the end of January (the BP Garage closure had been scheduled to take place after the bridge was re-opened to 2-way traffic).

They also stated that, though they were not involved in the oversight of the remedial work, it was their personal opinion that the work was likely to be extended again, though they gave no reasons why this may be so.

6. B1040 Persimmon Homes Remedial Work

Persimmon's contractors are required to carry out some remedial work to the Junction of Wetlands Way and on the B1040. They had requested three closures of the B1040, two for 3 weeks, one for 2 weeks. After discussion, they have been permitted 3 weeks working under traffic lights and one week full closure.

No date has yet been set for this, but it will not be permitted until after the bridge is fully open and the flood season is over.

7. Gildenburg Roundabout

There are three lots of remedial work required here, two different developers and UKPN for street Lights.

There is no urgency to this work, and it can be pushed out until after all the other work on the west end of the A605 is completed.

It will need four-way traffic lights though and will be quite disruptive.

Other Work and Longer Term Projects

The following works are 'in the pipeline', but have no dates yet assigned.

DFDS

NVIVO will need to carry out some additional work at some point. The lane closures earlier this year were for the installation of cabling for a new charging system. The mains connection will have to be made at some point. The work should be no more than 2 days and will probably only need a lane closure.

Kings Dyke Bus Shelter

The replacement bus shelter has been delayed as the shelter put in by the developer is not from a supplier the CCC normally uses, so they have had to get the supplier approved and added to their purchasing register.

There is a meeting with the contractor scheduled for 01/12/2025, after which a date for the works can be set.

There will be no need for traffic management – the work can be completed by just closing the layby and working from the footpath. Pedestrian access will be maintained by putting plates on the grass and barriers to allow pedestrians to walk around the works.

Cadent Gas Main Replacement

Cadent need to replace the gas main between Hallcroft Road and Church Street. Whether this can be done under lane closure or requires a full closure is not yet known. The work is to be put off until the summer holidays of 2027

Cock Bank

Work to reconstruct Cock Bank is scheduled for January to March 2026. This is a significant task and Cock Bank will be closed for quite some time.

A605 Coates Road

The section of Coates Road between Minuet Paddocks and The Fold is scheduled for resurfacing, but is not going to happen until next financial year.

We queried why this stretch has been scheduled, and not some of the far worse stretches through Eastrea Dip and further out along the Long Gravel, but they did not know the reason.

Conclusion

A very worthwhile meeting – Dee and myself expressed out gratitude that they had reached out to give some visibility on this highly emotive subject in Whittlesey. They recognised that, of all the towns they deal with, Whittlesey is pretty unique in having just one main road and few alternative routes.

They committed to repeating this type of meeting in the future and promised update to some of the programmes we had discussed.