

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2019**

**Question to Helen Fisher  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

**By Kyle Robinson**

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**Question**

Residents of the Red Street community have raised concerns about Crackley Bank and surrounding roads being designated by the council as diversionary routes for heavy traffic whilst works take place on the busy A34. Staffordshire County Council is too quick to allow this route to be used as a diversion to the detriment of local people. In future, will the County Council do all it can to seek other routes to mitigate the strain put on the residents of Red Street?

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**Reply**

Since July, the highway team has been delivering a major scheme on the A34 Talke Road, Newcastle involving the replacement of drainage, kerbing and resurfacing of the carriageway.

Lane closures have been in place on the A34 for the duration of the scheme with night time closures from September through to mid-October, week nights only, Monday to Friday.

Where diversion routes are required during road closures, the network management team seek to ensure wherever possible that the preferred and hence signed diversion routes are a road of the same classification. In this case the signed diversion route for closures on the A34 is via the A500.

Work in the vicinity of Parkhouse roundabout has also required the closure of the unclassified road known as Parkhouse Road West for which the diversion route identified and signed was a higher-class road, the C363 Crackley Bank.

The increasing use of sat nav can mean that motorists may follow routes other than the signed diversion route and similarly, highway users that are familiar with the area may choose to use other local routes despite the signing put in place.

The network management team will continue to seek to minimise the impact of road closures on local communities firstly by keeping the number of such occasions to a minimum and secondly by routing diverted traffic to roads of a similar nature.