

**County Council Meeting – 13 October 2022****Question to David Williams  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport****By Councillor Pritchard**

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**Question**

In August residents of my division, and the wider town, suffered as a result of the closure of the Ashby Road for utility works. Some residents were completely cut off from Tamworth by the closure, due to the 24 minute diversion.

Can the council look at how the rules on road closures could be updated to include residents in these decisions? This would both benefit residents effected by such roadworks and the Authority's reputation.

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**Reply**

Ashby Road rail bridge is a specific pinch point in the County where any roadworks will most often require a closure due to the width.

New developments are progressing along the Ashby Road, No Mans Heath corridor and require various utility connections. The council's Traffic and Network management team coordinate these works and deliberately held-up the recent works so that they would be carried out in the quieter August summer holiday period.

For the residents to the East of the bridge this obviously caused some disruption. However, as with any road closure, advance notice was provided and a signed diversion route put in place, with alternative unsigned local routes also available and regularly used by local traffic.

Responsibility for the communication of a road closure rests with the individual utility provider, developer, or contractor. In addition to the legal notices all the remaining requirements, including letter drop, advance signage and discussion with affected bus companies, were all followed for this closure.

As part of the wider highways transformation programme, we will be reviewing best practice and considering what additional measures can be made to help raise awareness and reduce the impact of works that are

likely to cause significant disruption to local communities or adversely impact on the council's reputation.

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