

Transport and Highways report from Liz D'arville.

High Road closure due 20th January to 31st January 2025.

- In October it was reported that works would be carried out on High Road outside the new Bellway development. This would only be a partial closure.
- December 5th 2024 the Parish Council received notification from Bellway that a full road closure was planned. This was the first time Trimley St Martin and other parishes were made aware of the full closure.
- I contacted Simon Barnett the Passenger Transport Strategy Manager at SCC to check if he knew what arrangement were being made regarding public transport. He was **not** aware of the closure and immediately got his team on to sorting out what had been arranged by Network Assurance/Developer regarding public transport ie, will buses be allowed through, could it be delayed until school's half-term. The answer to which was, no.
As Simon is an SCC Councillor it is somewhat confusing as to why he was not consulted when the application for the closure was made or, worse still, not made aware the closure had been past by Network Assurance.
- I also contacted Felixstowe Travel Watch to check if they knew about closure. No, they did not. Also, Lee Reeves our local ESC Councillor was not made privy regarding the full road closure.
- I then contacted First Bus to check if they had any knowledge of closure. The manager at the Ipswich depot was not aware but did find out First Bus Commercial department had only just been contacted on 6th December 2024 asking them to 'highlight the potential difficulties of the road closure'. First Bus gave an in-depth response which was very clear on how it will affect the general public and school runs. Unfortunately this did not sway the authorities to at least allow buses through.
- To date negotiations are still carrying on between Bellway and the Passenger Transport team regarding getting a 'shuttle bus' to cover Trimley St Mary and Walton.
- I have asked Stuart Bird if he can find out what exactly is planned on letting the general public know of the shuttle bus business, and notices **MUST** be put in place at the relevant stops forthwith. Something that has always been neglected regarding past closures and has left passenger waiting at stops unaware their stop is not in service. This was and still is totally unacceptable.

Final note. It seems all the emails that went flying around, and believe me there were many once the Parish Council were notified by Bellway of the full road closure, could have been avoided by-

- a) SCC, Developer and Network Assurance included Parish and Town Councils in their initial discussions, along with obtaining the relevant information from bus companies, schools and Passenger Transport Strategy Manager at SCC, to ensure the best outcome for all concerned.
- b) Communication on a timely basis is all that is required saving everyone time in the long run.