



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Borough Charter granted in 1166



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Chief Executive: P. J. Simpkins

The Business Owner
Tavistock Street
BEDFORD

Please ask for: **Highways Helpdesk**

Direct Line: **01234 718003**

E-mail Highways.Helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk

Fax No:

Your Ref:

Our Ref: C2351/MH220115

Date: 14 March 2016

Dear Sir / Madam

SUBJECT: ROADWORKS AT TAVISTOCK STREET IN BEDFORD

I am writing to update you on progress with the essential highways maintenance works in Tavistock Street in Bedford.

I'm pleased to inform you that work is progressing well and that we are still on target to complete the scheme in mid-May.

After an initial site setup period the following works have now been completed:

- The southern kerbline has been replaced between Bedford Prison and Harpur Street
- The slab footway adjacent to Bedford Prison has been replaced
- The existing traffic signals at the Harpur Street junction have been removed
- The existing splitter island at the Harpur Street junction has been removed
- Extensive work to the drainage system has commenced, including the installation of 8 new gullies and associated pipework.
- Excavation has commenced to facilitate the connection of the new sewer into the existing Anglian Water system

Over the next week, work will continue to the southern footway, replacing the existing paving slabs between Brights Dry Cleaners and the El Greco restaurant at the corner of Harpur Street. Concurrently with this work to construct the new surface water sewer will start, including the installation of two manholes and 130m of pipe along Tavistock Street.

The site team have met with local residents and businesses along the route and are keen to hear from those affected by the work. As a result of feedback we have looked to make changes to the way the works are taking place. This has included changing the signage about the project to make it clear Tavistock Street is still open for business.

We've also been asked if businesses are entitled to any compensation as a result of the works. As the works that are taking place are being carried out under a statutory power or duty there is not any liability on the Highway Authority for any loss of

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business, however I have included advice below which sets out options available if your business is adversely affected by the road closure.

Business rates should continue to be paid as normal whilst the road works are in progress. However, if you are experiencing difficulty in paying instalments due to the road closure please contact the Business Rates Office straight away (see below). It may be possible to defer part of the payments due for a short time, however, you may be asked to provide evidence that your normal cash flow has been affected by the road closure.

The rateable value for business properties is assessed by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). Under certain circumstances the VOA may reduce the rateable value of a property for a temporary period. The Council has contacted the VOA and asked for the assessments of properties on Tavistock Street to be reviewed to check whether rateable values should be temporarily reduced due to the road closure.

Ratepayers may also have the right to appeal against a rateable value. For more information please see the VOA website at www.voa.gov.uk.

The Council is able to consider applications for rate relief on the grounds of hardship and has agreed a policy for making awards. Awards may only be made where there is evidence the ratepayer is suffering hardship. If you wish to apply for rate relief due to hardship you will need to provide evidence that the business is suffering hardship, for example records of daily takings, etc.

For more information about applying for hardship rate relief contact the Business Rates Office.

Business Rates Office Contact Details

By e-mail localtax@bedford.gov.uk
By telephone 01234 718079

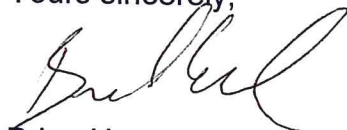
The Council is regularly updating the progress on the works via our website which you can view here: www.bedford.gov.uk/highwayconsultations.

If you have any questions relating to the ongoing roadworks then please contact the Highways Helpdesk in the first instance.

Highways Helpdesk Contact Details

By e-mail highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk
By telephone 01234 718003

Yours sincerely,



Brian Hayward
Head of Highways

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