

Ccpc5/23

Motion: That Dorset council revise their procedures on temporary road closures as suggested in this note “

CONSULTATION ON TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

Dorset Council has recently issued temporary road closures for East Street (work completed 3 May) and West street 9-11 May. This motion sets out ways in which Dorset Council can improve consultation and communication.

CCPC has always supported the need for road maintenance and that it is better to be done properly rather than patch repairs which don't last. On occasion whole road closures will be required but as these are highly disruptive the need for early and good communication is essential. The communication on the East Street works on 3 May fell far short of good practice.

There was no prior consultation on the proposal before the statutory notice was issued on 20 April, which is only 7 working days before the works started. There was no discussion with local businesses, which operate in the evening or the Parish Council. It was unclear who was being told about the notice.

The works were not described in the notice,(it was a whole road surface treatment even though new road markings had been laid two weeks before). The timing was given as 20.00 to 6.00 in the notice but on the day the A frames said 22.00. (The difference was crucial for local hospitality businesses). The works started at 22.0 hours.

The access arrangements after the work started were unclear and it was ridiculous in the notice to suggest that everyone ring the contractor to enquire whether access would be impossible or subject to delay.

After prompting from the Chairman a promised letter from the contractor giving more details was sent by the contractor about the works and access to every household. This arrived, undated **on the morning** of the works referring to maintenance starting “in the next few days”.

It is unclear whether the bus company was informed as no alternative suggestions were on the bus stop.

On the proposed works in West Street there had been prior consultation. However the notice referred to a “locally signed diversion route “being put in place”. There is of course no possibility of a signed diversion route.

The request in this motion is one of basic good administration. Consult pre public notice widely and early to spot pitfalls, and then issue accurate information about what will happen. If necessary add supplementary

information to the notice such as access arrangements and ensure the contractor's letter is sent at least 7 days before.

Steve Clarke