

“Severn Trent has, in the last few days, made it known to the County Council that they do not believe that any further major works are required in order to protect their asset which was exposed as a result of the recent landslip at Leashaw.

They believe that the work undertaken so far, including inserting blocks to support their major pipe, is sufficient to make their asset safe. This is very different from the position that they have been taking to date – including at the Public Meeting at the Parish Council in April – that there would be major works to protect the asset which would be complete within 3-6 months and enable DCC as Highways Authority to reopen Leashaw by Christmas. I understand that this new position has been confirmed only recently, following detailed geo-technical studies undertaken by Severn Trent and continued monitoring of the conditions.

We, of course, need to be absolutely assured that Severn Trent’s reassessment does not leave residents and vehicles travelling on Leashaw exposed to any avoidable risk. But if this is indeed the case, then we will be looking to reopen one lane of Leashaw, under lights, as soon as we can meet appropriate safety standards. **I must reiterate that this will only be possible if we, as Highways Authority, deem that the highway is safe for use. What has concerned us over recent days is that there has been some movement on the slope and clearly we will need to assess how material this is to Severn Trent’s plans and the safety of the highway.**

Given that we have both only just been given Severn Trent’s revised position – and seen monitoring results on the ground movement - we do not have a definitive date for any reopening. However if all safety concerns are met, the likelihood is that this will be a matter of weeks rather than months. This could, therefore, be good news for the residents and businesses of Lea and Holloway.

No doubt there will be questions about why this position has only just come to light and why Leashaw has been closed to all traffic since December. In support of Severn Trent, the risks to their asset (and by extension to local residents) were considerable and detailed work/long term monitoring was required to ensure the right decision is taken

This has been the first opportunity to communicate the change in Severn Trent’s position as well as the ground movement, so I do hope that you will engage constructively given the change in circumstance.”

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