

## **Update from Councillor Charlotte Cupit, Cabinet Member for Highways Assets & Transport at DCC - Received 5/12/23**

Firstly, I understand that the wall has been repaired and some small repairs have been carried out on site. This, along with further monitoring and assessment since the storm, has shown that from a movement risk perspective it will be possible to open the road from a one carriageway perspective. As you will appreciate, whilst the risk will always remain of further movement, it is not considered by officers that the passage of weight-restricted traffic will exacerbate the risks of movement and so currently will not prevent the one carriageway reopening as things currently stand, and we will just have to continue to monitor the site on reopening.

With regards then to the practicalities of reopening, we are still waiting on the independent Road Safety Audit report. This is to confirm the possibility of reopening and determine whether the reopening of the single carriageway needs to be under traffic lights or give way/priority, as well as the details around pedestrian access and highways widths/parking.

Officers have been chasing this audit report, and it has been confirmed today it will come back to us within the next week, with the assessors completing their report this week – we will continue to chase until it does, though as you will appreciate (and we fully share your frustrations on the timing of this!) it is independent so we have to wait for it to be done.

In terms of timeframes then when we hear back on the audit, we have a vehicle restraint system (the road barrier to separate the reopening from the slipped area) ready to go with a supplier, which we have been told can be installed within a week once we're ready to go in terms of the other details. If the solution is temporary traffic lights, these again have been lined up with a contractor. Therefore, the only potential delay is if further guarding, lining or signage works (relating to pedestrian and highways access) are required in relation to safety from the assessment results; these would have to be ordered and may take slightly longer. Subject to these, if the simplest measures are proposed, and dependent on the safety recommendations, it's hoped that we will be able to reopen the road very early in the new year. We will provide a more definitive date and plan as soon as we have the road safety audit results.

In terms of the financial concerns you raised, I can confirm and reassure you that these works are planned for and will be met from existing budgets.

On the communications and updates side, you will hopefully have seen the email update we sent out after we last corresponded. I'm sending you this update as promised ahead of your Parish Council meeting tomorrow, and we will then send a further email update out to our registered list as soon as we have the road safety assessment results over the next few weeks.

Noting the current awaited audit report, and appreciating your likely frustration in this regard, I will commit to provide you with a weekly update until we have heard from the Road Safety Audit. Therefore, I will send you and Cllr Taylor, who has also been understandably raising this issue and local concern with me, a further update by the 12<sup>th</sup> December, but I will update you before if the report comes back.

As a final point of update, in terms of the longer term solution to and repair of the landslip, we are also progressing the design works for a permanent solution and have gained access to further survey details and data in this regard which assists with putting this together.

I hope this helps for now, and is hopefully positive progress, and I will update you again next week.