

Update from DCC – 3/4/24

Attached is the RSA document relating to the one carriageway reopening issues which you can share. Apologies for the delay in this as we had to seek advice on whether we needed to redact anything – in the end we've only needed to redact the names of some of the designers/staff mentioned so hopefully that's ok.

In terms of the permanent repair to the landslip and ongoing design work on the solution, there has been progress. I understand a site meeting and other meetings have taken place between our geotechnical specialists and a relevant investigatory works company to determine the necessary ground investigation works, and how to carry these out safely given the ongoing ground movement. These works are now in the process of being priced and procured, and in the meantime we are also discussing access to carry out these ground investigation works with the relevant landowners.

In addition, our consultants have also continued the design work on the solution, which will be refined further based on the ground investigation results as above. So hopefully this explains and reassures you work on the solution is continuing and by next month we should have details on when the ground investigation works will be taking place etc.

I know one of the recent queries from the Parish Council asked why DCC doesn't have an in-house geotechnical expert and why we have brought in specialist contractors. Whilst we understand and agree with your point about the number of landslips we have and are dealing with in the county, working this way allows us to obtain the best expert advice when we need it – for instance, we might need it on several sites simultaneously, which this contract and agreement allows us to do. I would also note we do have an inhouse experienced structures team and it is just the design elements we seek specialist contractors on when required.

With regards to Lea Road, and concerns over movement on this, we are continuing to assess this. Some sealing works have taken place over the last week to stop any water ingress where it has moved/cracked, and we are looking at this closely. As noted previously, it's a recorded area of historic landslips/movement, so it's one we need to continue to monitor. Further investigatory works may require temporary traffic lights or a road closure but we are trying to minimise and avoid this at the current time.

In relation to signage improvements to support local businesses near the Leashaw closure, I understand Cllr Taylor has been in contact with some of these businesses as agreed. If any of the businesses would like to contact him or highways we will do our best to progress any signage improvements they want to do further where feasible.