EARDISLEY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

(*Eardisley, Winforton, Whitney-on-Wye)*

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Dear Mr Neale

RE: EXPRESSION OF CONCERN: RECENT WORKS, EARDISLEY SCHOOL CROSSING (FEBRUARY 2017)

At our Parish Council meeting on Monday, 20th February 2017, a number of concerns were raised by councillors, residents and local business owners, in relation to the above works carried out during school half term.

In the meantime, we are aware you visited the site and met with Mrs Amilia Burrage and Councillor Clive Skelton. It is, therefore, hoped some of the concerns have already been taken on board and lessons can be learned, where appropriate. Nevertheless, we wish to put on record the points raised and would appreciate your consideration.

Bullet points of concerns raised are as follows:

- Lack of clear and understandable signage indicating diversionary routes and road closure. For example, signs referred to local roads by name that would not have been known to transient road users.
- Lack of signage about open/close times. At least initially, no times were published or signed, leading to an assumption by many that the road closure was 24/7 for the duration of the works, leading to additional confusion & disruption, especially for business owners, hauliers, etc.
- It was observed by local residents and businesses that closure times could have been significantly reduced if workers were fully deployed on these works, rather than being diverted to other activities, such as gritting, during the afternoons.
- Unsatisfactory quality assurance: it was reported the new crossing has a dip in the surface that will collect water and result in ice forming during cold spells, thus causing a safety hazard for children and parents alike. It was noted this issue has been recognised by BBLP and will be addressed, but given the level of disruption already experienced, the need for re-work is very regrettable.
- Lack of visibility, i.e. the crossing is not raised above the camber of the main road surface and is, therefore, not particularly noticeable to approaching motorists. It had been expected the design would be raised as seems typical for such crossings in other villages/towns.

- Despite the works being scheduled and materials ordered some time in advance, there was a delay in the new beacons and poles arriving. Although this was communicated by BBLP, the need for a second tranche of disruption while these items are installed is far from ideal.
- Finally, in the confusion that inevitably ensued due to the signage and communication issues mentioned above, road users including the elderly and local hauliers, requesting information and/or assistance were reportedly met on occasion with a hostile, unhelpful attitude by the workmen, causing upset and annoyance.

I should be grateful if you would look in to the above concerns and provide me with feedback I can share at our next scheduled meeting on 20th March.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

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Alan Watkins
Chairman