

Artington Parish Council

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Dear Artington residents,

You may have seen that the diversion signs are being put in place in readiness for the closure on the rail bridge on the B3000. There was a flurry of correspondence over the last week regarding whether or not Stakescorner Road/ Sandy Lane should be closed during the upcoming work on the railway bridge.

Artington Parish Council (APC) has been trying to maintain communications with all relevant parties, however with no decision being made until recently it has been frustratingly difficult to keep up to date with plans whilst at the same time informing parishioners. Unfortunately, the consultation communication on this matter, a letter from Tina Thorburn of Surrey County Council (SCC) dated 12th March, did not seem to have reached many of us despite around 60 letters being hand delivered. Indeed, only two of the APC members received it directly but when it came to light a copy was immediately posted both digitally to the APC website as well as physically on our local notice boards. It seems that twenty individuals took the time to respond to SCC with 6 in favour of closing and 14 in favour of keeping it open.

Discussions on all the roads impacted by the bridge closure, between SCC, the Police and Network Rail decided that Stakescorner Road / Sandy Lane will not be closed and this decision is seen as in line with the result of the consultation. For those of you who have not yet written to Tina Thorburn at SCC, but have strong feelings regarding the road closure/non closure, please do contact her on tina.thorburn@surreycc.gov.uk or telephone 01483 517392.

Otherwise, we all now wait and observe what happens once the work begins. SCC, the Police and Network Rail have obtained the formal and legal permission necessary to close the road immediately if safety were to become an issue. Therefore, if anyone has a specific safety point to share when the work begins then please use the police reporting line 101 and also Matt Furniss (our SCC elected representative) on 07891 022206.

As for the bridge work and the closure of the B3000, the full proposed signage can now be viewed on the APC website. A point to note is that the drawings do show the closure on Sandy Lane at Littleton Cross but as described above the closure will not be put in place unless the police decide it necessary. It is important to note that the road closure proposed is an immovable barrier - concrete or water filled - which has raised concerns from an access point of view for the emergency service.

The APC absolutely shares your concerns about both safety and convenience, and councillors have already written individually to SCC to voice preferences in both directions. What we need now is for your voices to be heard, so please do direct them to best effect by using the two contacts shared in this update. APC are also keen to know your concerns/experiences whilst the bridge remain closed so drop us a line on clerk@artington.org.uk

Kind regards

Richard Bennett

