

**Cabinet – 10 September 2020**

**Written question from Cllr Andrew Garratt to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council**

What recent issues have been raised by residents and businesses concerning the construction of the St Mary's junction with a) specifically the Cabinet member for infrastructure and transport, and b) the Isle of Wight council and its contractor; and what actions have been taken by Cabinet members to provide a steer to ensuring issues are addressed and negative impacts are minimised?

## ***Response***

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport provided a response.

Thank you Andrew for your question. I'd like to give you some background first to show you how seriously I take the current conduct of this project. I have made four site visits to the site to be shown around. The last one was with our new head of highways to be briefed on what the issues were, what the progress is, where the potential pitfalls can be. So directly from the project manager I get that. I recently spoke to the leader and briefed him on the situation with the project and I told him how impressed I was with how well the project is being managed. If I have a question the project manager can answer it from his fingertips. I personally visit the site. I drive up two or three times a week just to see what the traffic tailbacks are like, where the delays are (if there are any) how the progress is going. That's how seriously I take it. I want to know and have my finger on the pulse. If we do have a problem, the project manager will tell me what the issue is and what he intends to do about it and seeks my agreement to his action. I've never had to contradict him. I'm very impressed.

I have a list of questions here and there aren't many that have been directed recently. Five individual enquiries and three from yourself Cllr Garratt. The first one is the removal of parking restrictions in Carisbrooke Road that happened some time ago. We are now addressing the opposite issue of whether we take the double yellow lines away again.

BT Openreach raised one issue. Cllr Garratt you raised the one about egressing from Hampshire Crescent to Forest Road. The team are monitoring that and will put signage up. Potential damage to IW Council data connection during construction. The cables were lowered with no loss of service.

Reader transport – extended delays on southbound approach from Cowes. That was the issue when the trees were pruned just as we were about to enter quite a difficult phase. That was addressed straight away on that day and I spoke to our head of highways about that. The issue was addressed to island roads and solved that day, in fact in that morning.

Extended delay on Forest Road approach. Issue investigated and found to arise on first day of implementation of temporary signal control at new forest road junction. Issue monitored and found not to be recurring.

The other one concern about impact of overnight works on Forest Road on residential amenity. Again, Cllr Garratt, issues investigated, related to extended overnight works to plane carriageway and lay final surfacing, completed over one weekend, no subsequent overnight works planned in this area.

Concern for future access arrangements and this was Riverway Salvage and we both know the gentleman involved and his issue. I have met him twice on site and listened to his proposals and complaints and what he wants done. Unfortunately he wants us to make special arrangements to suit his business and I don't think the highways regulations can be bent to do that, that's what I'm advised by officers. The delays in August were known about, planned and factors put in place to mitigate the problems. That was well advertised in the media, in the paper saying what was going to happen and what the delays were. Considering the complexity of this project I think it's going really well. It is not only on schedule, it is ahead of schedule and I know how the project manager has dealt with issues to keep it on programme and to keep it going forward. I am on this project and have my finger on the button.

How many personal complaints have come to me? Only one and that was Riverway Salvage. Why not others? Island Roads tell people who complain to contact me directly. I've never had a complaint about the St Mary's project from a member of the public directly except that one.

So, I brief the leader and keep him in touch with how the project is going.