

Cabinet – Thursday 8 October 2020

Written question from Cllr Andrew Garratt to the Chairman

- 1) Since his response to my question to him at the Cabinet meeting of 10 September 2020, what further issues have been raised with the Cabinet member for Infrastructure and Transport relating to the construction of the new St Mary's junction, what personal view has he taken on them, and what steer (if any) has he given to officers in responding to them?
- 2) How many abandoned vehicle reports are currently being addressed; of these how many are waiting on information on their registered keepers from DVLA , and what is the longest period for which such information has been waited among these reports?

Response from Cllr Ward

Question 1

I have received 44 messages about the construction of the St Marys Junction.

The main themes to the messages were the length of the traffic tailbacks and the reason for its construction.

- The construction programme has been developed to ensure the minimum disruption possible during the build period although, as the junction is under construction, tailbacks are inevitable. However, from personal experience the length of tailbacks are influenced by the time of day, with rush hours producing the longest and at other times there are no tailbacks at all. What I do note is the time it takes to pass through the works is generally in line with, or shorter than the predicted average of 15 mins. I have reiterated that the approach to construction must minimise disruption and I am pleased to be able to let you know that the surfacing required to convert the roundabout to the new traffic signal controlled junction will be undertaken overnight to ensure that is the case.
- At the last project board meeting I raised the issue of trying to address residents awareness of the project progress so it was decided that more frequent updates about the progress and predicted difficulties of the construction phases would be issued, the first of which was in the IWCP last week.

Question 2

During lockdown the DVLA withdrew a number of non-essential services, which included providing a manual process for obtaining registered keeper details in relation to abandoned vehicles.

The council (through Island Roads) has always maintained the powers to deal with dangerous vehicles during this time. DVLA have resumed their processing now, and appear to have almost cleared the national backlog.

There are currently 126 abandoned vehicle queries being addressed – This figure represents approximately 8 weeks of enquiries. Due to the process of

contracting the registered keeper, we usually aim to resolve ABV cases within 6 weeks, which suggests we are 2 -3 weeks behind.

It should be noted that approximately only 7% of vehicles reported are actually abandoned.

42 abandoned vehicle enquiries are currently with the DVLA. This would indicate that the DVLA are approximately 2-3 weeks behind on clearing the lockdown backlog (10-15 are sent weekly and we usually receive them back within a week).

As per above the longest period of wait is not considered to be representative of the overall performance as the DVLA issues are typically creating a two to three week delay in the process.