

**Cabinet – 25 October 2021**

**Written question from Cllr Geoff Brodie to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport:**

## ***Question***

Can the relevant Cabinet member explain why massively disruptive Island Roads works to replace all traffic signals at Coppins Bridge over an extended period either side of Xmas have only today (21 October) been made known to local councillors?

Why has there been no opportunity for local councillors to have input into the temporary traffic management arrangements, which are as ever riddled with inexplicable plans? Isn't it the job of his Contract Management Team to ensure that the interests of councillors and their residents are included in such arrangements?

## ***Response***

The work to upgrade the traffic signals around Coppins Gyratory are part of the original PFI requirements planned for delivery in the initial 7 year investment period of the contract. These works were delayed from the original delivery dates in 2018/19, so as not to add additional disruption alongside the delivery of larger schemes at St Marys Junction and St Georges Way.

These works were therefore scheduled for delivery as soon as possible after the completion of the St Georges Way scheme. The timing of the work was considered the most appropriate as this avoided the peak visitor traffic period and was also planned that no works would take place either side of the Christmas break.

The planned commencement on 25 October, involved working at night on areas where it was possible to do so with minimal or no impact on daytime traffic.

The works requiring diversions and possible lane closures would not commence until mid November where full road closures in the Fairlee Road / Staplers Road area were planned. This period provided for a consultation with ward councillors members at least four to five weeks in advance of the proposed closures.

Whilst it is understood that any work in this area has potential to disrupt traffic, Island Roads have planned these works in detail considering the traffic volume challenges and the limited options for closure and diversion.

Given the above I am satisfied that council staff managed the contractor effectively in response to notifications and details involved in these works and ensured that local councillors were informed with suitable notice prior to the road closures.

Having considered the feedback from local councillors the work programme is being revised to allow for further communications with ward councillors. The works will now commence later but are still completed before the start of the visitor season.