



NEWICK
PARISH
COUNCIL

Dear Karl,

COORDINATION OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC LIGHTS Since November 2022 Newick village has been subjected to a plethora of temporary traffic lights positioned at both ends of the village with seemingly little co-ordination or control over their use. There were lights in position for several months while Gold Bridge was worked on to improve its waterproofing. This work continued far longer than originally intended. Relatively soon after this, traffic over the bridge was again restricted by lights whilst investigative work into its structural integrity was conducted. The result on both occasions was traffic chaos with extensive queues, especially at peak times. As a result of the inspection, in the Spring of 2023 a temporary weight restriction of 7.5 tons was placed on the bridge, along with signs stating 'no parking on the bridge'. Towards the end of 2023 a further set of lights were positioned shortly beyond the bridge on its western side of it while work was conducted along the grass verge area of the A272 on its Northern side. Your department were advised by our Council on 5 January 2024 that the location of them was causing traffic to tailback again to the extent that saw it remaining stationary on the bridge.....effectively parked. We suggested in a telephone call to Chloe in the Highways Department that this could be prevented if the lights were positioned prior to the bridge entrance rather just after the exit from it. No changes were made. Again the village suffered considerable traffic tailback and delays to travel times for protracted period as this work slowly progressed. These works and subsequent works associated with a building development nearby continued for months on and off until finally mid 2024, the road adjacent to the development was resurfaced and the lights disappeared.....briefly. A second housing development was commenced as the first one was completing. Once again temporary lights re-appeared and again large tailbacks on the A 272 occurred, this has been continuing on and off without any warning. The recently resurfaced road was also partially dug up for these works. We realise and recognise that temporary lights are inevitable BUT it is incredibly frustrating to arrive at the lights and find that no actual works are being conducted on the road, only on adjacent work areas. Accepting that H & S requirements may require protection for work conducted in adjacent

Mrs E. Reece
Clerk to the Council
tel: 07521 511643
email: newickpc@newick.net

areas, there should surely be an onus on the contractor to move cones and lights to the side of the road when work is complete for the day. Most work seem to stop at around 4.30 pm but lights are still left operating overnight or even for days when no work is taking place. Such delays have been over complete weekends in our area with absolutely no work being conducted. On some occasions the only obstacle to traffic has been the traffic light operator's car parked within the coned area if they were being manually operated or contracting vehicles being parked there whilst workers were working nearby. Planning conditions frequently restricts hours of work and deliveries when approving an application. It does not seem unreasonable to restrict the use of temporary lights to specific times of the day in a similar manner when giving approval for their placement. It is appreciated that where the lights are in place on the carriageway itself this may well not be possible, but when the carriageway itself is unaffected why can this not be done? It might be more convenient to the contracting personnel to leave the items in place, but not to residents of the village and motorists held up for no valid reason. . The second development at the Old Telephone Exchange site on Goldbridge road (A272) is still in its early stages and we undoubtedly face further sets of lights appearing. Can we please have closer scrutiny of the justification of these applications for partial road closures and also restrictions placed on the times of closure when the carriageway itself is not directly being worked on. Particularly avoiding morning and evening commuting times. Attached is a scene taken last month where the work was related to dropping corners at recently installed pavements...note the length of the coned of A272 carriageway with that the only obstacle on it being the workers skip. This lasted for several days and the skip need not have been on the A272.



Crop



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Emma Reece', written in a cursive style.

Emma Reece
Clerk to Newick Parish Council