

Update on Elkstone Road Closure

All villagers will know by now that the section of the road (Beechpike 3/190) between the A417 underpass and High Cross crossroads is to be resurfaced with works starting next Thursday 23 October.

Following a meeting with GCC Highways a number of issues were clarified:

- The statutory road closure remains in place between 0700 and 1900 as per the letter you will have received. The only change to this is the loop through the village (from Westerleigh crossroad by the bus stop to Manor Cross) will remain open.
- The length of the road being resurfaced essentially becomes a 'construction site' for the duration of the works. This is to allow access for the many vehicle movements by the contractor, Tarmac, and for meeting stringent Health & Safety standards.
- There will be gatemen monitoring the road junctions and entry points to the closed roads. This person's role is to prevent unauthorised vehicles accessing the site and to maintain a safe working area.

If you need to leave the village or return home, speak politely to the gateman and he will allow you access if it is safe. This arrangement is a concession and not a right of way. The gateman can, and will, refuse access if it is considered unsafe to pass. If you are walking or driving over any works area, please exercise common sense and proceed only with care. Remember there could be raised iron works and other hazards on the road.

I suggest you leave the village to the north via Westerleigh crossroads towards Brimpsfield, turn right at the T junction and back towards High Cross leaving the village by Bubbs Hill or towards Sparrowthorn.

There will be times when works take place at the junctions or directly outside your home, if you live on the 3/190. During this time it won't be possible to leave or return home for a short period. As the work proceeds you should get a good idea when this is likely to affect you.

Below is a *provisional* programme for the works:

Thursday 23 Oct, Friday 24 Oct and Monday 27 Oct - Grinding off the existing surface and adjusting the level of manhole covers etc.

Tuesday 28 Oct - Friday 7 November - Laying the new surface.

Works will start at High Cross crossroad working southward towards the A417. This means that disruption along the length of road directly affecting most villagers will be from Thursday 23 Oct to Wednesday 29 Oct. It is likely that after this time you should be able to leave the village to the north more freely however there will still be gatemen in place to prevent unauthorised through traffic.

Although the road closure is from 0700 – 1900 each weekday it is likely that work will finish by around 1600 each day unless there are delays with deliveries, breakdowns etc. However morning work is expected to start promptly at 0700.

Please be prepared for some inconvenience and delays and only make essential journeys.

It is inevitable that this work will affect all of us in the village and your patience and understanding of the constraints is sought. It will be to everyone's benefit if we cooperate with the contractor and particularly the gatemen.

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On behalf of Elkstone Parish Council