

**From:** Dean, Claire <claire.dean@balfourbeatty.com>  
**Sent:** 28 July 2023 10:24  
**To:** chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk  
**Cc:** Potts, Stephen; Hampson, Ben; Groves, David; Green, James  
**Subject:** RE: Public forum regarding road restrictions at Chideock

Dear Steven, Parish Councillors,

Connect A30/A35 Limited manage the section of the A35 that is the subject of your recent email on behalf of National Highways and therefore the matter has been referred to us for a response. It is Connect that has instigated the works in question, which have come about due to a land slip on Chideock Hill.

We understand the inconvenience put on local residents by the traffic management system installed to permit the works taking place, and apologise for this. This has been undertaken to protect the workforce undertaking the required remediation works to the land slip, and protect the travelling public from straying near a works site. The traffic management system in place was subject to a full design process to mitigate impact as far as practicable on the trunk road traffic and local residents, while maintaining the safety of the workforce and complying with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual, the Code of Practice document that ensures legal requirements relating to traffic management are met.

There is a significant body of evidence to show that drivers within traffic management typically place additional focus on the vehicles ahead of them, and concomitantly exhibit reduced focus on the potential for vehicles entering traffic management from the side, particularly outwith clearly-signed junctions. As such, best practice for increased safety is to restrict such entrances into traffic management for the duration of the works<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>. This is the approach that has been taken for the Chideock Landslip Remediation traffic management scheme. A considerable amount of planning has been undertaken in advance of installation to ensure the safety of all, and to ensure compliance with the Traffic Management Regulations.

We agree with your point that the restriction forces residents living within the extents of the traffic management layout to potentially drive a short additional distance, including passing the worksite twice in some cases. However as detailed above, the increased risk from this activity is outweighed by the reduced potential for a traffic collision caused by a vehicle turning into or out of the traffic management where other drivers are not as alert to the possibility as under normal conditions.

As the traffic management design and installation are determined by legal requirements, we do not consider it appropriate to attend a public forum on the matter. There is no change that we could make to the layout in response to public criticism that would not put us in breach of those requirements for safe design.

I would take this opportunity to remind you and your residents that any action to amend / adjust installed traffic management (for example by moving cones to permit right turns into the managed lane) is both dangerous and illegal. Should any such amendment be observed by our contractors, we would look to enforce this, as it puts staff at greater risk by having to reinstate the designed layout.

In summary, whilst we appreciate that the current works may be causing your residents some inconvenience, the works have been designed to provide safe passage for all road users, and is the best solution that could be instigated when considering all the parties affected and all traffic regulations in place. We trust that this detailed explanation of the matter will allay your concerns, and thank you for your patience in this matter.

References:

- <sup>1</sup> - Vissers, L., Stelling, A., Hagenzieker, M.P., Van Schagen, I.N.L.G. & Maerivoet, S. (2015) Human factors reflection on existing traffic management measures. SWOV Institute for Road Safety Research, The Hague (NL) and Transport and Mobility, Leuven (B).
- <sup>2</sup> - Aittoniemi, E. (2016) Human factors in traffic management operations – Best practices and recommendations. VTT Technical Research Centre, Espoo (FI)
- <sup>3</sup> - Weare, A., Hof, T., & Moning, I. (2016) Driving simulator studies evaluating invehicle information for traffic management using head-up displays and gamification techniques. TRL, Crowthorne (UK)

Regards

Claire

**Claire Dean**

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**A new, continuous cough**

**A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste**



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**From:** chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk <chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 26 July 2023 15:42

**To:** Dean, Claire <claire.dean@balfourbeatty.com>

**Subject:** Public forum regarding road restrictions at Chideock

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Dear Ms Dean,

At the most recent Chideock Parish Council meeting, residents noted the roadworks occurring in the village which has led to some consternation due to restricted access to properties and difficulties regressing out of their properties, as well as confusion over the motivation of such restrictions and their location when the effect is in some cases to direct traffic past the site of the roadworks when the resident intends to ultimately drive in the direction away from the site. Residents and the Parish Council are concerned that this is making an incident more likely by pushing more traffic past the workforce.

The Parish Council therefore believes it would be in the best interests of all parties involved to hold a public forum as soon as possible attended by representatives of National Highways and Balfour Beatty so that they are able to explain directly to residents the reasons for the restrictions and respond to the questions and concerns of residents. Could you please advise on dates in the very near future that a representative would be available for this?

Many thanks,  
Steven Rose  
Chideock Parish Council clerk  
07762711785

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