



**North Camp Accessibility Package**  
**Business Engagement Event (24 May 2023)**

**Summary of Key Points and Commitments from the North Camp business engagement event - Wednesday 24 May 2023 held at The Holiday Inn, Farnborough 18.30-20.00**

**Rushmoor Borough Council Members in attendance**

Councillor Gareth Lyon - Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder

Councillor Diane Bedford - St Mark's Ward

Councillor Craig Card - St Mark's Ward

Councillor Thomas Mitchell - St Mark's Ward

Councillor Calum Stewart – Knellwood Ward

**Rushmoor Borough Council officers in attendance**

Tom Bircham – Economic Development Officer

Tim Mills – Executive Head of Property and Growth

**Hampshire County Council Members in attendance**

Councillor Adam Jackman – Hampshire County Council Division Member for Farnborough South

**Hampshire County Council officers' attendance**

David Wilson - Head of Implementation, Universal Services

Ben Smith - Strategic Transport Manager, Universal Services

John Rider - Client Delivery Manager, Universal Services

Gordon Abram - Clerk of Works, Universal Services

James Laver - Principal Engineer, Universal Services

Michael Spoor - Principal Project Manager, Universal Services

Lucy Harris – Capital Delivery, Programme Engagement Officer, Major Schemes, Universal Services

Louise Payne - Senior Communications Officer, Communications and Engagement, Corporate Communications

**Business attendance**

Representatives from at least 20 businesses were in attendance.

The meeting was informed and structured around a handout which was distributed to attendees

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**Key Points which emerged from traders and councillors at the meeting:**

- (1) Significant concerns around progress; productivity; resource levels on site and working hours, the impact of which is potentially a prolonged works duration which impacts negatively on businesses.
- (2) Concerns about the programme duration and the current programmed completion date of end of February 2024 – request that the programme be accelerated to reduce the length of impact on the businesses.
- (3) The temporary traffic management which implements one-way working has a detrimental impact upon businesses – request to remove at earliest opportunity.

**Specific Points Captured During the Event:**

**Programme**

Continued unhappiness at the lack of clarity over the programme. No clear information given as to what is happening or a firm date for when the scheme will finish. Information is needed in order to plan ahead, especially if the forward programme involves on-street parking changes.

**Commitment:**

- The programmed completion date is the end of February 2024. Hampshire County Council and Jacksons are working to bring this as close to the start of 2024 as possible – updates will be provided in the regular bulletins.
- The regular bulletins will include detail of the programme.

**Contractor resource, working hours and behaviour.**

Several businesses reported contract workers either being asleep in vehicles or 'standing around' and not working.

Others voiced concerns as to the number of contractors on site to meet the scheme completion deadline of February

**Commitment:**

- Jacksons to address issues of behaviour and productivity.
- Hampshire County Council and Jackson Civil Engineering are jointly committed to work together to respond to these concerns. Jacksons and their sub-contractors are currently reviewing a variety of options (including Saturday working and extended daytime working during the summer months) in terms of the benefit that can potentially be realised to the businesses of North Camp.

### **Financial support for businesses during these works.**

It was asked if the County Council could charge the contractor with some kind of financial penalty as they are falling behind delivering the scheme on time, and could that money be shared with the businesses for financial support?

#### **Commitment:**

- The position with respect to compensation was outlined in the handout which supported the Business Engagement Event
- Contractual conditions were explained at the event.
- Business support is available from the EM3 LEP – signposting provided in e-newsletter.

### **Forthcoming closures of Morris Road and Peabody Road**

Businesses raised concerns about these plans and the impact on Gordon Road

More information about these closures was requested to better understand how the closures will affect their businesses with respect to parking, footfall, deliveries.

#### **Commitment:**

- Detailed, clear programme and arrangements for the closures to be shared with businesses and residents through existing channels (in person visits; e-newsletter and webpages).

### **Potholes**

The issue of deteriorating road surfaces and potholes was raised as more cars are using the back streets to get around the westbound road closure and the road surface in those areas has deteriorated badly.

It was suggested that Gordon Road is resurfaced or repaired before the closures of Morris Road and Peabody Road take place as that will be a key diversion route and the surface in Gordon Road was already very poor.

#### **Commitment:**

- Hampshire County Council to identify any actions with respect to pothole repairs in the wider area and update at the next event.
- Hampshire County Council to inspect Gordon Road and report back on any actions at next event.

**THESE NOTES ARE INTENDED TO CAPTURE KEY POINTS; THEMES AND COMMITMENTS AND ARE NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE EVENT**

Next meeting due to be held at the end of July 2023.