

Report of the Cabinet Member for Highway Management

## **A381 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot – Proposed highway reconstruction works**

### **Introduction**

I have been asked by Councillor Dewhirst to report on:

*“what measures will be implemented to mitigate the impact of the closure of Wolborough Street in Newton Abbot to local people and businesses in Ipplepen and Abbotskerswell, in light of requests to Highways Engineers and Officers. Also, the loss of one bus service for the duration of the work, with all other traffic using Coach Road in Newton Abbot (a narrow 1 ½ mile long road that has no passing places other than residential drives and regularly grinds to a halt when HGVs enter it), which will be the only entrance to Newton Abbot from the west. Additionally, the concerns of residents in Abbotskerswell that increases in traffic on Priory Road will become so great as to effectively block access to the village from the west.”*

### **Response**

Due to the condition of the highway on Wolborough Street between the traffic lights at the Asda store and Ogwell Cross Roundabout major repair works have been scheduled, see plan in appendix II.

It is anticipated that the works will take one week and during this time traffic will be unable to use this section of road. The work has been programmed during the academic half term of 12 to 17 February 2018 to reduce disruption.

The section of road between Pomeroy Road and Waltham Road will be completely reconstructed and the road from Waltham Road to Beverley Gardens will require repairs to failed areas. A new surface will be laid for the complete length between Pomeroy Road and Beverley Gardens.

A road closure is necessary as the total reconstruction of a section of this road means no traffic can use the road, and the narrow width of the remainder of the site does not allow sufficient room for vehicles to pass the machines being used

### **Diversion route**

The A381 is major link between Newton Abbot and Totnes which carries all types of traffic and there are no roads of a similar standard in the immediate area of the works that could be used as a diversion route. It will therefore be necessary to direct traffic via the A380 South Devon Link Road, A380 Torbay Ring Road and A385 to Totnes (and by the same route in reverse), as shown in appendix I.

Pedestrian access will be maintained from Asda to Bakers Park, using the existing off street combined cycle and footway.

The County Council will be providing information that will encourage drivers to use the diversion route, but it is inevitable that some drivers will choose to use more local roads and it is recognised that some local roads may become congested while the works are in progress. It is not practical to put in place a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order to restrict the use of

these roads for the duration of the works because they will still be required for access. It is therefore intended that signs stating “Not suitable for HGV’s” will be used to discourage larger vehicles from using Coach Road and other local roads that may be used as alternative route.

### **Bus services**

The importance of maintaining bus services has been recognised, and the following amendments will be made to services during the duration of the works:

Service	
X64	Stagecoach X64 will be diverted around the official diversion route with a revised timetable.
176	Country Bus 176 (Newton Abbot – Denbury – Ogwell) will be diverted via Ashburton Road and Chercombe Bridge Road using a smaller 16 seater vehicle which it is anticipated will be able to cope with the passenger demand during a school holiday.
177	Country Bus 177 (Newton Abbot – Totnes via Abbotskerswell and Ipplepen) will use 16 seater vehicles and will travel via Coach Road.

Devon County Council will monitor these services throughout the works period to determine if any amendments to the services are required.

### **Consultation**

Newton Abbot Town Council and Teignbridge District Council have been consulted on the works. An initial letter drop has been made to residents, informing them of details of the works and the dates of operation. Information is also available via the dedicated webpages on the County Councils website at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/traffic-information/roadworks/a381-wolborough-street-newton-abbot/>

It should be noted that the scheme has been rescheduled to the period after Christmas, following local concerns, and that the poor condition of the road surface needs to be urgently addressed.

Teignbridge District Council will be providing parking permits for residents, funded by the County Council which can be used in two nearby car parks, for the duration of the works.

Information signs will be put out two weeks before the start of the works, at which time the contractor will also provide local residents with details of the work programme. Advance signing using matrix signs, will be provided at Brutus Bridge, Totnes Cross and Ogwell cross.

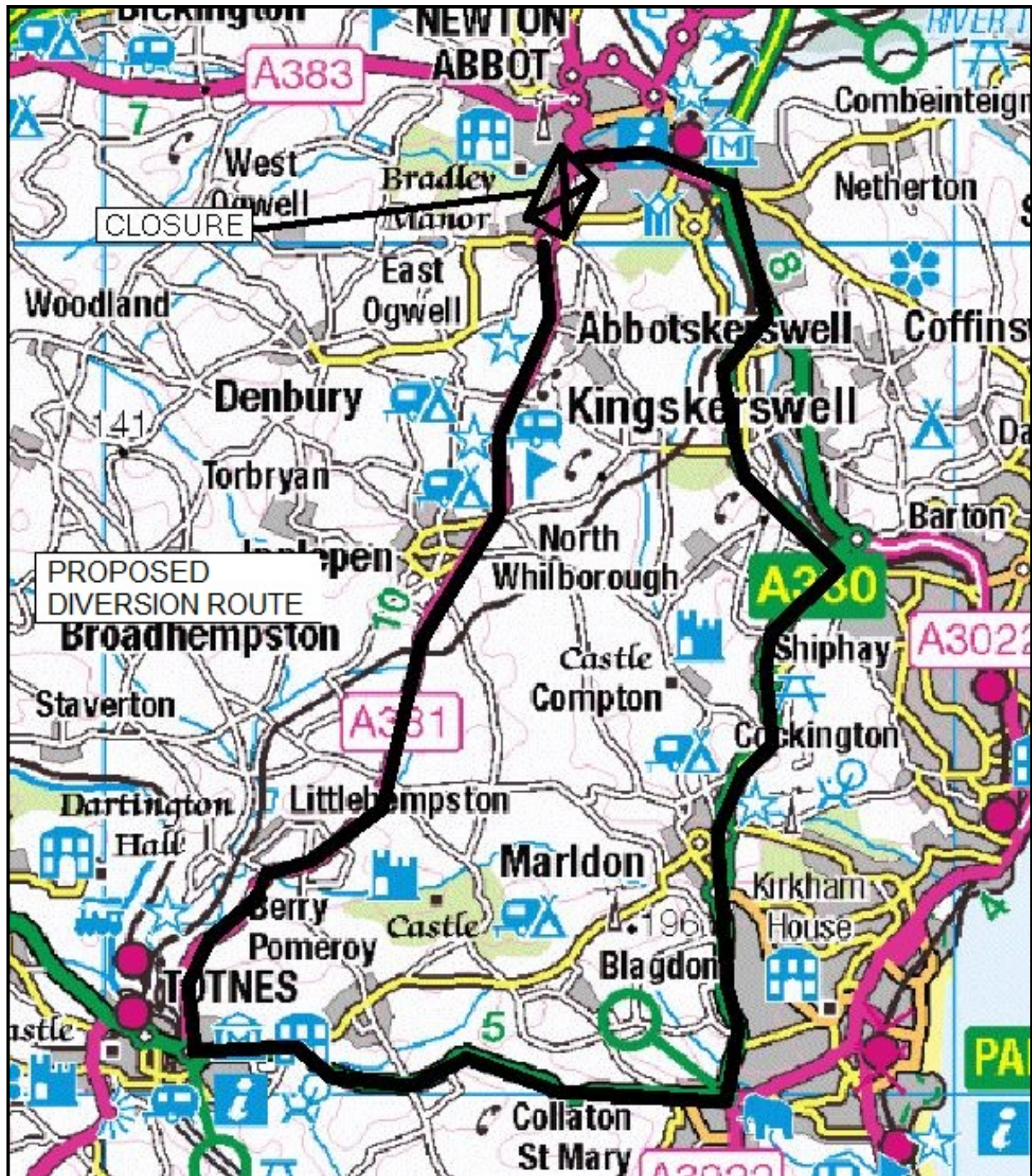
The contractor is confident that the work can be achieved within the one week closure period. The time of year is being taken into consideration and the weather forecast will be closely monitored in the days leading up to the scheme in order to determine if the start date or the duration of the works needs to be adjusted.

Given the state of the road it is vital that work is undertaken as soon as possible. Due to the nature of the work it is not possible to keep the road partially open for the duration of the works and full closure is therefore required.

Councillor Stuart Hughes

Cabinet Member for Highway Management

A381 Wolborough Street – proposed diversion route for duration of works



A381 Wolborough Street – extent of works

