

Can't read this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

**Forward this email to a friend or neighbour.**  
Please print off if they are not on the internet!



## Tramworks - news and updates

March 2014

---

Hello again,

I am sending this e-mail following a long overdue meeting with Cllr Collins. Traffic was top of the agenda given the chaos caused earlier this year by temporary traffic lights and there was also some much-needed good news for local businesses.

Please read on to find out what was discussed and what we can expect in the future.

As ever,

Anna

---

### Business compensation extensions

Good news from the meeting is that the City Council agrees that the current Financial Assistance Package should be extended to include all small businesses in Beeston and other areas affected by the tram works.

If Notts County Council also agree then this is very good news for businesses and traders who are struggling to survive the tram works.

The City has also agreed to put more money into the £50,000 exceptional hardship scheme I secured for businesses on High and Chilwell Road. Again we need to get the full agreement of the County Council.

I don't hesitate to give credit where it is due and City Council leader Jon Collins has clearly recognised the seriousness of the problem and wants to help. I look forward to a similar attitude from the leadership of Notts County Council and you can read my letter to the Leader [here](#).



## Chilwell Road/High Road

I was assured that the road will be fully re-opened in July and that TWA have enough resources devoted to ensure the timetable does not slip again. I was also assured that the communications strategy has improved.

Some of the delays have been caused by work on the utilities and I am told that some companies, such as BT, could perhaps be more helpful in expediting the works.

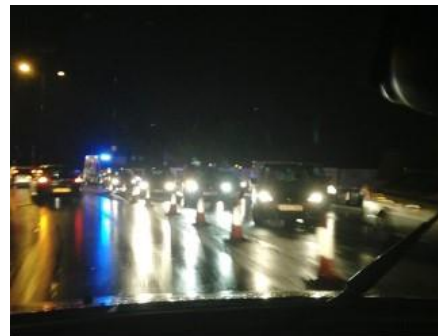
I have therefore written to the Chief Executives of BT and Centrica to request that they co-operate fully with TWA during the works. You can read my letter to BT [here](#).

Regular readers will know I have previously invited Cllr Collins to visit on behalf of traders. I repeated this request and am pleased to say this will be organised in conjunction with the County Council - details as soon as I have them. However, as we learnt when I invited Cllr Collins to Lower and Fletcher Roads last year, a publicly announced visit seems to coincide with quiet and tidy tramworks....

---

## Traffic Chaos

I was keen to discuss traffic management following on from the numerous e-mails I have received since the traffic lights were installed at University Boulevard/Queens Road in January. I know from my constituency team based on the High Road that commutes on some days have doubled.



Unfortunately, the traffic is going to be, at best, bad for at least the next 4-5 months. Although in 4 weeks or so, it may be possible to tweak the lights slightly at University Boulevard to improve the congestion as more road space will be available as the works progress.

I was given various assurances that important junctions and lights are properly monitored and problems dealt with as quickly as possible. I was informed that within half an hour of the fault in the temporary traffic lights on Queens Road on 17<sup>th</sup> February being reported it had been fixed. There were of course huge problems when the lights at University Boulevard/Queens Road were first installed in January and I was assured, given my concerns that traffic flows should have been better anticipated, that it was “all hands on deck” to rectify the issues.

**What we can all do is keep NET informed of any problems, especially if you do tweet, use the hashtags @NETPhaseTwo and @MyNottingham.** Whilst TWA check all temporary traffic lights on a daily basis and there is a temporary camera to monitor traffic at the University Boulevard junction, alerts from the public play an important part in having problems fixed urgently. You can also phone NET on 0115 924 2454 (Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm with an emergency facility).

I was also assured that all of the emergency services are kept in the loop - although that involves the Police Highways Commissioner rather than the local Inspector. I think there is

a commitment for all local authorities to work together and communicate.

---

## Fencing Madness

Regular readers will also be familiar with the long-running fence saga: Many residents (Holkham Ave/ Lime Grove Ave/Brookland Drive) who have lost chunks of their garden to the tram along with their privacy and security want 3 metre high fencing.

Jon Collins doesn't have a problem with it but our very own Broxtowe Borough Council leader, Milan Radulovic, does. He is adamant residents can only have 2.4 metres with a trellis top. I have asked Milan to come and visit residents and see the problem for himself. I am hoping Milan, who is essentially a good man, will take up this offer and then agree to these perfectly reasonable requests.



There is some good news for Holkham Avenue residents as we have received confirmation that existing land drains to the rear of Holkham Avenue have been connected into the newly constructed drainage system.

Residents' concerns regarding reduced security were unfortunately proven at the weekend when children were spotted playing on the tracks to the rear of Holkham Avenue. I raised this concern with the City Council and TWA on Monday morning and TWA are investigating. Not only do TWA need to ensure the site is secure, children need to be aware of the dangers.

---

## Lower and Fletcher Roads

Long-suffering residents were concerned as the lighting in the car park does not work, posing a considerable security risk. TWA fixed the light on Monday. TWA also responded quickly when I raised the concern of tram workers parking and taking up residents' spaces - spaces were freed up almost immediately.

---

## Residential

I asked whether Landlords are entitled to any compensation. Cllr Collins was adamant that residential landlords will not be eligible for compensation. The argument is that it would set a precedent and, as there was no entitlement on phase one, it could lead to

## Compensation

retrospective claims.

I also asked again for a Council Tax reduction on behalf of residents and have been informed that the VOA would be willing to consider changing the banding if there is a material change. The owner or Council Tax payer would need to apply individually. The VOA will not change a Band A rating.

For a compensation factsheet issued by NET, please visit the Tramwork News page of my website [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page.



### **Crator Lane**

Residents have put up with living on a building site, a pot-holed road, restricted access, noise, dust and much more.

I am told that the works could be completed by the original deadline of end of April, but could slip into May. I have asked for a confirmed date and that residents are met and properly communicated with.

---



## Brickbats and Bouquets

### **Dangerous Driver de-mobbed**

TWA acted quickly when a Beeston resident witnessed dangerous driving by one of the company's contractors. The driver has been removed from the NET Phase 2 Project.

### **Cyclists and trams**

Visit the [Tramwork News](#) page of my website to read the NET briefing on provision for cyclists alongside the tram route.

the full document.

Further info on for cyclists will be publicised in a bespoke commuter cycle guide and the Nottingham Cycle Map. Watch this space...

---

## Get the latest

We are posting information, as we get it, on my website [www.annasoubry.org.uk](http://www.annasoubry.org.uk). I know that the excellent Bramcote Today also posts updates and info from NET.

My thanks to Holkham Avenue residents for their photographs and if you have any tram issues, stories or photographs then please send them to me and I will include them in my next tram email newsletter and post them on my website.

Anna Soubry MP, Barton House, High Road, Chilwell  
0115 9436507

[anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk)  
[www.annasoubry.org.uk](http://www.annasoubry.org.uk)

To unsubscribe from this email click [here](#). | To forward this email click [here](#).