

M65/JUNCTION 13 IMPROVEMENT WORKS

ITEM 9

At the last meeting it was **RESOLVED** that County Council be asked to report back on –

- (1) Whether anything could be done to improve current sight lines at the Junction 13 roundabout.
- (2) And what was being done to address the drainage problem on the M65, between junction 13 and Colne.

Please see the following response from County Council –

Further to your email of 13 December 2016 regarding the improvement of sightlines at the M65 junction 13 roundabout and drainage issues on the M65, between junction 13 and Colne. Please be advised that this matter has been investigated and with regards to the sightlines at the M65 junction 13 roundabout, following an assessment we have reviewed the positioning of the barriers to improve the visibility sightlines available. The give way position on the roundabout was due to the temporary barriers in place and the barriers were required to protect highway users and our operatives.

We are aware that the rainfall earlier this month caused surface water to collect at junction 13 on the M65 and the county council fully appreciate the dangers this can cause for road users. The gullies on the M65 were cleaned at the end of October as part of our regular gully cleaning maintenance schedule. The gullies had once again become blocked due to leaves, litter, silt and other detritus preventing the surface water from entering the drainage system at full capacity and caused surface water to collect on the road surface at the time of heavy rainfall. The gullies have now been cleaned to ensure that they work as efficiently as possible and at full capacity. We are therefore improving our maintenance regime to the gullies in the areas of the M65 that can experience significant leaf fall and we are also developing a strategy to improve driver behaviour by encouraging them not to drop litter.

The following is an update from County Council on the temporary signals which have just been installed at the Barrowford roundabout -

The temporary signals are initially being manually controlled during the working day (7am-7pm), although as Monday was the first day temp signals being utilised we are aware this caused some disruption and congestion, but things should improve as the TM operatives controlling the signals become more accustomed to the varying traffic flows throughout the day and road users aware signals in place. Priority will however need to be given to the M65 eastbound off slip to minimise any queuing on the M65 and this places increased risk of additional queueing/delays on the other arms of the roundabout. The temp signals will be in place for the next four weeks with the scheme due to complete at the end of March.

It is however worth noting that temporary signals don't have the same capabilities or capacity as the permanent signals we are due to install which can adjust the signal timings to suit altering traffic demands during the day. The disruption caused by the installation of temporary signals can't therefore be utilised as a gauge how well the permanent signals will operate in this location. Whilst introducing temp signals has caused some significant disruption, we have no other option to continue construction at this stage of the works without placing traffic controls to enable the works.

M65/JUNCTION 13 IMPROVEMENT WORKS – FURTHER UPDATE

Below is some further information on the M65/Junction 13 improvement works from County Council regarding the temporary signals at the roundabout and the fact that not all the lanes are operational at the moment.

The scheme has had major design changes including adding a third lane to the motorway slip road, altering the final design levels from the existing to accommodate four lanes. LCC started work in Feb 2016 and have carried out two thirds of the work to date by carefully planning the works to provide the least disruption. However, we are in the final third of the construction process and require the current measures for safety purposes for employees to safely construct the islands and direct the general public safely from traversing the difference in levels. The temporary signals do not have the same capabilities to manage traffic as the permanent signals will have, priority has been given to the M65 slip road to alleviate standing traffic in lane one. The management are reviewing this disruption daily and ensuring safety and traffic flows are enhanced where possible.

This phase of the works will finish on the 3rd of February, at this stage the temporary signals will be removed and the roundabout arrangement will return. After this date there will be overnight closures to construct the final layer of surfacing and lining and install the permanent signals.