

**To receive an update from the Saltash Tunnel Working group on scheduled communications and consider any actions**

Saltash Town Council held 1 August 2024 agreed to:

It was proposed by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Stoyel and **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the tunnel works and support the new infrastructure and environmental improvements;
2. To work in partnership with National Highways Communications Department to notify the public of the scheduled works (communication to commence September);
3. To create a Working Group comprising of Councillors Martin, Miller, Bickford and Foster to work in partnership with National Highways Communications Department.

Councillor Bickford requested permission from the Town Council to approach the rail networks supplying Saltash. Councillor Bickford spoke of further contact to be made with Cornwall Councils transport division to highlight the impact the construction works are going to have on our town.

It was proposed by Councillor Bickford, seconded by Councillor Griffiths and **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Town Clerk, working with Councillor Bickford, to write to the appropriate organisations to highlight the impact of the National Highways construction works and impact to Saltash and surrounding areas.

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**Introduction**

Further to the above resolution, the Working Group Members and Town Clerk met with National Highways and Cornwall Council to discuss how National Highways intend to communicate to the public about the scheduled works. Those in attendance were:

Madeline Stoneman – National Highways Senior Communications Manager

Julian Mitchel – National Highways Tunnel Manager

Raphael Lorgere – National Highways Project Manager

Catherine Thompson – Cornwall Council Community Link Officer

Nick Truscott – Cornwall Council Public Transport Network Planning Specialist

Mirian Binsztok – Cornwall Council Transport Manager

## Overview of the meeting

Prior to the meeting a PowerPoint presentation was provided to share with the attendees only under **CONFIDENTIAL** at this stage, the slides contained privileged information to allow for honest and open discussions around how National Highways communicate the closures.

National Highways have met with selected key stakeholders to enable work to be planned. Points raised by those key stakeholders (inc Saltash TC) have been considered and some changes have been made.

Free tolls during peak times have been raised by key stakeholders but unfortunately the National Highways scheme can't afford to pay Tamar Bridge the associated cost. This is disappointing as it would certainly assist with heavy traffic during peak times.

Whilst Saltash will be hit the hardest, the wider South-East Cornwall will also feel the impact.

National Highways are still refining the project, the following dates are yet to be agreed and confirmed:

First phase - forecast to start November 2024, there will be some impact during the first phase, the main impact will be the second phase, forecast to start end of January/February 2025 to Autumn 2025.

Some mitigation will be in place (diversion, traffic signage). The National Highways are constrained by the road network and users not adhering to the temporary traffic signage.

What we know as the well-established diversion routes will be in place during the project:

Short diversion – Carkeel Roundabout - Cutlers Corner - North Road

Long diversion – Carkeel Roundabout – Callington Road to Burraton traffic lights – Town centre – Tamar Bridge

Long diversion - Carkeel Roundabout – Callington Road to Burraton traffic lights – New Road/North Road – Tamar Bridge

Haulers will be directed to the main bridge not the cantilever.

There will be some lanes dedicated to tag only to assist traffic pressures.

Plymouth bound for Saltash, the left lane will be signed for Saltash users only, the middle lane will be signed for A38 Westbound users only.

Traffic signage is to be in place. We encourage people to adhere to the traffic signage to help with the network pressure.

### Communications timeline

The National Highways webpage is launched with very little information provided at this stage. Please encourage everyone to keep a watch for further information.

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-west/a38-saltash-tunnel-technology-upgrade/#:~:text=The%20Saltash%20Tunnel%20in%20Cornwall,the%20risk%20of%20unplanned%20closures.>

The National Highways intend to issue postcards to residents in the vicinity only, of the tunnel works due to associated cost.

Newsletter to be issued to key stakeholders by email for sharing widely.

All communications take place 6 weeks prior to work commencing. It is felt the timeframe is not acceptable.

### Next Step

The National Highways to consider communicating wider via the Saltash Observer, especially when every household won't receive a postcard.

Cornwall Council to provide the National Highways with key stakeholder details to ensure the relevant bodies have been contacted.

Cornwall Council to work with the bus operators in Saltash and the wider South-East Cornwall area.

The National Highways to provide contact details to Saltash Town Council for the Department for Transport for a letter to be written to ask that they carefully consider calling at Saltash station on a more regular basis. The National Highways to also do the same.

Letter attached to this report to be issued to the relevant key stakeholders – Cornwall Council, Plymouth City Council, Department for Transport, GWR, Cross Country, Anna Gelderd MP, Peninsular Transport.

The National Highways to arrange a further meeting with the Town Council Working Group Members and Cornwall Council prior to the project commencing

### **End of project**

**Town Clerk/RFO**