

Dear Parish Clerk,

Suffolk County Council's Network Assurance Team is comprised of co-ordinators, officers and inspectors who co-ordinate, manage and oversee works and events on the public highway for the whole of Suffolk County. In addition to this network management role, the Network Assurance Team processes temporary traffic light licences, public event orders and temporary traffic regulation orders (such as road closures, speed restrictions and one-way restrictions) for Suffolk Highways, statutory undertakers, private contractors and event organisers.

As you may imagine, this is an extremely busy team receiving hundreds of works notifications and applications every day. Over the last several years, we have aimed to keep as many people as possible notified of works and events in their respective areas of interest.

With the advanced services and technology that we have today, there are more sophisticated, cost effective and accurate ways of gaining the information that you may need or wish to know than continuing to stretch limited staff time to carry out these functions. Given the need to continue to make cost savings within Operational Highways, I am writing to you to notify you of a change in the way we will be handling information distribution concerning events and street works on the highway in Suffolk.

www.roadworks.org is a national web portal hosting a complete and up-to-date copy of our Street Works Register data. Suffolk County Council subscribes to the site in order that it can broadcast information of works and events on our highways to anyone with access to the internet. It enables anyone to see what is going on, in any area, nearly everywhere in the UK.

Previously, the Network Assurance Team has emailed you a copy of legal orders for restrictions that it has helped to process. This is limited to orders in the parish they are happening in, not parishes that may also be affected. For example, the team does not notify all parishes along a diversion route. For some of you, this is quite helpful as some routes are busier than others and you would frequently be bombarded with irrelevant information, making the important stuff hard to pick out. Others find the lack of notification an inconvenience but it is impossible to notify every single parish council and County Councillor of every event in every location. To add to this, the information you receive is only valid at the time it is sent. When changes occur, they may not necessarily be notified again. Therefore, it is far more sensible that you be fully empowered to access the information that you want to see, when you want to see it.

From 1 July 2017, the Network Assurance Team will no longer email copies of legal notices or orders to parish clerks or County Councillors. The information for your ward or district and wider areas can all be tailored to be emailed to you directly from www.roadworks.org with the settings that you choose.

As part of the team's process, the Passenger Transport Team and the emergency services (i.e. fire, police, ambulance) will still be notified. The Network Assurance Team will also hold works promoters responsible for consultation with stakeholders about works that they plan to carry out during the early planning stage. Hence, major works that you find out about on roadworks.org shouldn't come as a surprise to you.

To begin using the road works website and set up your required alerts:

1. Browse to www.roadworks.org
2. Open the map area for which you'd like to receive alerts
3. Click on the envelope icon at the top left of the website
4. Choose your options
5. Click 'Set Alert'

You will then receive information according to your specifications.

Whilst it is appreciated that some may perceive this as a reduction in current service provision, following the approach set out above will ensure that you can be better informed than ever before.

Yours sincerely

Renée Fox
Network Assurance Manager