

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
CABINET – 14TH MARCH 2002**

**TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
DOWNHAM ROAD NORTH AND WHITFIELD LANE, HESWALL AND BARNSTON
(HESWALL WARD)
GAS MAIN RENEWAL SCHEME**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report requests Cabinet approval for the temporary road closures of Downham Road North, Heswall and Whitfield Lane, Heswall for 3 months and 2 months respectively to allow a major gas main renewal scheme to progress.

2.0 REPORT

2.1 Transco, the gas pipeline company is replacing 5.5km of iron gas mains between Woodchurch and Heswall as part of a project which will take until the end of 2002 to complete.

2.2 The existing iron pipe is being replaced with modern plastic pipe in four phases. Phases 1 and 2 Landican Lane to Whaley Lane are now complete. Phase 3 Pensby Road from Whaley Lane to Ashlea Road is nearing completion.

2.3 The majority of the work has been undertaken using temporary traffic signal control. However, Phase 4 Ashlea Road to Whitfield Lane via Pensby Road and Downham Road North will require a temporary closure of Downham Road North.

2.4 The closure has been requested to commence on 16th March 2002 at the junction with Pensby Road. The closure will proceed in approximately 50m sections along Downham Road North and will take approximately 3 months to complete. Bearing in mind the timescale to advertise the closure I have received approval from the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Infrastructure for the works to be programmed to start on 16th March 2002.

2.5 Access to residents will be available to either side of the closure, as it proceeds along Downham Road North. Disruption to residents at the point of closure will be kept to an absolute minimum.

2.6 The gas main renewal scheme will continue into Whitfield Lane, Heswall from Downham Road North across the frontage of Heswall Primary School and terminate in the field adjacent to Whitfield Lane.

2.7 The work in Whitfield Lane will commence on 22nd July 2002, when the school closes for the summer holidays. The majority of the work will be undertaken using temporary traffic signal control. However a closure will be required south of the school where Whitfield Lane becomes too narrow to safely accommodate signals.

2.8 The work in Whitfield Lane is expected to take 2 months to complete. Transco will write to all residents of Downham Road North and Whitfield Lane giving details of the scheme and will also keep residents informed of progress.

2.9 The alternative route for vehicular traffic when Downham Road North is closed will be Pensby Road, Whitfield Lane and vice versa. The alternative route when Whitfield Lane is closed will be Pensby Road, Telegraph Road, Barnston Road, Milner Road and vice versa.

3.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no additional financial or staffing implications associated with this report. Transco will be recharged for implementation of the closures advertising costs and any diversion signing required.

4.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific ethnic minority elderly persons or equal opportunity implications.

5.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no planning implications.

6.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Transco have been instructed by the Health and Safety Executive to replace all existing iron gas mains with safer plastic pipes within 30m of property.

7.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising directly from this report.

8.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no implications under this heading

9.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

9.1 No background papers have been used in preparation of this report.

10.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS.

10.1 Heswall Ward.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That approval be given to advertise the temporary closure of Downham Road North for a 3 month period and Whitfield Lane for a period of 2 months from the dates indicated in the report.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
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