



Galpins Road – Resident Update & Actions

Confirmation on points from last meeting and Updates from Partner Agencies

Merton Council

Calvin McLean (CM), Assistant Director for Public Protection and strategic lead for recovery, acknowledged that there had been some concerns around hotel bookings expiring. He reassured everyone at the meeting that the CAT were on top of all the hotel bookings but there may be a lag from the back office to the specific hotels to confirm bookings have been extended. He urged anyone with any concerns to contact their assigned caseworker, the CAT telephone number or the contact point at Pollards Hill Library.

CM also addressed some concerns around the allocation of financial support, the perception that some were getting more than others and that there should be more transparency. CM said that support had been provided on a need-basis and because need varied from household to household there had been varying levels of support provided, which was entirely appropriate. The council's Assistant Director for Finance Roger Kershaw also gave an update as to the overall amount of money spent by the council, which stood at £1.1m and that this did not include the building of the temporary road and other invoices that were due. He confirmed also that the contribution made by SGN had now been depleted.

There was an update from CAT staff to all residents, who were advised that we would move financial support from cash to making direct payments into bank accounts. Residents were asked to leave their bank details at the end.

Since the last meeting, a few queries have been raised about the temporary road and the lighting provided. Our highways engineers have attended and assessed the lighting, which meets the British Standard (BS) required for lighting on a road of this type. The BS aims to balance the need for road lighting without causing unnecessary light pollution to the area. Residents have reported that the lights appear to be off at night, however they have movement sensors so will switch on for at least 30 seconds when movement is detected.

In the last week, residents may have noticed activity on the site where contractors have been removing roof tiles. Our Building Control Manager has written separately about this, which has also been published.

Since the incident, it has become clear that there are many legal issues that residents need advice on, which the council in its capacity cannot answer or help with. With the help of

Siobhan McDonagh MP, the council has asked Jill Patterson from Leigh Day Solicitors to meet with residents to discuss those concerns.

To facilitate this, we have had to reschedule our resident meeting of 4th October 2022 back to **Tuesday 11th October 2022, 6:30pm at the New Horizon Centre.**

Southern Gas Network (SGN)

SGN expects to complete the works on the major excavations at the Incident site on Wednesday 28th September.

We will then leave the Inner Cordon site. We talked in the residents meeting about a new plastic main that will be inserted inside the 36-inch cast iron main. This will run from the excavations across the common to the excavation at the junction with South Lodge Avenue. This needs to be completed before colder winter weather comes, as this main supplies gas for much of South London.

It is anticipated that this will be complete by mid-October. At that point all the Low and Medium pressure mains in the affected part of Galpin's Road will have been brought up to the standards required if they were being installed today. This means that there will be no need for SGN to return to the incident affected parts of Galpins Road for replacement purposes for many years.

Next Spring, when gas demand drops again with the warmer weather, we will return and insert plastic main into the section of the 36-inch cast iron pipe between South Lodge Avenue junction and the A23 London Road. We will also replace any other iron mains in that section of road at the same time.

In the residents meeting, SGN was asked to confirm which houses were disconnected from the mains gas supply. Numbers 245 - 267 were pressure tested and disconnected on the 12th August. They remain disconnected as the main is capped in the footpath. As the investigation continues, we will reconnect when police/HSE are happy for this to happen. Numbers 258 to 280 were cut off for a pressure test on Wed 10th August and reconnected shortly afterwards.

All other properties in the road have had their supply to their meters present throughout. It may very well be that residents, police or fire may have turned their properties off at the Emergency Control Valve at the meter, but gas was present to their meters throughout. If there were any works carried out such as moving gas meters because of overbuilds etc, then they would have been reconnected the same day.

Metropolitan Police

The Metropolitan Police have written to residents separately with an update to the investigation.