

Ron Tindall

From: Richard Knight
Sent: 05 June 2017 11:17
To: Ron Tindall
Subject: RE: Update: High Street Green, Hemel Hempstead - CLOSED - 2 Jun 17

Hi Ron,

Firstly, my apologies for not being able to attend tonight, but I have a prior appointment in Hoddesdon at 7pm. If you think that your meeting will last for a couple of hours, and you would like me there towards the end, I am willing to come across once my meeting has finished.

However, the story so far.....

The hole was reported to HCC on Friday 12 May in the middle of the afternoon, and the response that was put in place followed the tried and trusted system in place. I was advised at 4pm, and was on site by 5pm. The Police had put in their extended closure of High Street Green from Adeyfield Road, up to Ellingham Road, which is their standard protocol. The Ringway Team on site put in place the immediate enclosure, consisting of the two sets of fencing, which then allowed the police closure to be removed. Both Affinity and Thames Water attended site that evening as well.

As you can see, a temporary footpath has been put in place with mats, to assist pedestrians. The barriers that are spread out across the grass have been put in place to deter drivers taking their vehicles around the closure. The verges are owned and maintained by Dacorum Borough Council, who are working in conjunction with HCC to try and keep everyone safe.

The site has now been inspected by a Ground Radar and MicroGravity specialist company. These experts have not only surveyed the enclosed site using both systems, but also used ground radar on the road from Branksome Close down almost to Adeyfield Road. The purpose of this extra scan is to confirm that there are no hidden surprises under the road, especially as it is still being used by the general public. We are awaiting the full, and hopefully comprehensive report, from them, and that has been promised to arrive by the end of this week.

An initial survey, consisting of a laser measure placed down the hole, has given us some ideas of the dimensions. The void is thought to be approximately 8m deep, and possibly 4m in length. We have no evidence as to what has caused this yet. We are not sure from what has been seen via remote cameras whether there is a second chamber leading off from the initial first void, which is why the road has been completely shut.

Thames Water have installed a pump and over pipe that runs from one side of the void to the other. The reason for this is that the mains sewer pipe has broken, and its contents was still feeding into the hole. For obvious reasons, no one wanted this to continue. I am still trying to persuade Affinity to take ownership for the water leak that is also in High Street Green. Currently, we have no evidence either way to state whether this is connected to the void.

The void does not look large from the footpath, but the yellow dotted line spray painted on the road is there to give an idea of the minimum size of the void.

If anyone needs further information, please do pass on my details, and I will be happy to answer questions where I can.

Yours

Richard Knight