Dear Mr Halliday,

**Case 651733**

Thank you for your letter of 13 August concerning the forthcoming traffic signal trial in Alfriston High Street.

I understand that my officers are scheduled to meet with representatives from Alfriston Parish Council (and other stakeholders) on 24th August at County Hall, where more detailed information about the operation and monitoring of the trial will be provided. However, I appreciate that it would be helpful to you to have an early response to the points you have raised.

I can confirm that the traffic signal trial will take place over a four-week period between 17 September and 14 October. As part of the signals trial, a temporary 20mph speed limit will be in place through the village. The trial speed limit will be extended for a further four weeks after the signals trial in order that the two measures can be evaluated independently from each other.

In order to set up the temporary traffic signal equipment at Star Lane and Weavers Lane,  it will be necessary to temporarily close the High Street between Weavers Lane and Market Square on Sunday 16th September between 09:00 and 18:00 (and again on Sunday 14th October to remove the equipment). The closure is necessary due to the complexity of the signals installation, which will require temporary cabling to be fixed to the edge of the carriageway.

We do understand the road closures will be disruptive but given the width of the road it is simply not possible to set up the traffic signal equipment whilst still allowing traffic to safely pass the works. I would like to assure you that we have considered all options in terms of the timing of the closure. There are additional restrictions on working hours during weekdays which mean that the signals installation could not have been completed in one day. These restrictions include the impact of the closure on traffic flows on the diversion routes and also the need to maintain the school bus services. Night time working would not be possible due to potential noise issues arising from the installation works and the impact this would have on residents.

I can confirm that as well as the signed diversion that will be in operation during the closures, 'Businesses Open as Usual' signage will be provided at both the Seaford and A27 approaches to the village. The County Council, as Highway Authority, will not be providing compensation to businesses for any potential loss of trade during these temporary closures and I would like to make clear that access to car parks will remain open at all times in order that visitors to the village can park in the usual way.

Information about the traffic signal trial, 20mph speed limit and the road closures will be delivered to all residences and businesses within Alfriston at the beginning of September.

In respect to your specific queries about data collection during the trial, I can confirm that monitoring equipment will be installed at four locations in the High Street in order to capture traffic speeds and volume. In addition, queue length surveys will be carried out manually at approaches to each traffic signal. Journey time surveys will be captured both manually and via monitoring equipment placed in the High Street.

In order to monitor different road user interaction and behaviour (such as rat-running), 12-hour observational video surveys at six locations along the High Street will be carried out. We will be seeking community feedback to the trial scheme via an on-line questionnaire. Copies will also be made available in the village.

At the meeting on the 24th August, officers will be happy to answer your further points about how the trial will be conducted and any information captured will be used to evaluate the trial and inform the next steps for this project.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Nick Bennett**

Lead Member, Transport and Environment

East Sussex County Council