

Victoria Rutt  
Clerk and RFO  
Alfriston Parish Council  
11 Highfield Road  
Horam  
East Sussex  
TN21 0ED

Dear Victoria,

Thank you for your letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July in reference to the upcoming works planned by South East Water in Alfriston. I feel that it was very beneficial to meet and discuss the scheme in detail at an early stage of the planning phase for the project. Obviously you have raised a number of concerns and I have looked to address these below.

The concern raised by businesses and residents is not unexpected. We have looked to plan the works at a time where we believe will be best for the local community with works starting in January seen as an ideal time to push forward. The programme we have is a best estimate to date with the known information we have available. As we discussed in our meeting, we will look to review this now that we have the ground radar survey information. From the initial review of the information, there is an abundance of other statutory undertakers plant within the highway so we need to review this in regards to the route of the new pipework and the lay rates that we will be able to achieve. We are also confined in regards to our working areas with East Sussex Highways wanting us to undertake four separate phases of work within the High Street to ensure access to businesses and residents can be maintained during the works. This has an impact upon the length of time we will be on site but please rest assured that we will review the programme in light with all information to see where we can make any efficiencies on the timeframes for the work.

Our requirement would be to undertake works as one delivery. If we were to demobilise after a set time period then it would increase costs with the contractors as well as communications, material storage costs etc. Although the disruption would be potentially more, it would be for a set time period. We also have funds allocated to this project and the risk would be that if we split this into two streams, there is the potential that the funds may be reallocated if emergency works or mains at higher risk are identified. There would then be the risk that the section not laid would still have the potential to burst and this could cause more issues due to emergency repairs. I do understand your concerns and once

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Web contact: [southeastwater.co.uk/contact](http://southeastwater.co.uk/contact)



we have a full design we will look to minimise the impact in regards to programme as much as reasonably practicable.

The markings within the High Street were required for the radar survey and we chose a paint that is water based and should wash off within a few rainfalls. We have visited site on a number of occasions to check to see if the paint has deteriorated. With the rainfall last week this has started to fade but obviously now with the hotter weather we will need to see if another rainfall is expected which will again hopefully wash this away more.

The issue with looking to wash the paint off is that we would require another road closure to undertake this and this may be problematic in regards to agreeing with highways. This would be quite noisy work and it is likely this would have to be done during the day which I do not think we could agree a closure soon with the highways due to the upcoming works and the peak period for tourists in the village. We will review this and also monitor the markings after any rainfall events. I know the markings are a frustration but this work will really help us with the planning of the scheme and provide us with valuable information which we would not have obtained through trial holes and other methods where we would have had to dig up the road and caused more disruption.

When we work in areas such as Alfriston we are always happy to look at sponsorship of local events in the community as well as looking to provide any school talks and site visits to those who may be interested. We would be happy to discuss this in further detail to see how we can help.

We understand that our work will be disruptive on the local community and this is why we are starting discussions with yourselves now to realise the concerns and look to mitigate the issues where possible. South East Water have an obligation to provide high quality drinking water to our customers and by replacing aging assets, such as the mains in Alfriston, we are ensuring that these supplies will be secured for now and in the future.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Dufour

Project Manager

Copy to:           Chris Laming – SEW Communications Officer  
                          Steve Anthony – Clancy Docwra Customer Liaison  
                          Chris Love, SEW Delivery Manager