

Major Gas Works UPDATE - Rye Road - Hawkhurst Cranbrook.

I'm writing to make you aware of some changes to our plan of work for our forthcoming upgrade to our gas network in Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook. This essential work involves the replacement of old metal gas mains with new plastic pipe to ensure we continue to provide a safe and reliable gas supply to the local area. Our contractor WCB Utilities will undertake this work on our behalf.

We held a drop-in session on Wednesday 22 May and during this session we received a lot of feedback from local businesses and stakeholders requesting that we do not carry out our work during the school summer holidays as this would severely impact their trade. In response to this we met with Kent County Council and the local parish councils to review how we can minimise any disruption caused by our work.

Following this meeting and in consultation with Kent County Council, we still plan to start our work on **Monday 17th June**, however we have revised our plan of work to reduce the length of time our project will take and now expect to be **complete by Tuesday 23rd July**. This allows the road to be fully open for seasonal trade.

To enable us to complete our work in a shorter duration we will be using additional resources and equipment, and also working extended hours. Should we not be able to carry out all the necessary work in this timeframe we will work with Kent County Council and other stakeholders to plan any remaining work later in the year.

We'll start our work in Rye Road at its eastern junction with Water Lane. We will have multiple teams working in both directions away from this point. One team will be working in Rye Road between the two junctions with Water Lane, while our other team will be working from Water Lane to just east of Conghurst Lane. To ensure everyone's safety, we need to close Rye Road in phases around our work area. We will have staff positioned at key points on the closure to manage traffic build up.

There will be two signed diversions in place. One for regular traffic via B2244 Junction Road, Main Road and Bodiam Road, and one for HGV's via B2244 Junction Road, B2089 Chitcombe Road, Northiam Road and the A28.

We've listened closely to everyone's feedback and it has been agreed with Kent County Council that this temporary road closure is the safest plan for carrying out our work. We will continue to work with Kent County Council, local Parish Council's and other stakeholders throughout our work to ensure we can react to any local needs in a timely manner.

More information and updates can be found on our dedicated project page at:

<https://www.sgn.co.uk/Roadworks/Hawkhurst-Rye-Road/>

All businesses in the local area will remain open as usual. We do have a compensation scheme in place for small local businesses which suffer a genuine loss of trade because of our work. Packs are available from our website, sgn.co.uk, via the Publications section.

We understand that roadworks can be frustrating. However, the new plastic pipe has a minimum lifespan of 80 years. This means that when the work is complete, Cranbrook residents will continue to enjoy the benefits of a safe and reliable gas supply for years to come.