

## **Network Rail**

INTERIM UPDATE

As you will be aware we have been working with Network Rail to mitigate the impact of their rail electrification programme on our highway network.

The works in Royal Wootton Bassett impact on key bridges on the A3102 and Marlborough Road. In order to alleviate the impact of the extensive diversion route required for these road closures, Network Rail have been working on designing and building a temporary link road between Marlborough Road and the A3102 (approx. 1 mile long) which would be in place for the 18 months of road closures.

Earlier this week I intended a meeting with Network Rail officers and the landowners involved, (Oxford University) together with their agents Savills, where it became clear there may be a small element of risk to the deliverability of this road scheme. The issues relate around the escalating build costs (estimates are now around £4m) and the planning framework to enable the build. Discussions are on-going and at this stage all parties are focused on completing the link road by November in time to commence works on the bridges.

I have advised Network Rail that the applications for the road closures will not be considered until we have a confirmed position.

This is intended for information only and not for public circulation at this point as it is hoped that these risk will be overcome, however I felt it was important to keep you all up to date. I will update you over the coming weeks once I have more information.

If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Joanne

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