



Haverhill Relief Road Community Update

Following a meeting with Cllr David Roach, West Suffolk Council’s Cabinet Member for Planning, Persimmon Homes Suffolk will be producing monthly project bulletins to show the progress that is being made to deliver the Haverhill Relief Road which we all agree is of vital importance to the town.

New project completion date

Work to deliver the £9.7m Haverhill Relief Road continues following the recent announcement that the relief road will now be completed in Spring 2024.

The delay has been driven by two principal issues. The first is due to the need to install slabs to protect an existing gas main and the second relates to the necessity to divert 21” water main that also runs through the site. While this work was not considered necessary at the beginning of the project, additional surveys and ground investigations during the construction phase has demonstrated that it is. Unfortunately, these issues are not uncommon in complex engineering projects but it is essential that this slab work is now carried out. This means we have no choice but to address these issues now, even if that slows the construction of the road.

Monitoring

On 24 February, Persimmon Homes met with representatives of West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council on site to discuss the new project timeline and ensure that the new completion date will be met.

A new timetable has been submitted to both West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council. In addition to this timetable, a separate plan for monitoring the impact on local roads has also been agreed with all parties.

Representatives from Persimmon and both local authorities have also agreed to formalise their regular review meetings. They will now hold monthly project board meetings to be attended by all parties to review the progress made and ensure the road is progressing as expected. Additional signage will also be installed at either end of the relief road providing further information about the project.

Construction progress

Contractors are currently on site building the relief road and making good progress. As already outlined, a key issue has been construction of slabs to protect the gas infrastructure in the area. We were required to install eight protection slabs in total and have at the time of this update, completed six. A further two protection slabs are currently being assembled. The roundabout at the eastern end of the relief road has also been completed.

The photos below show how the project is moving forward and the images of the slabs demonstrate the complexities of the new infrastructure being installed.



Future updates and public engagement

In recognition of the importance of this project to local residents and the community more widely, we will be providing a monthly project bulletin to keep people informed. This will provide an overview as to how the relief road is progressing and also advise people of key project milestones. This will be made available on the project website and shared with key stakeholders, including Haverhill Town Council.

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