

Letter from David Brazier Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport - KCC

Thank you for your recent enquiry dated Friday 30th September 2022 regarding the works currently being undertaken by National Highways closing the eastbound (coastbound) entry and exit slips between the M2 and A249 from Monday 12 September 2022 until Friday 13 January 2023.

I have spoken to the Streetworks team who have provided me with the following information.

The diversions as stated by national highways on their website are as follows:

To join the M2 eastbound during the closures, use the M2 westbound from Stockbury roundabout to travel to junction 4 and return. This will add approximately 10-12 minutes onto the journey time.

Drivers travelling eastbound (towards the coast) will need to leave the M2 at junction 3 and use the A229, M20 and A249 to reach the Stockbury roundabout. This will add approximately 15 minutes onto the journey time. If you miss junction 3, you can travel to junction 6 and return to junction 5 using the westbound carriageway, which will add a further 25 minutes.

I would like to assure you that the impact of these works were closely monitored by Kent County Council, however as the diversion for the national highways works does not encroach on other roads mentioned, KCC had made the decision that they will not be cancelling planned works that have already been approved due to them being planned many months in advance and were approved prior to national highways confirming the slip road closures.

The Streetworks team have however revoked permits for Hartlip Hill, Hartlip and Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne as sufficient progress was not being made on site and efforts to manage delays were not effective. The works proposed to commence on the Sonora Fields development have been postponed to 2023. I can also confirm that the developer works on A2 London Road junction Lydbrook Close have now been completed.

They will be assessing future applications and the team will be refusing works if we believe that the impact will have a detrimental effect on the network. KCC have a responsibility to carry out maintenance on the highway and we will plan these works in overnight where possible to reduce disruption. We understand Medway Council are taking a similar approach to this on their network.

You may find it helpful to use www.one.network which provides information on current and planned roadworks. If they wish to discuss the scheme, further with National Highways, they can be contacted on 0300 123 5000 M2J5@highwaysengland.co.uk

We are always mindful of major works taking place and will react accordingly, I would like to thank you for taking the time to contact us and hope you feel reassured that we will be scrutinising the impact of the National Highways works and making the necessary decisions when required.

I trust the above provides clarification into your concerns.

Yours sincerely

David Brazier

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