

Cllr Bethia Thomas
Vale of White Horse District Council
Abbey House
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Abingdon
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1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
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**24 hour National Helpline
03457 11 41 41**

22 August 2024

Our reference: 240816-000307

Dear Cllr Thomas,

Thank you for your letter regarding the ongoing closure of Botley Road. We are very sorry for the continued disruption and we understand the frustration felt by those impacted by the closure of Botley Road.

We are working closely with our contractor Kier, Thames Water, local authority partners, the Department for Transport and train operators as we undertake a full review of the programme following the delays. Regrettably, due to the extent and complexity of the work, it has taken time to work through a revised programme. We can't currently confirm when we will be in a position to announce the new dates or expected length of the recent delay, however we commit to updating stakeholders and the community at the earliest opportunity.

On 11 July, we informed residents and businesses via our weekly newsletter that the planned installation of the new railway bridge was being postponed. We also gave councillors advance notice of the announcement. We continue to look at how we can minimise the impact on the local community, and we will continue to engage with residents and businesses as our plans develop.

We have built up a good network throughout the community and have ongoing discussions with many about how things can be improved. Once we are in a position to update, we will hold further engagement sessions, including drop-ins, so that people can meet senior members of our team and raise any concerns.

Earlier this month, we met with local representatives, including parish councillors from the Vale of White Horse, to discuss what action can be taken to improve things for businesses and residents. We had a constructive discussion and have taken away actions and points to consider as we review what we can do to support people impacted by the closure.

Thank you again for your letter. We will be back in touch as soon as possible. Please do let me know if you have any further questions in the meantime.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Holbrook
Industry Programme Director, Greater Oxford Area