



Our apologies for the ongoing disruption

Firstly, we would like to apologise to local residents and businesses for the ongoing disruption that this major £1.7m improvement scheme is causing.

The feedback that we have had from our drop-in sessions and your calls and correspondence is that you do understand and appreciate the benefits that Cockermouth's new high-capacity drainage system will bring to the town's future flood resilience, along with the associated improvements to the carriageway, footways, lights, bus shelters and other public amenities. But we are also hearing very loud and clear this work has had a big impact on the town in terms of retail footfall, the disruptive experience of living and working next to a 'building site' and also general frustrations in getting from A to B.

Considerable disruption was always going to be inevitable for a project of this scale, but the programme has not always run according to plan – often for reasons beyond the control of Cumbria County Council or its contractor. For this we apologise, but we can assure you that the county council is treating the successful completion of this work as a top priority.

One of the frustrations we hear is when people are annoyed that work seems to have 'ground to a halt' and there is inactivity on the site. The reason why this can happen is different jobs are often interconnected and one can't be commenced before another is completed. Specialist surfacing equipment also has to be booked in advance and is often not available at the drop of a hat and when required by the site team. We do all we can to avoid this and to ensure any period of inactivity is as brief as possible. Any seeming lack of activity on the road itself is in direct contrast to the huge amount of desktop work going on to reconfigure plans and the work programme when problems are encountered. We do fully appreciate that every week of interrupted trading impacts on local businesses and for us, every day counts on delivering this.

Cumbria County Council apologises for any disruption and inconvenience caused

The challenge of dealing with the ‘unknown’

In the last edition of the Cockermouth Main Street newsletter (May 2014), we set out the anticipated programme of work for Phase Two and said that we anticipated the project would be completed by the end of August. We then encountered a significant problem with the number and complexity of existing utilities pipes being in a very awkward location precisely where we need to do major work. This picture shows just how challenging the complex mix of pipework is.

There was no way of knowing the precise location of pipes (they are often not shown on any plans) but the contractor has to work safely, Cockermouth has to retain its key utilities connections and we have to avoid damaging the utilities infrastructure in the town. This problem has delayed the project and we appreciate that people are frustrated the project has not been completed when they were told it would be.

We have endeavoured to work closely with local people, businesses and representatives from the outset on the Cockermouth Main Street improvements, working with you to develop the programme and then sharing our plans and sharing the anticipated timings of the work programme. But the work schedule can change very quickly due to unforeseen problems and the situation can change by the day when issues arise and solutions need to be found. It may be necessary to introduce

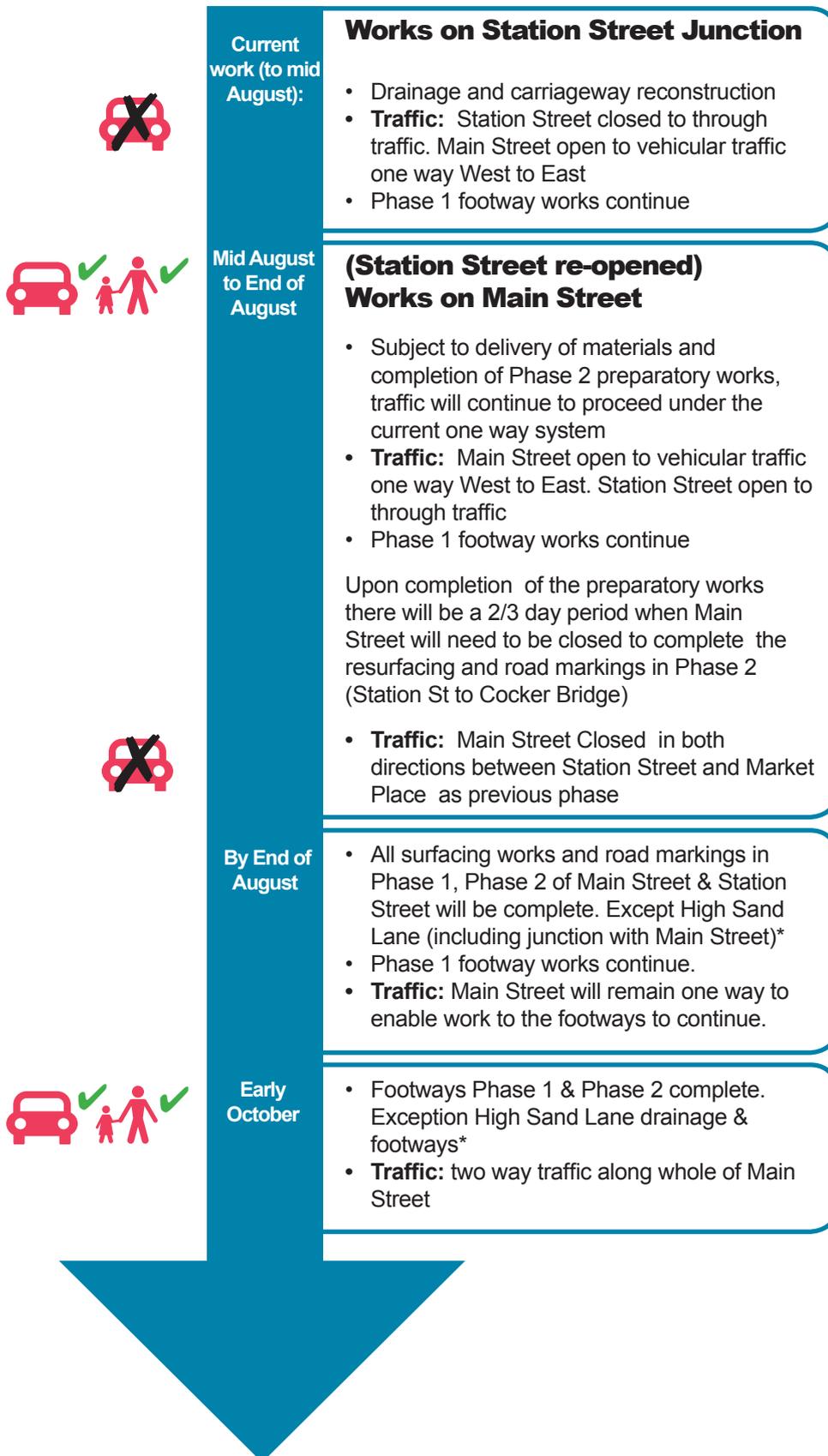
changes to traffic management at short notice consistent with the objective to return Main Street and Station Street to normality as quickly as possible. Even the predicted timescales in this newsletter could easily be subject to more changes.

We feel that keeping you in the loop and appraised of the current situation, even though it could change, is preferable to not letting you know what’s going on at all.



Timeline

The following timescales provide an indication of what is likely to happen and when:



Proposed Gas Works

Northern Gas have planned works that they need to do in Cockermouth which CCC has requested be delayed during the Main Street Improvement Scheme due to the impact on traffic management around the town.

However, some of the works have now become essential to maintain supply and are expected to start on Monday 18 August.

Northern Gas will initially be carrying out work on Vicarage Lane for approximately four weeks, followed by:

Lorton Road (approx 13 weeks)

Skinner Street (approx 1 week)

Victoria Road (approx 4 weeks)

Works will be done in descending order as listed.



*High Sand Lane

High Sand Lane drainage works are currently delayed as a result of technical difficulties. These works will only proceed when a safe system of work has been agreed and the necessary temporary Traffic Regulation Order has been advertised and is in place.

Useful Contact Numbers:

Taste Cumbria Food festival still going ahead

The county council has been working with the organisers of Taste Cumbria to ensure all their requirements will be met and to ensure the smooth running of the food festival to support local business, promote the town to visitors and offer a valuable contribution to Cockermouth's events calendar.

The festival's usual traffic management arrangements will be in place from noon Friday 26 September until the evening of Sunday 28 September.



tastecumbria cockermouth

Food Festival 2014

8 GREAT COURSES TO CHOOSE FROM

For more info and to book for ticketed events visit
www.tastecumbria.com
or call 01228 612000

Also available from: Cumberland News Office, Bank St and Dalston Road, Carlisle; Times & Star Office, Workington; Whitehaven News, Whitehaven and The Toy Shop, 72 Main St, Cockermouth

organised by
cnevents
in association with
cumbrialife

COCKERMOUTH SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27-28

PRODUCERS' MARKET
100 fabulous food & drink producers on Main Street PLUS food to eat in Market Place

ROGAN POP-UP
Michelin-starred Simon Rogan brings a taste of L'Enclume & Claridge's to Cockermouth

DEMO STAGE
Learn from the county's experts - bread, wine, meat seafood & more

BEER FESTIVAL
The biggest range of the best Cumbrian ales, hosted by Jennings & CAMRA

MASTER CLASSES
Get up close and personal with the culinary masters of Cumbria

THE TROUT MARQUEE
Champagne & strawberries, tapas & antipasti, all on offer in the garden marquee

TICKLED AT THE TROUT
Comedy night, served up with Cranstons pies, peas & Cumberland Ale

GIN, WHISKY & BEATS
Wash down a Lakeland platter with Lakes Distillery spirits at a lively music night

