

From: Cllr Heather Neate <cllrhneate@andover-tc.gov.uk>

Sent: 12 January 2026 08:00

Subject: Written question for the ATC Planning Committee - 26 January 2026

Hi there Tor, grateful if you would add the written question below to the Planning Committee agenda for 26 January 2026.

Written question for the ATC Planning Committee - 26 January 2026

I ask what the Planning Committee will do to constructively improve communications and publicity about forthcoming roadworks that will impact on Andover residents. I consider this question sits within the Planning Committee's Terms of Reference which include 'to respond to any consultations *or matters on traffic and transport affecting the Town Council area*'.

Some road works matters have a disrupting impact on residents' lives, particularly where no or incomplete advance warning is given. For background, before Christmas, a sign was posted on Walworth Road near Finckley Farm indicating that Walworth Road would be closed to Picket Piece for one day on Monday 12 January 2026, causing concern for residents. Not being able to find any information on HCC's or TVBC's websites, I emailed to HCC councillors asking for information about access arrangements for residents and reminded them on 5 January 2026.

On 6 January, the sign was amended to show that the closure would be in place for 27 weeks, implying no access to Picket Piece for a lengthy period and causing more concern for residents. I contacted the developers, Aeroparks Developments, who explained to me that the work involved road closures on Central and North Ways at their junctions with Walworth Road to install filter roads, signals and an upgraded cycle path, that 2 way traffic lights would be in place, there would be a traffic marshal on site and there would be access to Picket Piece. These works, therefore, will also impact on Augusta Park residents trying to access Walworth Road via the Finckley Farm bridge, which is also signal controlled.

Aeroparks Developments apologised to me for the misleading signs and shared with me the traffic management plan that they had been developing with TVBC and Stagecoach since November 2025. I have since shared this plan and officers have posted it on the ATC website. I have also responded to enquiries from residents about diverted bus routes and pedestrian access during the extended period.

I am now given to understand that the works relate to outstanding infrastructure relating to the Augusta Park development. Committee members will be aware that there are now more than 1,000 residents in Picket Piece as well as well as many thousands in Augusta Park who will be affected by traffic delays on a daily basis. Inevitably, residents will try to use Ox Drove as an alternative route to avoid delays, although it is wholly unsuitable and potentially dangerous.

To make things worse, on Thursday 8 January, I queued along Walworth Road for 20 minutes from Finckley Farm to Picket Piece to find a set of 3-way traffic lights at the roundabout with Locksbridge Road, also impacting on access to Mulberry Road. There being no advance notice sign, I checked on the HCC website and found a temporary road closure notice dated 5 January, effective for 8 - 12 January, to enable work by Southern Water. There was potential, therefore, for serious traffic disruption on Monday 12 January because of 2 sets of roadworks.

I understand that ATC has received no advance notice of either set of road works, which will hopefully provide much needed improvement to road safety along Walworth Road. However, while I understand that there may be delays in posting information during the holiday season, I am at a loss to understand how the extensive roadworks at Finckley Farm, which must have been planned over a many months and which affect so many people over the winter, were not better communicated.

I ask members of the Planning Committee what they will do to improve communications and publicity between ATC, TVBC and HCC highways functions to ensure that Andover residents are kept informed about roadworks that will so disrupt their daily routine journeys. I also ask for a written reponse.

Kind regards

Heather

Cllr Heather Neate FIRR