

FAQs for the partial re-opening of the A29

When will the works start?

We've mobilised the contractors and expect the works to take two weeks.

Why has it taken you so long to being legal proceedings?

We were hopeful that an agreement which was acceptable to all parties could be reached to allow the works to be undertaken to open the highway fully. We sought expert legal advice and the advice received has guided content and the timing of the service of the notice

WSSCC needed to provide the landowners with the legally required time to consider the options provided to them before we could progress to legal proceedings.

Why did you not put the single lane solution in sooner?

WSSCC has previously resisted calls to re-open the road with a single lane, as it was hoped that an agreement with the landowners could be reached quickly which would have avoided the need to reclose the road at some point and reinstate the diversion route to carry out further works.

The single lane option is not ideal and does not solve the problem in the long term but is the most pragmatic approach at this time. We will regularly review the operation of the single lane option to ensure it continues to provide benefit over a full closure.

How will the single lane option work in practice?

The County Council is still evaluating the most effective operation of single lane working and will determine this once the basic elements of the single lane are in place

What are the single lane options?

1. Single lane for two-way traffic controlled by traffic signals
2. Single lane for one-way traffic travelling northbound
3. Single lane for one-way traffic travelling southbound

A final decision on the operation of the lane will be made based upon safety for users as well as impact upon the wider network.

Why could you not reach a negotiation with the landowners?

WSSCC has been engaged in lengthy and detailed negotiations with the landowners to try and reach mutual agreement. Representatives from the Council worked hard to accommodate the requests from the landowners, taking into account the requirements of local residents, businesses and the wider transport network. Regretfully an agreement that was acceptable to all parties was unable to be reached.

WSSCC and the landowners agree substantial work is required to permanently solve the situation, an agreement could not be reached on the practicalities of such works and the investigations required. Dialogue with the landowners continues and we are optimistic that we may be able to reach an agreement in the near future

What did the landowners want from the negotiations?

The details of the negotiation requests from the landowners, beyond those stated above, are a private matter between WSSCC, the landowners and their representatives.

What are you going to do to repair damage caused to the unofficial diversion roads in Pulborough?

Now that the traffic levels on the roads used as unofficial diversions will be reduced, we will inspect the relevant areas and schedule in repairs as required. Where these repairs may need road closures spanning multiple days to allow the required works to take place, we have been unable to carry this out until we were confident that the impact on neighbouring roads wouldn't be too significant.

A fuller programme of work will be undertaken once we have a solution in place that facilitates two-way traffic running on church Hill.

Will you consider restricting HGVs from travelling down Church Hill?

The County Council is going to undertake a study of the area to consider the current and potential use of the A29 and what options may exist for alternatives.