

Statements provided to TV and Radio Broadcast

20/03/2023 ITV News Meridian

A spokesperson for West Sussex County Council said: “We fully appreciate the frustrations felt by local residents about the ongoing situation and the resulting inconvenience along with the hardship felt by some businesses in the area. We must stress that it is only the carriageway which is within the county council’s control. The land either side of the carriageway, which is what has caused the issue and where the required works must take place to allow the safe re-opening of the road, is not adopted highway land and is owned by private landowners. In order to carry out the required works we must have permission from the landowners, without that we are unable to legally begin works. If we cannot come to an agreement, we have an option to serve notice on the landowners for them to undertake the work, but the advice received has been that such notice cannot be served until negotiations on an agreement have been exhausted. As such, we feel that it is best to come to an agreement with the landowners to allow us onto their land to undertake the works to re-open the road to two-way traffic and are working hard to reach an agreement which is acceptable to all parties. This has resulted in a longer than anticipated timeline, however these discussions are ongoing and are productive. It is appropriate that before we utilise any statutory powers, we must allow sufficient time for the landowners to fully explore the implications on their property and understand what is required before they come to an agreement with us. We have always been very careful in how we communicate regarding the situation between us and the landowners, being extremely conscious of how difficult it has been for them in relation to the requirement to get the road open and the concerns they have in regards to the land they own which has slipped and remains unstable. We understand the calls from residents and businesses to re-open the road, even with a temporary measure which opens the road using a single lane controlled by two-way traffic lights. If we were to go ahead and install this temporary measure which utilises concrete blocks to create a single lane down the centre of the road, then once an agreement has been made with the landowners, we would then need to re-close the road, and reinstate the diversion route. We continue to give this very careful consideration, however, believe that this would result in potential confusion for road users caused by the change in status to the road and it would create even more inconvenience locally due to traffic being required to queue at the lights which will then cause issues on other roads in Pulborough. We are working hard to reach an agreement with the landowners so we can progress with implementation of the interim works to reopen the road while a permanent solution is developed and designed and agreed with all relevant parties.”

16/02/2023 BBC Sussex

West Sussex County Council is pro-actively engaging with local landowners regarding the ongoing situation on the A29 near Pulborough. We regularly have representatives present in the local area, either working with the relevant parties to get a solution agreed and implemented, monitoring the temporary measures that have been put in place, or completing repairs required as a result of the increased traffic through local roads. We have also set up a dedicated webpage (www.westsussex.gov.uk/a29-pulborough) which is regularly updated when new information is available, issue press releases to the local media outlets when significant updates need communicating and have a dedicated email inbox (a29landslip@westsussex.gov.uk) for enquiries relating to the closure. We will continue with the communication channels until the road is fully re-opened. We have increased the frequency of the routine highway inspections on not only the official diversion route but also those roads being used locally to access the A283 and the A29. These include Rectory Lane, Link Lane, New Place Road, Broomers Hill Lane and Gay Street Lane. Once identified, safety defects (e.g. potholes) are being prioritised by the contractor to expedite repair works. For issues relating to driver behaviour, such as cars mounting pavements and motorcycles revving up the street throughout all hours, we recommend contacting Sussex Police via <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>.”

08/02/2023 BBC Sussex

Due to the duration of the closure on Church Hill to date, it is not possible to have closed under either section 14.2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act which allows for a closure for up to 5 days, or emergency closure which allows for up to 21 days. As such, Church Hill is currently closed under Section 14.1 which allows for a road closure for up to 18 months. While it is generally the case when closing a road under section 14.1 that the notice would be complemented with an expected duration of said works, unfortunately at this point we do not have an indicative time frame for when works will be completed so are unable to include this. At the point in time we have an indicative time frame we intend to provide this information via our communication methods, including our website (www.westsussex.gov.uk/a29-pulborough), key stakeholder engagement and social media.

Press Coverage

Published 21 March 2023 [Highway bosses respond to calls to reopen A29 in Pulborough after three-month closure | SussexWorld \(\[sussexexpress.co.uk\]\(http://sussexexpress.co.uk\)\)](#)

Published 14 March 2023 [West Sussex council slammed over A29 closed in Pulborough for months | The Argus](#)

Published 14 March 2023 [UPDATE: "Shameful Blaming Of Residents": Pulborough Villagers Call For Urgent Review Of A29 Landslide - More Radio](#)

Published 1 March 2023 [Crisis-hit A29 in Pulborough could reopen 'within weeks' | SussexWorld \(\[sussexexpress.co.uk\]\(http://sussexexpress.co.uk\)\)](#)

Published 15 February 2023 [Pulborough residents 'feel abandoned' as A29 landslide road closure continues | SussexWorld \(\[sussexexpress.co.uk\]\(http://sussexexpress.co.uk\)\)](#)

Published 25 January 2023 [Video shows dramatic A29 Pulborough landslip as Sussex residents describe embankment collapse chaos | ITV News Meridian](#)

Published 20 January 2023 [Council working to fix 'complex' landslide that has closed main road for weeks \(\[yahoo.com\]\(http://yahoo.com\)\)](#)

Published 19 January 2023 [A29 closure: Major road to 'remain shut' following Pulborough landslide | SussexWorld \(\[sussexexpress.co.uk\]\(http://sussexexpress.co.uk\)\)](#)

Published 13 January 2023 [A29 landslide: Road closure leaves Pulborough shops 'empty and customer-less' | SussexWorld \(\[sussexexpress.co.uk\]\(http://sussexexpress.co.uk\)\)](#)

Published 10 January 2023 [Council Says A29 Pulborough Landslide Site Still Unsafe - More Radio](#)

Published 3 January 2023 [Concerns over drivers ignoring 'Road Closed' signs following Pulborough landslide | SussexWorld \(\[sussexexpress.co.uk\]\(http://sussexexpress.co.uk\)\)](#)

Published 30 December 2022 [Pulborough landslide: A29 to remain shut 'for some time' | SussexWorld \(\[sussexexpress.co.uk\]\(http://sussexexpress.co.uk\)\)](#)