

ULVERSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Jayne Kendall
Town Mayor: Cllr. Dave Webster
Deputy Mayor: Cllr. Sharon Webster

Our Ref: JK/SYI



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19 October 2018

Jo Johnson MP
Minister of State for Transport
Department of Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London, SW1P 4DR

By letter and email

UTILITY WORKS ON MAJOR TRUNK ROADS.

The main road in to Ulverston and Barrow in Furness is the A590 which is a designated trunk road. It is the only major A road into the Furness Peninsula in South Lakeland, Cumbria.

The peninsula is home to major business including Siemens, GlaxoSmithKline, Acrastyle and Oxley Development in Ulverston, which was recently visited by the Prime Minister. Barrow in Furness is the base for many other important businesses including BAE Systems.

The A590 and its smooth operation is crucial to the economic success of this area and the vitality of the community.

Ulverston Town Council together with the Ulverston Business Improvement District have been dismayed about the lack of proper management and enforcement of utility company works on this road by Highways England for many years. This is consistently poor and was highlighted again in the last few weeks when the town and surrounding roads were gridlocked for hours over several days and caused tailbacks of over one mile on both the East and West bound carriageways of the A590.

The council is aware of the Statutory Guidance for High Authority Permit Schemes, Highways England (October 2015). This is not sufficient, is not flexible enough and does not provide sufficient powers to enable Highways England to cater for the differing needs of rural communities where there is effectively only one road in and out.

Whilst the town council and BID recognise the requirement for utility work, it would propose that regulations must be tightened to prevent working during rush hour periods and would prefer that all works takes place at night using staffed traffic controls. Highways England need to be given the power to make this happen in areas of particular vulnerability of which Ulverston is a prime example.

We are aware of DFT proposals to roll out lane rental charges which would bring in additional income for the government.

This will do nothing to solve the problem of important, isolated communities throughout the UK grinding to a halt because of inconsiderate utility works. We would prefer that the utility companies used this to pay its staff for night working.

We would urgently request that the Government works with Highways England to resolve this and keeps Ulverston Town Council and the Ulverston BID and our local MP John Woodcock informed on progress on the matter.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Dave Webster
Mayor of Ulverston

Jan Hancock
Ulverston BID

CC
John Woodcock MP
Tim Farron MP
Lord Ingleworth Chair of Cumbria LEP
Jim OSullivan CEO Highways England
Cllr Giles Archibald Leader of South Lakeland District Council