

FORDER VALLEY LINK ROAD

Newsletter - June 2020



Balfour Beatty

Since our last newsletter in March things have changed for us all due to Covid-19. So that construction has been able to continue during this time, we have been able to continue working by implementing a robust method of working that enables us to safely comply with Government guidance to implement social distancing. Many of the team have been working from home for weeks and they are now beginning to return to site. It's been a challenging few months for everyone but for those that have been able to stay on site, and continue to work, we thank you.

What's happening next?



For those of you who live or drive around the area you will see the almost daily changes to the earthworks across the one-kilometre construction site. Probably the most visible change in the past few weeks was the arrival of the 135-tonne crane which will be on site for about four weeks to lift in the eighty 25-tonne sections for the new 160-metre culvert. The culvert, or tunnel, will eventually carry the Bircham stream under the new road to the ecology pond in the nature reserve, on the other side of the traffic light junction. The culvert includes two different water level ledges for the benefit of otters and other wildlife and the bed of the culvert will have cobbles and gravel in place for the benefit of eels and a variety of fish that inhabit the stream.

Whilst the roads have been quieter the decision was made to slightly adjust the programme and carry out works that would otherwise affect road users. There are currently off-peak temporary traffic lights on Forder Valley Road for a few weeks.

On the 10th May the traffic management was changed to provide a safe working area for the site team. There is still one lane in each direction, using a contraflow, on the lower end of Novorossiysk Road and a small section of Forder Valley Road at the traffic light junction. It's a slightly different set up but for those of you who haven't driven through recently, please take care.

The widening of the carriageway in the area between the BP service station and the existing junction of Forder Valley Road

and Novorossiysk Road has begun and to facilitate the wider operations here, it will be necessary to restrict the right turn in and out of the garage, later this month. We have consulted with the business owner and apologise for any inconvenience to the staff and customers.

So far, 46,000-tonnes (enough to cover Plymouth Argyle's Home Park with a 10ft layer of soil) of recycled china clay quarry material has been imported from Lee Moor and 24820m³ of earth has been moved on site, which equates to 1986 dumper loads. That's a lot of earth!!

Meet the site team

We've previously mentioned about holding 'Meet the Team' events but of course these are currently on hold until we receive further Government guidance about holding events. In the meantime, if you have queries please direct them to the team via email to: fvlrcomms@balfourbeatty.com

As we're going to be around for a couple of years, we'll introduce you to some of the team in each newsletter. First, you can meet the Balfour Beatty communications team, Tracey and Lisa. Many of you will have met them at the information events held last year alongside Plymouth City Council colleagues. Tracey and Lisa are here to act as the link between the site team, residents and businesses as well as the travelling public.

Tracey Waygood has worked for Balfour Beatty for almost two years and previously successfully managed communications on the South Devon Highway. Tracey says *"I take a passionate approach to supporting residents and businesses during the works. It can be a challenge getting the balance right to deliver the scheme alongside the guys on site, but I firmly believe being considerate to our temporary neighbours is vital"*.



Lisa Butcher has worked for Balfour Beatty for over six years and has a variety of roles from designing new water mains to working on the communications of a wide variety of projects. Lisa says *"Communication is key when working on any project, not just during construction but before we get started too. Liaising with local residents face to face helps to build up a great working relationship with those who will most likely be affected by our works and allows us to deliver the best possible outcomes for everybody involved"*.



Working with the local community

Back in early March, before social distancing was necessary, three of the Balfour Beatty team gave a presentation to St Matthews primary school about road safety. Over 400 pupils were fully engaged learning about site safety and how to stay safe whilst walking to and from school. Thank you for inviting us!



The presentation included meeting 'Ivor Goodsite'



A look ahead for the next three months

Here are some of the key things you can expect to see over the next few months;

- Continued excavation for the embankment alongside Novorossiysk Road.
- Arrival of the piling rig and a further two 'attendant' cranes.
- The supports for the piers for the new bridge will start to become visible. Once completed these piers will transfer the weight of the structure to the foundations.
- Once the culvert is finished this will be covered, or back filled, and the Bircham stream will be diverted through it.
- Carriageway widening of Forder Valley Road South between the BP service station and the current traffic light junction.
- Temporary closure of Forder Valley Road (west) in both directions for up to 17 months. The uphill side will be reopened to cars, 4-6 months earlier than originally planned.

If you haven't signed up to our mailing list already and would like to receive scheme updates, please email your name and email address to fvlrcomms@balfourbeatty.com. You can also find more information on the Plymouth City Council webpage: www.plymouth.gov.uk/fordervalley or follow Plymouth City Council on Twitter @plymouthcc