

Notification of Works - Pen-y-Pound

30th January 2024

Dear Resident,

Monmouthshire County Council will soon begin work to provide a shared route path, providing safer connections for walking and wheeling, between the 3-19 school site and the Avenue Road / Pen-y-Pound Road junction. The route will connect with the existing path on the school site, continue through the pen-y-pound stadium car park and onwards through Lower Meadows. The path will then rejoin the existing access at pen-y-pound road, avoiding roots of the old Lucombe oak tree, and providing improved widths towards the traffic lights.

This route will be of a huge benefit to the school and local community by providing a safe offroad path to improve accessibility for all by moving users away from the existing pavement and carriageway.

Contractors Thomas Pritchard have been appointed to carry out the work and will be in touch separately with additional information. It is estimated that the works will be completed by the end of March / early April 2024.

Funding for this work has been successfully applied for through the Welsh Government Safer Routes in Community's Fund (SRiC) for financial year 2023/24. As this funding relates to safe pedestrian / wheeling routes we will not be making any alterations to the existing highway as part of this scheme. We had hoped to communicate this update sooner but due to ongoing complexities with the design and associated permissions, we are now only in the position to proceed with agreements only recently reached.

The route will be permitted development by way of: The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 Article 3, Schedule 2: therefore, does not require planning permission.

As Lower Meadows is registered with Fields in Trust, we have communicated plans and received support for the proposal with the following response *'We are happy with new cycle-paths and footpaths on spaces protected with us, as well as any associated lighting. We know that particularly women feel safer using their local park where there are more people using it and a cycle path will obviously facilitate this. We utilise a very broad definition of recreation which includes walking and cycling both for leisure and for active travel.'*

Low level lighting is to be installed on the section of route in Lower Meadows by means of bollards which illuminate towards the meadows (not towards Pen-y-Pound or any of the residential properties) to light the path.

Due to the prohibitive cost of moving the Green BT boxes at the entrance to Pen-y-Pound Road these will remain in situ with the route deviating around either side. We are in continued conversations with BT around future relocation and have allowed suitable space for this to happen within the scheme design.

For some stages of the work temporary traffic lights will be in use on Pen-y-Pound to enable the contractor to carry out the works. We fully appreciate the current disruption to residents in the vicinity of the 3-19 school build and we will be working closely with existing contractors (Morgan Sindall) to mitigate any further impact.

Thank you for your cooperation during this temporary inconvenience. Should you have any queries please feel free to contact me via the details provided below.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Sullivan

P. M. Sullivan

Active Travel, Communications and Engagement Manager

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