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In the pipeline: Essential gas mains replacement booked for Luton in January 2017

New year will see new gas mains come to High Town Road, Luton

15 Dec 2016

- Ageing gas mains to be replaced with tough new pipes in High Town Road, Luton
- Work due to start in mid-January 2017 and a temporary closure of High Town Road will be needed
- Project will help ensure local community keep on enjoying safe and reliable gas supplies for cooking and heating

As winter sets in engineers are preparing to replace ageing gas mains in Luton to help ensure the local community can continue to keep warm in future winters.

Existing metal gas mains in High Town Road are approaching the end of their operational life and must be replaced to help ensure local residents can keep on enjoying safe and reliable gas supplies for cooking and heating.

Work to replace the gas mains is due to start on Monday 16 January 2017 and it is expected that the project will take around eight weeks to complete.

Wherever possible the new gas pipes will be inserted into the old gas mains to minimise digging and associated congestion. However the size and position of some of the existing gas mains mean that some open excavations will need to be dug in the road.

To enable the work to be carried out safely and efficiently High Town Road will need to be closed for the duration of the project. Local shops and businesses will remain open for business as usual.

Advanced warning and business as usual signs will be going up in the vicinity prior to work starting.

The project has been carefully planned to ensure any disruption is minimised.

Dilbir Chana National Grid Project Engineer said: "We've planned the work in close discussion with the local authorities to make sure this project is delivered with as little inconvenience to people as possible."

He added: "This essential project will deliver tough new gas pipes to help make sure that that local people continue to have a safe and reliable gas supply for cooking and heating."

For more information about this project people can call 0800 096 5678.

Information can also be found at www.bettergaspipes.co.uk

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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