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Follow-up public meetings for revised gas mains upgrade plans in Clare, Suffolk

National Grid amends gas mains renewal plans after public feedback

16 Jun 2015

Residents and businesses invited to learn more at public meetings on 23 June

National Grid is inviting residents in the Suffolk village of Clare and the surrounding area to further public information events next Tuesday (23 June), after putting forward new proposals for gas mains renewal in Cavendish Road.

After listening to concerns raised by local people about the proposed work – earmarked for this summer – the company has reviewed its proposals. National Grid managers put forward the amended plans to Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Councillor for Clare, and Councillor Alaric Pugh, St Edmundsbury Borough Council member for Clare, as well as to officers from both councils.

The company will be sharing its new proposals for the work with residents and businesses and answering questions at two events being held at Clare Town Hall, next Tuesday. During the day, from 10am to 5pm, there will be public drop-in, where people can stop by, learn more about how the work will be carried out and raise any issues with National Grid and its contractors, tRiIO. This will be followed by an evening meeting starting at 7pm and running until 8.30pm.

Andrew Stone, National Grid Operations Interface Manager, said: "We have listened very carefully to the concerns raised by residents and businesses at the public meeting on 2 June.

"We are working closely with the local authorities and elected representatives Councillor Mary Evans and Councillor Alaric Pugh to ensure we minimize the disruption to local people, while carrying out this essential work safely.

"It is vital we replace ageing gas mains so local people can continue to enjoy safe and reliable gas supplies but we will do our utmost, working with the community, to reduce the impact of this work."

The revised proposals include:

- Cavendish Road will remain open to traffic until 17 July, when term ends at Stour Valley Community School, which is located in Cavendish Road, close to the works. The first week of the gas renewal work – from 13 – 17 July - will take place under temporary traffic lights. National Grid and Suffolk County Council are liaising with those schools whose term ends the following week, with arrangements being put in place where there are school bus pick-ups within Clare.
- Aiming to complete work in Cavendish Road within four weeks, rather than the original seven weeks, working extended hours and using additional staff

- Plans in place to allow Emergency Service access into Cavendish Road while the road closure is underway
- Agreement with Stour Valley Community School has been reached for the school's turning circle to be used by public bus services during the school holidays, with a revised timetable to enable bus users to walk the closed section of road
- To prevent HGVs entering the town, electronic variable message signs will be stationed at key points in the Clare area, warning of the road closure and diversion, and there will be communication with major haulage companies known to use Cavendish Road

National Grid is upgrading nearly half a kilometre of gas mains in Cavendish Road, from Harp Lane to Church Street. Work is due to start on 13 July and will see the existing iron mains replaced by tough, hardwearing plastic pipes that will last at least 80 years.

The work is being scheduled for the school summer holidays to reduce disruption to local communities. To keep everyone safe, Cavendish Road will need to be closed for some of the works, from Saturday 18 July for four weeks.

While it is closed, the following diversion route will be in place: A1092 towards Long Melford, A134 towards Bury St Edmunds, A1302, A143 towards Haverhill, A1017, and then the A1092 towards Clare.

Access to Cavendish Road will be maintained for pedestrians and businesses in the town will remain open as usual.

Traffic management measures will also be necessary for Church Lane for three weeks during August. Appropriate traffic orders will be in place throughout the works to enable National Grid to adapt traffic management to alleviate congestion and reopen the road as quickly as possible to vehicles in a safe manner.

Businesses affected by the work may be eligible for compensation for loss of business under the Gas Regulations 1996. Businesses can also find out more by going to www.nationalgrid.com/uk/gas.

Anyone not able to attend the information events but who would like to find out more can contact National Grid customer services on 0800 096 5678.

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

National Grid has two contracted organisations carrying out gas mains replacement work on its behalf. They are: tRiIO, a partnership between Skanska and Morrison Utility Services, in North London, East Anglia and the East of England and Balfour Beatty in the West Midlands and North West.

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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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