



## WROUGHTON & WICHELSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Nick Gardiner  
Swindon Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Euclid Street  
Swindon  
SN1 2LG

Thursday 29 October 2026

### Re: Highway Works in Wroughton – Problems with Coordination, Planning and Communication

Dear Cllr Gardiner,

I am writing on behalf of Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Council to express our frustration at the disruption caused by roadworks across Wroughton over the summer months.

On 31 August, the Swindon Advertiser carried the following headline: ***“Complaints as Wroughton is taken over by ‘horrendous’ roadworks”***. This story was the result of months of immense frustration from local residents, who experienced gridlock on a daily basis, increased levels of pollution, HGVs passing through narrow streets and almost the complete abandonment of acceptable road safety standards.

We appreciate that not all highway works fall directly under the control of Swindon Borough Council. Nevertheless, as the local highway authority, SBC has an important role in coordinating works, managing their impact and ensuring that disruption to communities is kept to a minimum.

And while we recognise that roadworks are necessary, the volume of works undertaken at the same time, combined with poor communication, has resulted in an unacceptable level of disruption for our residents.

Of particular concern has been the apparent lack of effective communication with both the parish council and the wider community. We have frequently been left uncertain about when works are due to commence, how long they will last and what alternative arrangements are available. And the information received by the parish council has so often been misleading and contradictory.

With this in mind, we would welcome assurances that lessons will be learned from the difficulties experienced in Wroughton this summer. In particular, we would ask that SBC considers ways to improve the strategic coordination of highway works; have better contingency plans in place for unexpected scenarios; communicate with residents and the parish council earlier and clearer; improve your oversight and scrutiny of utilities companies.

Our concern is not simply that roadworks have taken place, but that their collective impact has seemingly been poorly managed. With more effective forward planning, coordination and

communication, we believe much of the disruption experienced this summer could have been avoided or substantially reduced.

Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Council is keen to work constructively with the Borough Council to achieve these improvements. However, we also feel strongly that the experience of this summer must not be repeated, and that residents should be able to expect a more coordinated and considered approach to the management of works on our local roads.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Haworth', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas Haworth

Deputy Clerk, Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Council