

Paper Petition Details

Road Works Sainsbury's A4 / Sussex Place

The residents of Sussex Close and Sussex Place are writing to express their dissatisfaction with the handling of the Schedule of Highways Engineering Works planned for the above junction and carried out by Careys, the contractors on site.

First of all, out of courtesy to the residents who reside in the location of Sussex Close, Sussex Place, written notification of the commencement of these road works should have been sent, forewarning residents of the noise inconvenience which took place throughout the night to the early hours of the next day. No such notification was received yet the base for storing the contractors' vehicles, equipment, materials, etc. was right on top of the junction where the estate resides.

I am a Director on the Lascelles Management Committee representing the residents of the houses along Sussex Close and the flats of Sussex Keep who have all suffered from these road works which operated on the 9th and 10th November through to 0500hrs the following day. Also on the other evenings that week, after 12 midnight, a high level of noise was experienced by the vehicles parked by Careys (the contractors) right outside Sussex Keep being moved backwards and forwards and then re-parked again which was very stressful. This noise disturbance also carried on into the following week giving residents several nights/early mornings of fitful/irregular sleep.

A petition, signed by the residents affected by the excessive noise levels, is attached for your attention as well. All residents feel that not enough consideration was given for the outcome of early hours working affecting residents' health, causing distress and influencing the capabilities of people functioning in a day job. Can you please arrange for an investigation to be carried out for the above complaint and allow compensation to be granted for the considerable inconvenience caused to the residents. Many thanks for your help in this regard.

This petition was received and passed to the Acting Head of Highways Engineering on 30th November 2010.

Final Results

Number of Signatures	12
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Council Response

I am sorry to hear that you are dissatisfied with the handling of the engineering works around the 8th and 15th November 2010. The major highway works were undertaken by Sainsbury's associated with the implementation of their planning permission for the new retail store. Sainsbury's distributed several letters to local residents in advance of, and during the highway works. The Council insisted that this was done as a pre-commencement condition. The last distribution was in advance of the night works, this letter was dated 28th October 2010. This letter included a Sainsbury public affairs contact name/number and email address for any enquiries. I note you have been sent a copy of this letter in my colleagues response to your emails dated 10th and 11th November 2010. May I apologise on behalf on Sainsbury's if you have not been distributed these letters during the works.

The Council used the opportunity of the Sainsbury's works and road closures to undertake some road resurfacing fronting the new Sainsbury's store only on the 8th and 9th November 2010. The idea was that that these additional works would tie in with the Sainsbury works, providing a new carriageway surface from the main roundabout to the junction of Lascelles Road. This will reduce the likelihood of major road resurfacing works in this area for several years.

With regard to the noise disturbance, as with the Sainsbury works, the noisier element of the works are undertaken before 11.30pm to minimise the level of disturbance to residents from 11.30pm-7.00am. Regrettably major engineering works by their nature do create a level of noise, such as the paving machine, the roller and the site/delivery vehicles reversing alarms which are a standard Health and Safety requirement to protect workmen on site. The Council only allows such night works when the works cannot be accommodated due to high traffic levels and the congestion such works would cause. This was the case on this section of the A4. You will be aware that all major works are now completed associated with the new store. I am sorry for the disturbance and inconvenience that you and your neighbours have suffered during these works; however I hope this reply provides you with the justification of why the works were carried out and why some elements regrettably had to be carried out during the night at unsociable hours.