

M6 junction 16 to 19

Smart motorway project newsletter

December 2018



Just three months to go!

We're now entering the final stages of construction of your new smart motorway on the M6 between junctions 16 (Crewe) and 19 (Knutsford).

The team has made great progress in the last few months including resurfacing lanes 1 and 2 (formerly the hard shoulder and lane 1) between junctions 18 (Holmes Chapel) and 19.

The newly-resurfaced lane 1 is coned off and closed to traffic at the moment while we complete some final work in the roadside verge.

Next stage will be to test the new smart motorway electronic signage and equipment. The narrow lanes have been removed here and standard lane widths have been reinstated.

Andy Brown, Assistant Project Manager, says: *"The testing and commissioning phases are vital as they enable us to ensure that all the newly-*

installed cabling, electronic signage, sensors and monitoring equipment are working correctly before the road fully opens to traffic.

"You will notice there will be fewer people out on the motorway during this time as the majority of the work involves testing the technology from our regional control centre. We have installed additional signage in these testing zones so our customers understand testing is underway."

We have been carrying out the carriageway resurfacing during overnight full closures and these will continue as we work our way south to junctions 18 (Holmes Chapel) to 17 (Sandbach) and then to junctions 17 to 16 into the new year.

The scheme is taking advantage of these full closures by carrying out work that usually requires additional full or partial closures. These works include installing electronic signage, remaining gantry installations, works to the existing structures, and final drainage and verge work.

Highways England helping you get home for Christmas with miles of roadworks lifted

Highways England is doing its bit to help people get home for Christmas as it prepares to lift more than 200 miles of roadworks – including the M6 junctions 16 to 19 – in time for the festive getaway.

To help journeys flow more smoothly and to keep disruption to a minimum, more than 97 per cent of motorways and strategic A roads will be roadworks-free in time for Christmas, meaning motorists and hauliers alike can get on with last-minute shopping and delivery journeys with as little disruption as possible.

Where it is safe to do so, roadworks will be lifted or suspended on England's motorways and major A-roads by 6am on Friday 21 December until 12.01am on Wednesday 2 January.

Andy Brown, Assistant Project Manager, said: *“During the shutdown there will be no planned work activity but our traffic management teams and CCTV control room will remain operational. These teams will work alongside our free recovery*



service teams to ensure that the working area is kept monitored with incidents responded to in a timely manner.”

If you contact a member of the customer team directly during this time please be aware that there may be a delay from our normal response time but your query will be answered. The project team will return to the office near junction 17 on Monday 7 January 2019.



Public information events aboard the Highways England engagement bus

When we return in January 2019 we will be holding a series of customer engagement events with the Highways England engagement bus.

This will give you a chance to learn about your new M6 J16-19 smart motorway when it opens to traffic in March 2019. It will give you the opportunity to learn about what makes the motorway smart, how it works,

the importance of the red X and it'll give you a chance to ask any questions.

Come and see us in January at **The Cobbles Square**, Sandbach town centre from 8am to 2pm on Tuesday, January 29 or, **Knutsford motorway service area (northbound)** from 8am to 2pm on Wednesday, January 30.

Junction 20 improvement works complete early

Regular M6 users heading through junction 20 may have noticed that the temporary 50mph speed limit has been lifted at that location.

Vital repair work has been completed to the Swineyard Lane bridge, one month ahead of schedule. Thank you for the patience you showed throughout this work.

Sandbach Talking Newspaper November project update



We regularly provide a project update to Sandbach Talking Newspaper, a registered charity providing over 300 members around the Cheshire borough with a recorded news service.

So anyone interested in this project who may be visually impaired or who finds it difficult to access traditional channels of communication is able to stay up to date with the work.

The updates are recorded onto a USB stick that is then posted out to all members for them to listen to on a special radio device that is provided free of charge by the charity. Once they have listened to the news they send it back freepost for it to be recorded over with fresh information.

We aim to record our final update in January 2019.



Puppy SOS

The site office in Sandbach had an unusual visitor recently when one of the traffic management team came in with a young puppy found roaming around the verge.

Its cute floppy ears and big eyes drew a lot of attention and there were plenty of people wanting to take him home. He was only a few months old and had no collar on so we spoke to the local vets to seek advice.

However, with a little detective work we were able to reunite him with his owner, who said the puppy had escaped his garden and had wandered in to the works area on the verge between junctions 16 and 17. We advised the owner to ensure their garden and fence is secure to prevent the puppy escaping again as no one wanted to see him in any danger.

Knutsford Oddfellows Society project talk

In November, we welcomed members of the Knutsford Oddfellows Society to our Sandbach site compound to hear a project talk.

The group was impressed with the scale of the operations behind the scenes of the smart motorway as well as our efforts

with our various community engagement projects.

Sharon Hulse Cottle, Society chair, said: *"We were amazed at the scale of the job and the work involved to organise it and it's fabulous to learn about all the community work you do to support the local area as well."*



If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.



Support for Christmas in the community

For the third consecutive year we have extended our support to Graham Witter's Weston Winter Wonderland.

The charity event at Mr Witter's family farm near Crewe draws crowds near and far for a festive feast of lights, Santa's grotto, music, sweets, treats, festive-themed inflatables and even a vintage ice cream van. Last year we helped the charity event reach £26,000 by supplying the farm with traffic cones for its one-way system and provided a large quantity of bog matting which transformed a field on the dairy farm into a car park, increasing visitor capacity and possible donations.

This year we have provided the same for the event that runs from December 1 to 24. All the proceeds go to the Donna Louise Children's Hospice where Graham's late sister Jessica received care.

Contact us

If you have any questions relating to the M6 junctions 16 to 19 smart motorway project, please get in touch by emailing:

M6J16-19SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk

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