

MARLINGFORD AND COLTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 14, February 2025

SPECIAL EDITION: A47 IMPROVEMENTS UPCOMING ROAD CLOSURE

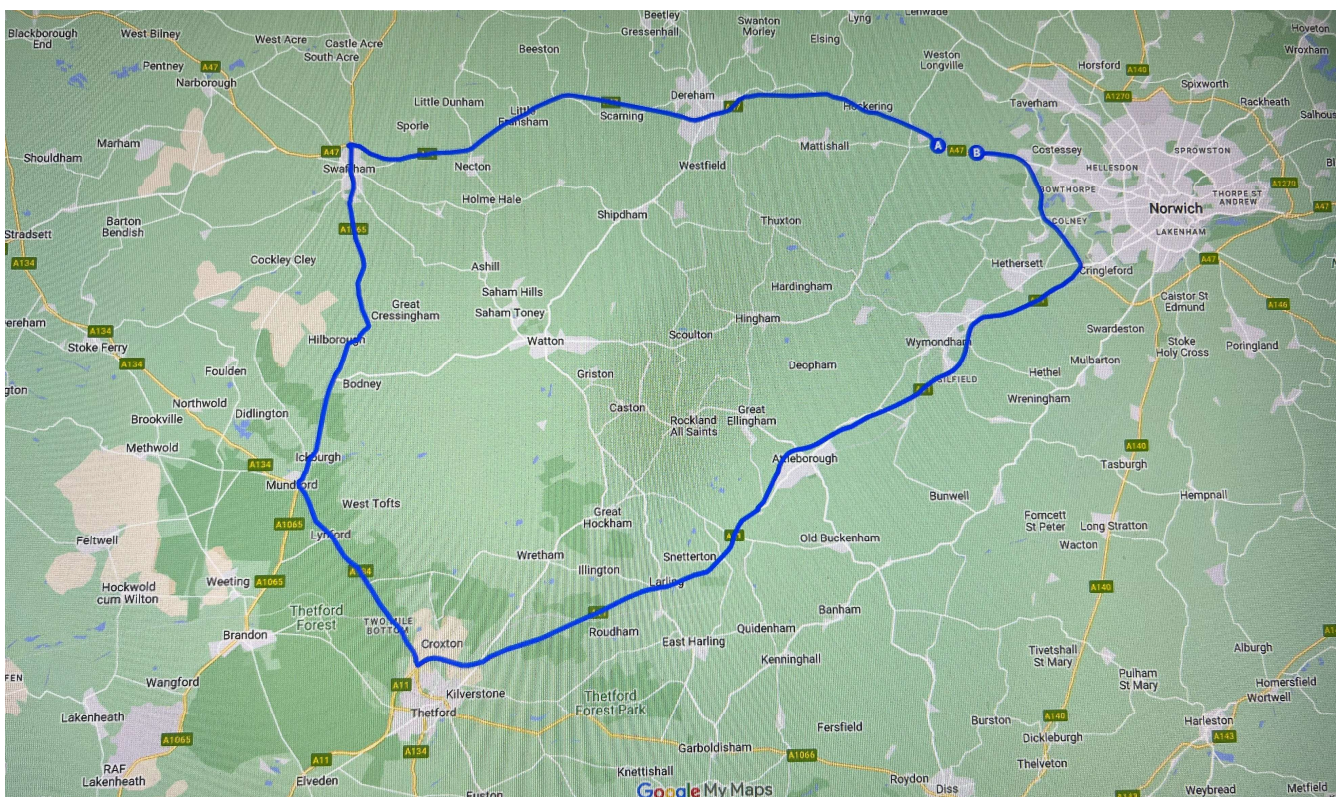
You will probably have already seen on Facebook, the Eastern Daily Press, and elsewhere that, as part of the forthcoming improvements to the A47, both carriageways will be closed between 8pm on 7th February to 6am on 10th February 2025 - a period of 58 hours.

To recap, National Highways are constructing utility diversions on the A47 between Honingham Roundabout and Easton Roundabout. To allow them to work safely, this stretch of the A47 will be fully closed in both directions and diversions will be put in place.

There will be no access from side roads onto the A47, or into Easton from the roundabout on Dereham Road, or onto Norwich Road/Mattishall Road from the Honingham Roundabout.

Residents living directly on this stretch of the A47 will be escorted through the road closure by traffic marshals. The Emergency Services will also have access where required. Note however, there will not be plans to specifically restrict the movement of traffic through Colton, as their planned diversion route (their statement) “**is not and will never be through Colton**”.

We are advised that the formal A road diversion will be as shown here. This official diversion will be signposted and published on the National Highways web site. We note however that although this may be suitable for vehicles not familiar with our area, we expect that local drivers will ignore this route and continue to use Colton as a “rat-run”, as happened most recently on 10th January.



We are particularly concerned that the bus companies who, although apparently having been made aware of the forthcoming road closure, have been approved to modify their existing route, and use Colton to bypass the construction activity. As we know, we recently had significant problems with two buses trying to pass each other on our single-track roads. Galliford Try, Project Managers on behalf of National Highways, originally stated that dealing with the bus companies was our problem. However, following our concerns

made at the Local Liaison Group meeting on 29th January, we have been advised that the matter is now being referred to the Norfolk County Council Passenger Transport Team, to liaise with the various bus companies, and come up with a more viable solution.

To mitigate against the probable traffic issues through Colton, Galliford Try advise that they will be placing three illuminated signs at either end of Colton, saying that the route is 'not a suitable diversion route'. These will be at the following locations:

- Dereham Road (Easton) approximate locations (what 3 words) /// [curbed.myth.spans](#)
- Church Lane (Easton) approximate locations (what 3 words) /// [laptop.succumbs.handwriting](#)
- Norwich Road (leading to Colton) approximate locations (what 3 words) /// [stapled.skunks.newsprint](#)

We are also aware, and have reminded Galliford Try, that the annual Norfolk Gazelles 10K run is coming through Colton and Marlingford on 9th February. We have, however, been advised that both parties are aware of each other's activities and that the construction work, and the resultant increase in traffic through Colton, will not present a safety problem to the runners.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

As you will no doubt be aware, your Parish Council is continuing to lobby National Highways and others to devise a better plan to ensure NO non-residential traffic comes through the village. Additionally, we will continue to monitor traffic volumes using our SAM2 cameras. However, to assist us, we ask you to please:

- Take notes and send to us, photographs and videos of all traffic problems as they occur. We would appreciate registration numbers and operator names for all commercial vehicles using Norwich Road.
- The parish council will continue to engage with National Highways and Norfolk County Council on the village's behalf. We would also invite you to raise your concerns individually with National Highways and other pertinent individuals. Here are some contact details:

Nick Harris (CEO) nick.harris@nationalhighways.co.uk, Telephone 0300 123 5000

Matt Stafford Regional Director (East) Major Projects matt.stafford@highwaysengland.co.uk

Ben Goldsborough, Member of Parliament, ben.goldsborough.mp@parliament.uk
Telephone 01603 570332

Norfolk County Council Leader: kay.masonbillig.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk Telephone 07545 905410

South Norfolk District Council Leader: Daniel Elmer, daniel.elmer@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk
Telephone 07575 578972

Broadland District Council Leader: Susan Holland, cllr.susan.holland@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk
Telephone 07488 323702

Emergency Services

Police: Paul Sanford (Chief Constable) paul.sanford@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Fire: Ceri Sumner (CFO), Telephone 01603 810351 Ceri.Sumner@norfolk.gov.uk

Ambulance: Neill Moloney: neill.moloney@eastamb.nhs.uk Telephone 0333 012 4216

GallifordTry Jim Freeman: Stakeholder Manager, A47
Jim.Freeman@gallifordtry.co.uk Telephone 07706 317924

And not forgetting:

All Media and other local Parish Councils
BBC Norfolk (radio & TV), Anglia TV, EDP, EEN

We would appreciate your comments on any of the issues raised in this Newsletter. Please contact any of the Parish Council, whose details will be found on the Notice Boards in both villages, or our Clerk, Maria Hutson on 01603 850118, via our website: www.marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk or by E-Mail to marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com