

UK POWER NETWORKS

SUBSTANTIAL WORKS PLANNED FOR STEYNING & BRAMBER AREAS

The Parish Council has had a meeting with Tim Lawrence, representing UK Power Networks to consider the works which they are going to commence on Monday 18th March. Underneath Steyning and the Maudlin area of Bramber runs a substantial power cable, which continues on its way across the South Downs to Worthing. This is in desperate need of upgrading. It was put in in the 1960's and the power supply company cannot get new parts for it now.

Luckily, the pipe sheath in which the cable runs, does not need to be replaced, so this in turn means that they do not need to dig up lengths of road, but what they do need to do is make holes at various points (called "joint bays"), of quite some diameter, where they have to work on the joints in the cable and insert the new cable down lengths of the covering tube.

The first of these joint bays will be in the middle of the A283 opposite Cannons Way, which will not need to be closed, but will have traffic controls in place. There are two joints/holes to be dug in Goring Road (one at each end), but it is of sufficient width that they do not foresee difficulties here, and then there needs to be a complete closure of the road that leads down to Annington opposite "Kings Mead Lodge" and this is going to cause considerable disruption. The road closure will mean that cars travelling south from Steyning will have to use Clays Hill, and if they wish to go into the Annington Road, will have to turn off at the roundabout and come up Maudlin Lane, and vice versa.

We have pointed out to the power company that there must be a traffic control in place in Maudlin Lane, because it is exceptionally narrow and it will only take one lorry to block it, causing massive disruption. They are looking at that further.

The final joint/hole is opposite Annington Nurseries, where the power supply line then goes off into the Downland and out of our area.

Unfortunately, these holes are likely to be in place for six weeks at a time, but they only envisage doing three at a time (a minor blessing).

We have impressed upon them to keep disruption to residents and traffic to a minimum. We are obtaining a list of contact telephone numbers for the engineers, who will be working on this, so we always have a point of contact to pass on to local residents, if need be.

The Parish Council were only alerted to this very recently and have acted very swiftly to call in a representative to go through the detail and express our concerns.

David Barling
Chairman Steyning Parish Council