



TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE: Roadworks are set to continue at the junction of Selhurst Road and Oliver Grove in South Norwood while Victorian water mains are replaced
Photo no: CRCDC201201198

Roadworks misery set to continue for months

Blow for High Street traders

By Ross Lidbetter

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SOUTH Norwood is facing more troubling misery, with roadworks set to continue for at least four months.

Traffic tailbacks and temporary traffic lights have become a familiar sight in the area.

Victorian water mains are being replaced in South Norwood High Street, between Station Road and Goat House Bridge, with work due to be completed by May 31.

Thames Water will then move onto Lancaster Road in South Norwood.

And gasworks at the junction of Davidson Road and Tennison Road are scheduled to finish "in the summer".

Concerns

Traders along the High Street – which is currently one-way – have expressed their concerns.

Mumtaz Hassan, 36, owner of Kings Dry Cleaners, said: "It's the planning of doing so many roadworks at the same time.

"There doesn't appear any thinking behind it and it brings the whole area to a standstill."

Reggie Fianko, 34, manager of coffee shop Number 10, said: "I was speaking to the boss and he said people are avoiding the (South) Norwood area.

"News of all the upheaval spreads far."

Richard Hough, who runs car repair garage Autoclutch, near Norwood Junction Station, says the area

has been left gridlocked at times since the works started.

He said: "The guys are working as fast as they can and they're very professional – they're not rude or arrogant. But the road should be worked on 24 hours a day – this can be done in the hours of darkness as well. At the end of the day it's a high street."

Thames Water said the £3.6 million replacement of more than four miles of worn-out Victorian water mains in Croydon started in March last year.

Referring to South Norwood High Street, Becky Johnson, spokeswoman for Thames Water, explained: "We notified residents, shopkeepers and road users prior to starting this work.

"We are working seven days a week in order to minimise the duration of these works.

"Replacing old and leaking mains is essential as our water resources come under increasing pressure from climate change and population growth.

"Ideally we wouldn't have to do this work at all but the fact is Croydon's water pipes are old and leaky and need replacing."

The company apologised for the "inevitable disruption".

Referring to the works at Tennison Road and Davidson Road, Laura Varney, spokeswoman for Southern Gas Networks, said the company had been working in close consultation with the council on the planning of the works.

She added: "We would ask that the public has patience while we carry out this vital work."

Mains replacement 'essential'

CROYDON Council has defended both sets of roadworks taking place in South Norwood at the same time.

A spokesman for the council said: "These two sets of works are relating to replacement of the Victorian water mains and a gas main, both of which are essential for maintaining the infrastructure, and reducing the risk of either water or gas escape.

"The works have been co-ordin-

ated with the council and neither of the diversions overlap.

"While these works are undertaken, the works at the other end of Davidson Road and Lower Addiscombe Road will be suspended."

Meanwhile, from Monday, the junction of Davidson Road and Tennison Road will be closed for ten days. Diversions will be put in place during that period.

Abseilers needed to raise community charity cash

THRILL-SEEKERS are being urged to take a leap of faith while at the same time raising money for charity.

Corporate charity Croydon Commitment is behind the venture to abseil 85 feet down Mott MacDonald's Voyager House office building in Wellesley Road.

The Jump Croydon event will take place on February 24 and the aim is to raise £200,000, which will be shared among various charitable projects in the borough through the charity's Grass Roots Trust.

Croydon Commitment is now looking for individuals prepared to take part. Places are limited and participants must be aged 16 or above and commit to raising a minimum £200 in donations.

A non-refundable £15 registration fee is required at the time of booking

Ian Robinson, chief executive of Croydon Commitment, said: "The abseil will be a thrilling way to enjoy a unique and spectacular view of central Croydon, while raising essential funds for charitable projects. We hope businesses and individuals will sign up to take part in what promises to be a memorable day"

A team from Catherine Johnstone Recruitment, based in Park Street, Croydon, has already signed up for the challenge and is encouraging other companies to get involved.

■ To register call 020 8774 3680 or e-mail croydoncommitment@mottmac.com

IN BRIEF

Alima on goal for England

SHIRLEY: Sporting star Alima Priest has been selected to represent the England U17 Netball team in international competition.

The youngster attends Coloma Convent Girls' School in Upper Shirley Road.

She will now join the rest of the international athletes at regular national training centre in Sheffield and if successful at the training centre will get the opportunity to represent her country at the forthcoming Netball European Championships.

The U17 European Netball Championships will be held in Glasgow in March.

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