

Dear Essex Highways and Westcombe Park Project Team,

I am writing on behalf of Langford and Ulting Parish Council to formally express our serious concerns regarding the proposed closure of the B1019 in Maldon, scheduled to take place over a six-week period during the summer to facilitate road connection works associated with new development infrastructure.

Despite the significant disruption this closure is likely to cause to our parish and its residents, we have not been involved in any discussions or consultations concerning this matter. This is particularly troubling given that the parish of Langford and Ulting stands to be one of the worst affected areas.

Efforts to obtain further information from the developer regarding the necessity of this closure have been met with evasive responses. More concerning still, a District Councillor has, on two occasions, prevented open questioning on the matter—once at a Parish Council Forum where other Parish Councillors also raised concerns about the need for the closure.

We would ask whether a comprehensive risk assessment has been undertaken, particularly in relation to emergency service access to and from Maldon. The closure risks cutting off essential routes, which could have serious implications for response times in emergencies.

Residents who regularly travel to Maldon for work, shopping or other commitments will be forced to use alternative routes through narrow rural lanes, many of which are unsuitable for high volumes of traffic and single-lane only in parts. One such route, Hoe Mill Lock, is already subject to a width restriction and has a known history of obstructing emergency vehicles.

Moreover, we have recently become aware that Maypole Road—one of the main diversionary routes—may also be closed at the same time. This would exacerbate the disruption and raise further questions about the adequacy of the proposed traffic management plan.

We are concerned that Essex Highways may not have received the full picture regarding the justification for this closure. It appears this may be driven primarily by the developer's desire to meet their Section 106 obligations as quickly and cheaply as possible, without due regard for the impact on the local community.

We would therefore respectfully request access to the following documentation to better understand the planning and risk mitigation measures in place:

- The full traffic management and diversion plans,
- Any emergency services access and response strategy developed for the duration of the closure,
- The risk assessment documentation for the closure.

In addition, we would like to highlight the broader potential impact this closure may have on our community, including disruption to local businesses, challenges for vulnerable residents accessing essential services, and environmental concerns associated with increased traffic on unsuitable rural roads.

We believe a joint meeting involving Essex Highways and representatives from the affected parish councils would be a constructive step forward. This would provide an opportunity for local stakeholders to have their voices heard and for Essex Highways to present its rationale and proposed safeguards in full.

In conclusion, we urge Essex Highways to reconsider this closure and ensure that it is truly essential. Should the closure proceed, the County Council must be prepared to take full responsibility for any incidents or harm caused to residents or their property as a result.

We look forward to your response and welcome the opportunity for further discussion.

Kind regards,

Theresa Trotzer Wilson

Parish Clerk