

WHITTLESEY TRAFFIC UPDATE No. 8: 8am THURSDAY 31st OCTOBER

B1040

There have been some reports on social media that no work has been started on the B1040 south of the Dog-in-a-Doublet following the road closure there on Monday morning. Those rumours are not correct.

Initially, the carriageway surface was removed following the set-up of the site and diversion routes. On Tuesday and Wednesday, we saw preparation works including the transportation and cutting of the sheet piles, ecological works and digging of trial holes for public utilities. Today the piling rig is scheduled to be delivered to the site to start installation of the sheet piles.

This sheet piling isn't just a repair of the flood damage to the banking on that section of the B1040, it's an improvement which will significantly reduce the risk of similar flood damage for that section of the B1040 when we have future flooding of the Whittlesey Washes, a functional flood plain deliberately designed to hold flood waters when necessary.

We are all justified in being exasperated that it's taken 8 months to start this work - and it's totally correct when some residents complain that there's have been nothing like an 8 month wait if this problem had been in Cambridge rather than in Fenland. I'll give more information later about how the geographical priority for road repairs has been deliberately been skewed towards the south of the County in the last three years. But just for now I'm more concerned in getting the B1040 re-opened without temporary traffic lights as soon as possible, and getting the traffic light timing further tweaked in favour of rush hour traffic on the King's Dyke bridge.

Cllr Chris Boden. 8am 31st October 2024