

SCRUTINY SCOPING FORM

Suggestion From	Cllr Caroline Topping
Title of the Review	Suffolk County Highways
1. Purpose of the Review	To look at the process of how permits are issued to close roads, carry out repairs to roads
2. What are the main issues and concerns to be considered?	<p>We have had a perfect example in Beccles recently where the main artery into the town was closed for four weeks (the whole of November), then a 9 day closure was added to that on the very next road (also part of the main artery into town). Whilst at the same time the town had been closed down for the evening for the Christmas light switch on. Why was the main road into town closed so close to Christmas and why did one closure then morph into a second closure which meant the artery was closed for 6 weeks when no visible roadworks have even been carried out on the second road to date and we are now four days into that closure. Another closure in Smallgate was then due to start when the above had been reopened.</p>
3. What are the desired outcomes of this review?	<p>Priority should be given to issues which have the potential to lead to real improvements, and do not duplicate existing work. It does not appear that a holistic look at the whole town and time of year was taken into account. It is not ideal that the town has been largely cut off from traffic in the run up to Christmas and even less ideal that the road (Station Road) that could have been opened and under traffic light control was not opened, especially since four days into the closure no works have been carried out and there is just a barrier across the road and a convenient parking space for the workmen to park. This road could have been opened under traffic light control until it was necessary to close it.</p>
4. What issues should be disregarded as not relevant to this review?	
5. Who is responsible for providing this service, or tackling the issue in question?	<p>Suffolk Highways, the person who issues permits on behalf of SCC.</p> <p>Have you spoken to them, and if so, what was the response?</p> <p>No I have not personally spoken to them, but know of another councillor who has. Suffolk Highways said they would not open the road because it would cause confusion to the public as they knew George Westwood Way was closed, if they opened it after the work finished, but closed Station Road the following day the public would be confused, but George Westwood Way was opened the following day and it and Gosford Road are under traffic light control. Just needed another portable traffic light in place for Station Road, until the actual road needs to be closed for digging up. Rather than totally closing it. I know this is a specific issue to Beccles, but the procedure for closing roads across the district needs looking at.</p>

6. What is the Cabinet Member's view on this issue? Not sure we have a cabinet member for SCC Highways issues			
7. Estimated Committee, officer and resource implications (for example review group, one-off report, dedicated meeting) One off dedicated meeting.			
8. Suggested witnesses, documentation and consultation			
9. Timescale (including estimated start and finish date)			
10. Will this review contribute to one or more of the Critical Success Factors outlined in the East Suffolk Business Plan? If so, which (please tick) (Further guidance on these Critical Success Factors can be found overleaf)			
Economic Development & Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Customers	
Leisure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planning		Community Health	
Housing		Green Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Benefits		Resources	

Would you like to be involved in the review?			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
Date of request: 4/12/18		Signed Caroline Topping	