

Water and Road Project - FAQs

To assist the Skeens Park Activity Centre site team and users of the site to understand the current position in relation to the road and water project, a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) has been put together. This information should also assist in answering questions from customers.

Q: Why wasn't construction of the new road completed by the end of April, as planned ?

A: Construction of the road was scheduled to have been undertaken during March and April 2009, whilst the site was closed. Initially, work was started on building the road through the copse (on land owned by Essex Scouts), pending completion of the legal documentation in relation to the proposed land purchase for the second phase, as well as building the foundations for the proposed Warden's Bungalow, to protect the expiring planning permission. During March, legal proceedings were instigated, which prevented the land sale from proceeding, with the result that it has not been possible to proceed with the second phase of construction (i.e. building the new road across the field) – these proceedings were unforeseen and outside of the control of Essex Scouts.

Q: Have the water problems been sorted out ?

A: As part of the construction, it was planned to lay a new 125mm water main into the site, with it running adjacent to the new road. As a result of the delay in commencing the second phase of work, the new main has not yet been installed. However, steps are being taken, in conjunction with the surrounding landowners, for a temporary supply pipe to be run up the existing track, with it to be connected to the new 125mm main, which has already been run through the copse and down to the toilet block. It is anticipated that this temporary supply pipe will address the water issues for the 2009 camping season, and is expected to be in situ during May 2009.

Q: Why did we start work if there were legal problems ?

A: The legal proceedings were issued after the first phase of work commenced, and we had no prior knowledge that such a course of action was going to be taken before work commenced.

Q: When will the road and water construction be completed ?

A: In view of the legal proceedings underway we are, unfortunately, governed by the speed of the courts in hearing this matter and bringing it to a conclusion. Essex Scouts are working closely with both their own and the landowner's legal advisors, with a view to concluding matters as soon as possible, although it is expected to be several months before matters will be resolved. It is anticipated that the second phase of work will commence as soon as the outcome of the court proceedings is known.

Q: Am I able to access the site with my vehicle ?

A: Yes. The original track remains in place, and the top surface has been scraped to remove the worst of the bumps and holes, to try and make the surface as smooth as possible, and the site accessible by all vehicles using the site. The condition of the surface will be continuously monitored throughout the camping season to ensure that it does not deteriorate, and will be re-scraped again if necessary.

Q: Will the site have to close again to enable the building work to complete?

A: No. An essential objective in completing the first phase of work was to ensure, in the event that the legal issues were not resolved in time that we would not need to close the site again to enable the second phase of work to be undertaken.

Q: Is there enough money available to complete the project ?

A: Sufficient funds have been set aside to enable the second phase of work to be undertaken, as soon as possible, and subject to there being no further delays.

In the event that you have any further questions in relation to the road and water project, please email the County Chairman at chairman@essexscouts.org.uk