



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 19 April 2006

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Tait

To: The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Transport

“Could the Portfolio Holder advise me of the up to date position with regard to the replacement of gas pipes in the Centre of Winchester and when the work is likely to be concluded.

Does the Portfolio Holder share my concern that the work is having an adverse impact of the commercial health of the City and is he surprised that at times there seem to be only a few contactors actually working?”

Reply

“The City Council has been aware of the potential impact of the gas main works from the outset and we have done everything within our control to minimise the delay and disruption to residents, businesses and visitors to the City. Procedures are in place for businesses to seek compensation direct with the utility company carrying out the works and details have been sent to all concerned during the comprehensive consultation and information distributed leading up to, and continuing during, the works. I would not agree with the observation that there have been limited resources on site; there have normally been at least two gangs on site - working 7 days a week. It is not possible to overload the site with men and machines due to the restricted access and complicated nature of the works. The project is ahead of schedule despite several delays due to unforeseen obstructions and archaeology, and the works are expected to be completed by early June.”