

A483/A489

# Newtown Bypass

Project Bulletin 5: December 2017

# GRIFFITHS

civil engineering and construction

## Update from Project Manager, Nick Cleary



We continue to make good progress on the project and have now reached the milestone of ½ million hours worked without a reportable accident. This is an excellent achievement by everyone involved. We have now completed two of the seven bridges and two of the four underpasses along the route. Upper Dolfor Road has now been diverted over the new bridge to allow us to excavate the rock from the cutting beneath it.

We have also opened one of the five new roundabouts on Pool Road at the eastern tie-in and temporarily diverted traffic to the north of the old road. This has allowed us to start the construction of the Pool Road Bridge which will eventually take the Bypass over the re-aligned Pool Road.

The remaining bridges are taking shape with some real visible progress being made. The beams for the Wern Ddu Lane Bridge were lifted straight into position. For the Dolfor and Mochdre Bridges, the beams were delivered in smaller sections to be assembled on site and have additional formwork and safety barriers fitted before being lifted into position.

At Dolfor Bridge, the beams were erected in three sections making a total length of 84m, a total of nine separate lifting operations were required to get all the beams in to their final position, 20m above the Dolfor Valley. At Mochdre Bridge we assembled the beams close to the bridge so they could be lifted in one clear span of 45m from the west of the bridge, this meant we were able to keep road closures and disruption to a minimum. The beam lifts for both bridges were major operations and required some of the largest cranes available in the country to carry out the work.

In the early part of next year, we will have completed most of the bridges to allow us to progress the earthworks and road works along the whole route of the Bypass. I'll provide a further update in the New Year.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the project team.



Pictures of crane lifting operations at Mochdre Bridge

## Current Road Closures Traffic Management

- **Middle Dolfor Road** remains closed as we continue with the construction of the new bridge. The road will open temporarily over the Christmas period.
- **Hollies Lane** is closed to traffic from Monday 13th November 2017 until March/April 2018. Pedestrian access remains.
- **Intermittent Temporary Traffic Management** remains in place at Lower Dolfor Roundabout, Pool Road Roundabout and near Black Hall Farm on the A489 towards Kerry.



## Christmas Shutdown

Our site will be closed for the Christmas period from Friday, 22nd December 2017 and will reopen on Wednesday, 3rd January 2018.

Site Security will be in place over the Christmas shutdown period.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



## Ask the Team

We have received numerous questions from residents and businesses and thought it would be good to put together the three most frequently asked questions for you.

### Q) When will the bypass be completed and how can you ensure that you meet your target date?

A) We are currently targeting the road opening in the winter 2018/2019. This is ahead of our original contract programme which was completion by Spring 2019. We will achieve this through various means, such as collaboration with our client, suppliers and third parties to ensure we manage risks and deliver to deadlines. Also, using technology such as 3D modelling and satellite controlled plant and equipment to ensure we are as efficient as possible and construct the project right first time.

### Q) How many local people work in the bypass?

A) There are currently 250 people working directly on the bypass, 72% of which live in Wales of which 30% are local to the Newtown area. All staff are contributing to the local economy through renting local accommodation, spending in local shops and restaurants. Our aim is to continue employing local staff where and when we can, some may be able to travel with us to other projects. For those that will not be able to continue working with us after the Bypass has been completed it is hoped the training and upskilling they receive through our Project Skills Academy will help them secure and sustain employment elsewhere.

### Q) Will we have to import soil?

A) No. we are moving about 2.5 million tonnes of soil and rock which is enough to fill the Principality Stadium in Cardiff. The surplus soil will be used for landscaping along the route of the bypass. We are importing 350,000 tonnes of quarried stone for the road, which equates to over 20,000 lorry loads. Over 80,000 tonnes (5,000 lorry loads) of tarmac will be laid and over 20km of drainage pipes will be installed. Over 3,000 tonnes of steel will be used in the bridge beams and reinforcement for the bridges which is about half of the weight of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. 15,000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete is required for the bridges and underpasses, which equates to over 2,000 concrete trucks.

## Not Just for Boys

Meet our new Apprentice Engineer Georgia, who joined us in September. From a very young age Georgia knew she would never be happy working indoors. She had not given any thought to a career in Civil Engineering.

It was a chance meeting with a female family friend who works as a Civil Engineer which prompted Georgia to write to enquire about



Apprentice Engineer vacancies with Griffiths. The rest as they say is history.

Georgia enjoys earning while she is learning. She is studying for a BTEC in Civil Engineering at NPTC College in Newtown one day a week and spends the remainder of the week on site.

Not seen historically as a career for women, Georgia is part of a growing army helping to remove the misconception that Civil Engineering and the Construction Industry is just for boys. For further information visit [www.constructionyouth.org.uk/notjustforboys](http://www.constructionyouth.org.uk/notjustforboys)

## NPTC Students Visit

NPTC Students have been visiting site as part of a six-week schools link programme.

The aim of this is to introduce students to careers within the Civil Engineering and Construction Industry.

As well as finding out about the roles of a Civil Engineer, Health and Safety Officer, Quantity Surveyor and Ecologist, they experienced life as a Plant Operator using a simulator. The students performed many tasks including digging a trench ready for pipe laying and navigating a JCB around an obstacle course.



## Donation of Lego to Library

We recently joined forces with Caersws WI to purchase new Lego for Newtown Library.

Our safety mascot Sally Safesteps visited during Storytime to present the new Lego to Reader Development Librarian Trish Thomas.

Newtown Library hold Lego Club every 2nd Tuesday of each Month between 3.45 and 4.45pm and Story-time is every Monday between 2:00pm and 2:30pm (term time only).



We would love to hear your comments, please get in touch with our Community Liaison Officer, Gail Jones [gail.jones@alungriffiths.co.uk](mailto:gail.jones@alungriffiths.co.uk) or call 0330 041 2182

*Calls to this number are charged at national call rates and included in inclusive minute plans from landlines and mobiles*