Saunderton: our update on communications and next steps, 30 October 2026

On 24 October we set out our next steps on sound. This update covers how we plan to keep you informed, what happens next on the expanded surveys and modelling, and the dates to note.

How we will communicate

The Community Hub is the main place for project information, updates and answers to common questions. Email community@virtusdcs.com with questions, concerns and ideas. We will acknowledge emails within three working days. Some questions need more detailed checking, and we will tell you when that's the case. We will keep posting updates on Facebook, but we cannot manage all discussions there, so please do email us instead.

We are also setting up a purpose-built community email newsletter, with the first issue planned before the end of November. Sign-up will be on the Community Hub, and we will inform recipients of the newsletter launch. We will update residents through the parish Contact magazine for significant developments.

Road conditions on Haw Lane

On 23 October a large chalk spill happened on the corner of Haw Lane. It was reported to us, and our on-site team responded. Road sweepers were deployed straight away, and two sweepers cleared the spill. The spill came from a subcontractor's vehicle. We have not been able to identify the vehicle, but it is suspected that it had a temporary malfunction while stopping and pulling away at the Haw Lane and A4010 junction, which the driver may not have noticed. The subcontractor is carrying out maintenance checks on that vehicle and other fleet vehicles to reduce the chance of this happening again.

We are reinforcing with the supply chain the importance of regular vehicle inspections and maintenance, and of making sure vehicles attending site are in good working order. Site operatives and muckaway contractors are being reminded not to overload vehicles by volume or weight. This matters more after recent wet weather, which adds weight to excavated material. Drivers must also carry out pre-departure checks of tailgates, seals and locking mechanisms, so that loads are secure before they leave.

We appreciate that chalk on the road has been a long-standing issue on Haw Lane, and we know it is a real concern for residents. Wheel washing is happening on site, and loads are checked to be secure before vehicles leave. A permanent road cleaner goes up and down

Haw Lane, and our team are now walking the lane regularly to check that the required standards are being met. We appreciate that as the weather gets wetter, this can exacerbate any issues. We are conducting a further review into road conditions to consider any improvements we can make to site practices which may make a positive impact. Two additional measures are being put in place imminently. We are installing track mats for vehicles on site, including at the entrance to further reduce chalk and mud spilling onto the main road. In addition to this, we are procuring a stone supply to supplement the roadways on site which is intended to further reduce the risk of mud and debris carried onto Haw Lane.

We are continuing to offer car wash vouchers. We have been working to establish a fixed location in the community to collect vouchers from and we are pleased to share that vouchers will now be available to collect from The Boot pub in Bledlow Ridge, from Monday afternoon onwards. Please ask at the bar for a voucher and the team will be happy to provide one.

Come and talk to us: drop-in at The Golden Cross, Tuesday 10 November

Thank you to everyone who came to the community event on 14 October. Many of you told us you wanted clearer ways to reach us and more regular conversations, and this is one of them. The drop-in on 10 November is the first of a series of smaller, surgery-style sessions, with several members of our team there to listen. We'll share dates for future surgery-style sessions in the coming weeks.

Come along to **The Golden Cross in Saunderton on Tuesday 10 November between 4pm and 8pm** to share your concerns, questions or ideas on how we can work with the local community. We welcome drop-ins, but it would help us speak to as many people as possible if you could email community@virtusdcs.com beforehand to book a slot.

Several people from the community requested smaller, more informal sessions where they could air their more specific concerns, and we hope this format will help create that environment. Please note that we won't have as many members of the VIRTUS team there on the day, so we may not be able to answer all highly technical questions. However, if these do arise, rest assured that we will take them away and provide answers as soon as possible.

We know sound is a big concern, and we're grateful for the survey and modelling work residents have asked for. We can't share more detail on that yet. We'll be able to say more once the independent expert has been appointed, which is after 11 November. **There will not be a sound consultant at this surgery.**

We welcome feedback on this approach. Let us know what would help you most.

Expanded surveys and modelling

Our acoustic consultants have been instructed to expand the surveys and modelling. The locations requested so far are Bledlow Ridge, Loosley Row, Saunderton, Saunderton Lee, Lacey Green, Bradenham and Longwick, and these are listed on the Hub. If you would like another location included, please email community@virtusdcs.com by an extended deadline of 6 November.

Once the locations are in, the consultants will finalise the scope and methodology, and we will publish these on the Community Hub. The surveys will not start until the scope has been agreed. The scope will address the questions residents have raised, including background sound, local topography, weather conditions and low-frequency sound.

Results will also be published on the Community Hub once the work is complete. We will be able to share dates for this once the scope is agreed.

We would also like to reiterate our invite to the community to nominate an independent third party to work with our consultants. **Please send your nomination to community@virtusdcs.com by 11 November.**

Section 73 application

On 24 October we submitted an amendment to application PL/25/6761/VRC to remove the sound element. The rest of the application is unchanged, and the existing sound conditions remain in place while the surveys are carried out. You can read the full update from 24 October on the Community Hub.

Dates to note

6 November: deadline for extra locations
10 November: drop-in at The Golden Cross, 4pm to 8pm
11 November: deadline for nominating an independent third-party acoustic consultant
Before the end of November: community newsletter, with sign-up on the Community Hub
Coming weeks: dates for future surgery-style sessions

Thank you for working with us. Please do get in touch with any questions or comments to community@virtusdcs.com.

The VIRTUS Community Team