

Temporary lights still standing – a whole year later!

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RESIDENTS in Dundry are so fed up that 'temporary' traffic lights have been on the road in the village for a year – they have made them their own anniversary card.

The lights were put up on Broadoak Hill in December 2013 after it was noticed that the roads were subsiding.

Investigations revealed that a water main under the road – a busy commuter route from Dundry into South Bristol – had burst, causing the water to seep underneath and cause damage to the carriageway and supporting bank.

The area was fenced off and the lights put in to control traffic while the work took place.

Once Bristol Water dug up the road it was revealed that further repairs

were needed to upgrade the pipes.

The start of the repair work was delayed due to the fact that structural surveys of the road and the retaining bank had to be carried out.

The work to repair the pipes was completed in April and the work to restore the road handed over to North Somerset Council.

But no repairs to the road have yet been carried out because authority leaders say the cost – estimated at £200,000 – should be covered by Bristol Water.

Negotiations between the council and the water firm have been continuing. The delay in the repairs has angered local residents, many who use Broadoak Hill to commute into Bristol and are sat in tailbacks during rush hour times of day.

Many have raised concerns with Dundry Parish Council and local councillor Hugh Gregor.

And villagers, so incensed by the length of time the lights have been in place, have now attached their own version of an anniversary card to the



● Temporary traffic lights on Broadoak Hill at the end of Queens Drive on the way to Dundry

safety fencing put up on the damaged road.

The sign reads: "Happy (?) 1st anniversary to these traffic lights – how much longer?"

A Bristol Water spokesman said: "There has been some frustration about the length of the work. It made sense for us to upgrade the pipe at the same time as the repair work was carried out. We have now completed our work and responsibility has now

been handed over to North Somerset Council."

Local councillor Hugh Gregor admitted the length of time taken to complete the work had been unacceptable.

Mr Gregor said: "Broadoak Hill is a well used commuter route in and out of Bristol for people living in Dundry. "It has been an extensive job to repair the damage and I agree that the delays have been wholly unaccept-

able." North Somerset Council executive member for highways Elfan Ap Rees said: "The cost of repairing the road, we feel, is the responsibility of Bristol Water and not the North Somerset taxpayer. The evidence we have is it was the break in the water main which caused the road to subside.

"We may well get to the point where we carry out the work and reclaim the money from Bristol Water."