

October, 2021

£10million Power Boost for Kettering

A major initiative to boost power supplies and support the development of new homes and businesses in east Kettering has started.

Western Power Distribution (WPD), the electricity distributor for the region, is committed to investing in its network to further improve supply reliability and customer service levels.

The first phase of this new initiative involves the installation of 6.5km of new underground cables between an existing substation at Rothwell Road in Kettering and a proposed new substation at Hanwood Park.

This work will help to further safeguard supply reliability to more than 20,000 customers in the area while also supplying power to the new Hanwood Park development. It is expected to complete next spring. During this time, traffic management will be in place to enable WPD's contractors O'Connor Utilities Ltd to install the cables.

"This work ensures that we can provide a high level of service to these areas in the long term by improving the infrastructure and security of our electricity network, said James Bradley, WPD's Team Manager for the area.

"Our aim is to keep any disruption to an absolute minimum. We are currently working with West Northamptonshire Council, other utility companies and local businesses and residents to schedule our works to minimise the inconvenience in the area. We are investigating various ways of achieving this including collaborative working and off peak working to include evenings, night time and weekends.

"To avoid repeated disruption to the area, WPD has collaborated with West Northamptonshire Council and arranged for both companies to carry out works at the junction of Barton Road and Windmill Avenue at the same time. In addition, collaboration has taken place with Anglian Water to coordinate works at the same time at the Northampton Road, Sheep Street, Bowling Green Road intersection.

"We will also be keeping customers and business along the route informed by letter and by visits from WPD representatives," added James.

The project forms part of WPD's commitment to provide a consistently high level of service to customers. Over £7billion is being invested by the company on its electricity network between 2015 and 2023.

Local residents are invited to contact O'Connor Utilities Site Manager Peter Dicesare if they have any queries on 07880 102237 or via the 24-hour emergency helpline on 0845 330 8615.

Ends

Note for newsdesks:

- Western Power Distribution (WPD) is the distribution network operator for the Midlands, South West England and South Wales.
- It is responsible for delivering electricity to eight million customers in the UK and committed to investing around £1 billion on its network annually.
- WPD is not an electricity supply company and does not bill customers in the UK. Its responsibility is to distribute electricity to homes and businesses.
- The distribution element makes up around 17% of an average customer's annual bill which is around £100 or 27p a day.
- In a power cut, call 105 for free 24 hours a day.

For further information please contact WPD's press office on 01332 827172.