

How to Choose a Highway Contractor



If employing a contractor to undertake highway activities on behalf of the Parish/Town Council it is important to consider their competence and level of insurance cover.

Insurance

Contractors working on the highway undertaking minor work activities must have £5 million public liability insurance cover.

NRSWA Accreditation

If undertaking works that involve excavations or reinstatements anywhere within the highway boundary (including carriageway, footway and verge areas) the contractor must have staff fully accredited under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA). This is to ensure that the contractor has the necessary knowledge to ensure the safety of all road users; is competent to check the location of any buried services; and will operate safely knowing the likelihood of encountering services that may not be recorded. It is also to ensure that any reinstatements within the highway are of an appropriate quality.

If undertaking any activities that affect the flow of traffic during the works and involve the installation of traffic management, such as cones/barriers/temporary traffic signals, the contractor must also have staff fully accredited under NRSWA. This is to ensure roadworks are undertaken safely and that the necessary checks have been made to minimise disruption on the road network.

The Contractor will need to prove their insurance and accreditation details when they apply for the necessary permits to work on the highway (see “When to Apply for a Licence or Permit”). Although the County Council is unable to formally advise on the use of specific contractors, an up-to-date list of those who have previously registered their credentials with the council is available by e-mailing the Network Management Team at nmu@stafordshire.gov.uk

Your Community Highway Liaison Officer is also on hand to help ensure any quotes received cover the necessary areas/issues.