

Following the fire at Noodle One on High Street, which also damaged the adjacent building, Morgan, we have been working towards demolition of the two properties due to the extent of damage and residual stability.

A scaffold was erected along the elevation of several buildings deemed at risk to the Public and due to the narrow street, the scaffolding occupies one footway and the width of the highway resulting in a road closure of High Street with diversion routes in place.

The buildings at risk are surrounded by a mix of residential and commercial properties and coupled with the scaffolding, this presents a problem in demolition of the properties so that a mobile crane is required to access the building to allow demolition by hand into the footprint of the buildings.

This section of High Street has a myriad of buried utility services of varying age and condition along with basements to properties and a history of poor ground conditions. Ground investigation has identified that temporary piled foundations are required to support the 200 tonne crane during the demolition works.

Throughout lockdown and beyond, we worked closely with the utility companies, local authority and building owners to agree a piling scheme such that damage to buildings and buried services is mitigated and the remaining footpath can be kept open along the west side of High Street as this is a vital link between the central section of High Street and Pendref. In addition, further ground investigation including ground penetrating radar has been undertaken and the design of the crane operations and supporting foundations are now finalised.

The two buildings to be demolished have deteriorated with complete collapse of the first floor at the rear of 166 and there is still the risk of unplanned and uncontrolled collapse of the buildings.

Throughout this process, Public safety has been at the forefront of our decision making in providing a large crane in a narrow busy section of High Street whilst trying to accommodate residents and business owners along with utility providers. The collapse of the crane in London earlier in July illustrates why detailed planning and risk management is essential in such circumstances.

We are close to finalising financial agreement and contract details for the works and contractors are in place for the construction of the temporary foundations for the crane and the demolition phases.

When work on site commences, the duration of foundation and demolitions works is likely to take around 12 weeks to complete; it is the intention to commence works on site in the next few weeks.

We would like to thank residents, business owners, Gwynedd Council and Bangor City Council and the utility companies for their patience and cooperation during the preparation of these works and will provide a further update on the commencement of works soon.

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