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National Grid 'chips in' to free lunch for elderly residents

Hitchin's Wratten Close was the 'plaiice' to be when National Grid treated local elderly residents to their very own fish and chip van.

19 Mar 2015

The gas network company had to cut gas supplies today (Thursday 19 March) to some 56 retirement flats and bungalows while it carried out essential gas mains renewal work.

To make sure none of the elderly residents went without a hot meal, the company rustled up a mouth-watering, free fish and chip lunch, served up fresh from a van stationed in Wratten Close.

National Grid staff 'chipped' in, too, delivering door-to-door hot lunches to those residents not able to get to the van. Gas supplies are set to be restored later today.

Local resident Alan Lawson said: "The dinner was very nice – I really enjoyed it."

Commenting on the gas mains renewal work being carried out in Wratten Close by National Grid, Mr Lawson added: "The work they've done is really remarkable. I think they have done very well."

Dilbir Chana, National Grid Authorising Engineer, said: "It is important that we make sure our more vulnerable customers are kept safe and warm whenever we have to temporarily disconnect gas supplies. We thought residents might appreciate a hot meal while they were waiting for supplies to be restored."

National Grid is currently replacing gas mains in Wratten Close. The existing metal mains are being replaced with tough new plastic pipe that will last for at least 80 years if left undisturbed in the ground. Work began last Monday (16 March) and is due to take one week.

ENDS

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Notes for editors

National Grid has two contracted organisations carrying out gas mains replacement work on its behalf. They are: tRIIO, a partnership between Skanska and Morrison Utility Services, in North London, East Anglia and the East of England and Balfour Beatty in the West Midlands and North West.

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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