

Tiverton's southern relief road opens

AFTER 20 years of planning, 56 weeks of construction, 8,000 tonnes of concrete, 310 tonnes of re-inforced steel and £8 million, Tiverton's Southern

Relief Road was finally opened last Wednesday.

Local dignitaries travelled the 1.65km length of the new stretch of road - christened Great Western Way - in a 1950s bus

after it was declared open by Douglas Lentell, chairman of Devon County Council.

Earlier, proceedings had been started with a speech from new Tiverton mayor Mary de la Mahotiere who

declared herself "delighted that we've got our road at last".

She added: "I'm sure with the people of Tiverton's good humour and forbearance it will prove a great success."

Mid Devon District Council chairman Ma Turner told assembled townsfolk that she considered it "an important day for Tiverton" and looked forward to the improved safety and convenience that the road would bring to the town.

It was then left to Cllr Lentell to unveil a recycled stone plaque marking the opening with the words: "May all who use it travel in comfort and safety."

Two-and-a-half-year-old Roxanne Roberts from Tiverton was pulled from the crowd to perform the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon before the road's first vehicle - a Red Rover Metro - made its way towards Phoenix Lane.

The new traffic arrangements for the town centre came into effect on Sunday and work is now due to begin immediately on Tiverton's pedestrianisation scheme.



Above: Charming Two-year-old Roxanne Roberts performs the most important task of her young life - opening Tiverton's southern relief road - with a little bit of help from mum and chairman of Mid Devon District Council Douglas Lentell.

Story:
Nick Beer
Pictures:
Marcus
Thompson