

A274 Sutton Road Maidstone Improvement Scheme



Newsletter 2

November 2017

Proposed Programme

Detailed Design
Winter 2017

Vegetation Clearance
March 2018

Construction Period
March 2018 and
complete before
Christmas

Funding

Project cost £4.0
million

£2.2 million
Government funding
allocated

£1.8 million from
local developer
contributions

Next Steps

Second Public
Engagement: 1st
December 2017

The Background

The A274 is a strategic route serving the south east of Maidstone and can be accessed from the M20. The route suffers from congestion in the morning and afternoon peak periods with journey times being unreliable owing to the large numbers of vehicular traffic. With the award of funding of £4 million, Kent County Council are now able to actively promote the improvement to reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability at the junction with Willington Street and Wallis Avenue.



Sutton Road looking south east towards junction with Willington Street

The Proposals

An initial engagement event was held on the 18th August 2017 at St Martins Church, Northumberland Road which gave residents the opportunity to voice their concerns in relation to the scheme proposal and comments were also received via the project email address.

Four common themes were identified;

1. Concerns that the scheme may not achieve the benefits that it sets out to do;
2. Concerns that the scheme will impact the vegetation fronting Bell Meadow and Sutton Road service roads;
3. Concerns that the scheme may increase noise and air pollution, and;
4. Concerns that the scheme may result in a devaluation of property.

These concerns have been carefully considered and further design work has been undertaken in relation to mitigation measures, however, it must be noted that not all concerns can be fully designed out.

In order to discuss the mitigation measures with you, a further specific presentation session has been arranged on the **1st December 2017 at St Martins Church Hall, Northumberland Road starting at 4:30pm with questions from 5pm.**

See overleaf for information on the work currently being carried out:

A274 Sutton Road Maidstone Improvement Scheme

Key Aspects of Project

- The junction will be widened in each direction to provide road capacity and improve current and future traffic flow;
- Dedicated turning lanes will be provided into Willington Street and Wallis Avenue;
- Upgrade of Willington Street & Wallis Avenue signal controlled junction;
- Bus laybys provided adjacent to main carriageway lanes to improve free flow of traffic;
- Improvement of journey time reliability in the morning and afternoon peak periods;
- Decreasing congestion and limiting stationary traffic.



Sutton Road looking north west

Additional Design Work That Has Been Undertaken

- Proposed traffic calming measures along Sutton Road service road to address the 'rat-running' concerns raised by residents;
- Landscaping designs for both Sutton Road and Bell Meadow service roads, including additional planting areas on Bell Meadow to incorporate natural screening options;
- Assessment of the access into the BP garage along the A274 Sutton Road to reduce the queuing of vehicles turning right into the garage;
- Further traffic modelling work to demonstrate the benefits of this scheme and the optimum time period for its construction;
- Artistic impressions of the scheme once completed to show how it will look including the landscaping design;

Point of Note

Residents who are concerned about the devaluation of property may be entitled to claim compensation under the Land Compensation Act 1973 Part 1.

Public Engagement

A presentation has been arranged for residents to see the mitigation proposals and ask questions of the project team. To be held at the following venue:
St Martin's Church, Northumberland Road, Maidstone; Friday 1st December 2017, starting at 4:30pm, questions at 5pm