

Community Newsletter Update

Issue No.07

Bean Underpass

August 2026



Above: Artist's impression of the Bean Underpass as seen from Bluewater



Above: Artist impression of the Bean Underpass as seen from Whitecliffe

Dear Neighbours,

This is our August edition of the monthly project newsletter where we provide periodical information to keep you acquainted with the works taking place on the Bean Underpass project.

Erith Contractors have been appointed by the Kent County Council to undertake the works which will include the construction of a new underpass beneath the B255, linking the Whitecliffe development in the east to Bluewater Shopping Centre in the west. The underpass will primarily accommodate the Kent Fastrack bus service along with supplementary cycleways and footways.

Progress since last month:

- Installation of hoarding to the east and west of Bluewater Parkway incl. establishment of welfare facilities with TM closures.
- Completion of rock netting to the B255 east cliff face with a combination of works from the top and bottom of the cliff.
- Breakout and excavation of existing reed bed 10 in preparation for road embankment construction.
- Reduce dig and installation of subbase to BW Pkwy West verge widening works.
- Diversion and encapsulation of existing services within the verge.
- Removal of kerb races and paving slabs.
- Removal of lighting columns, signs, power boxes and electrical fixtures within verge.

What's next?

Works over the next 2 months:

- Installation of Class 6S filter layer, 1A surcharge fill for new road embankment within reed bed area.
- Stormwater drainage diversion from broken out manhole within reed beds to existing reed bed.
- Installation of settlement monitoring to newly constructed road embankment.
- Installation of new wildlife tunnel.
- Rock netting to west cliff face.
- Installation of vibration monitors within B255 for Thames Water trunk main.
- Completion of drainage works, ducting, paving to BW Pkwy west.
- Completion of base course, binder to new footway and widened carriageway in BW Pkwy West.
- Installation of streetlighting, signs and bollards to BW Pkwy West.

Logistics:

- BW Pkwy West closure to remain in place until approximately early-November.
- BW Pkwy East closure to remain in place at least up to the tunnelling works in early-2027.
- A northbound lane 1 closure to be installed for roughly 5-weeks from early October for rock netting works.
- A nightly closure of the B255 southbound mainline lane 1 to facilitate install of vibration monitors.
- Lane closures will be removed where necessary to minimise disruption to the public.
- All works to take place behind TM closures where necessary with access restricted to authorised personnel only.

Communication

It is our intention to keep you informed and updated on the works taking place at Bean Underpass throughout our works with regular newsletters, timely information notices and community meetings.

If you would like to register to receive these updates and invitations to our meetings via email, please contact our community liaison team (contact details below).

Your personal information will be kept safe in line with current GDPR regulations and will not be used for any other purpose.

Following our commencement on site, we will be looking to arrange our first Community meeting, which will give you the opportunity to meet with the management team in person and raise any questions you may have about the works.

About Erith

The Erith Group is a family-run, employee-owned trust, founded in 1967 by Tom Darsey. The company's ethos then, as it is today, is one of quality of service and client satisfaction with a strong emphasis on Safety.

Since its formation, the company has grown to form a Group comprising: Erith Holdings Ltd; Erith Contractors Ltd; Erith Haulage Ltd; Erith Plant Services; Erith Training Services and Swanton Consulting Ltd.

Our primary business is to service the construction and related industries through its Enabling Services comprising of demolition, asbestos removal, remediation, earthworks, infrastructure, basement reconstructions, waste recycling and haulage.



Meet the team....



Project Manager
Ajay Rayaprolu



Community Liaison/Conduct Manager
Cherrie O'Kane

SITE WORKING HOURS

MONDAY to FRIDAY:
08:00 to 18:00
SATURDAY:
08:00 to 13:00