

# Road Maintenance in Your Area

## Road Surface Improvement (Resurfacing)



### A26 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone

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#### Essential Works

In line with government advice, our highway maintenance works are vital in keeping roads open, key workers and emergency services moving, deliveries flowing, and safeguarding the provision of utility services to support the NHS, local communities, homes and businesses. Kent County Council is prioritising essential works to enable a fully functioning network, ensuring that life-saving medicine, equipment, supplies and healthcare staff can travel across the country to where they are needed most, whilst considering the risk to both our workforce and the public.

We ask that whilst works are ongoing, if you do need to approach the workforce, that you maintain social distancing and if you have any further enquiries regarding these works you can also raise them through the Kent County Council contact centre on *03000 418181 Mon to Fri 09:00 to 17:00*.

#### When we plan to carry out the work and how long it will take

This is to advise, that as part of the on-going maintenance and improvement of the highway network, Kent County Council will be resurfacing a large section of the A26 Tonbridge Road within Maidstone. Renewal of the carriageway surface will extend between the A20 Terrace Road and the vicinity of St Andrews Church (west of Queens Rd).

These road surface improvement works are programmed to start on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021** and should take **18 nights** to complete. Works are planned to take place between **Monday to Friday nights** with no working planned on Saturday or Sunday nights. It is possible this could change as the scheme progresses should any inclement weather conditions or unforeseen situations impact our progress. These activities will be undertaken between the hours of **21:00 and 05:00** each night.

Please be sure to speak to our on-site operatives if you require access within the closed areas of road or if you require further guidance on the most suitable access route to take. Due to the complex nature of this work and the impact that managing access to such a large residential area can cause, a webpage has been set up at [www.kent.gov.uk/A26](http://www.kent.gov.uk/A26). Further details regarding specific dates will be shared on this webpage as the resurfacing work progresses as will any updates that may cause delays or changes to our scheme duration.

During these essential works it will be necessary to **close the road** so that we can carry out the works safely for both the workforce and road users.

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#### Queens Road to Terrace Road

For most of the 18 nights on site, the road will be closed between the A20 Terrace Road and the junction with Queens Road although signage will be in place to divert Maidstone bound vehicles onto the B2246 before reaching the Queens Road junction. Diversion details as follows:

Primary Diversion route via B2246 Fountain Lane, B2246 Hermitage Lane, A20 London Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, A20 Terrace Road and vice versa.

Due to a height limit on the primary diversion route, vehicles greater than 15'3" (4.6m) in height will be diverted via B2246 Fountain Lane, B2246 Hermitage Lane, A20 London Road, A20 Coldharbour Lane, M20 J5, M20 J6, A229 Royal Engineers Road, A229 Fairmeadow, A20 The Broadway, A20 London/Tonbridge Road and vice versa.

Residents of Fant situated south of the A26 Tonbridge Road will be able to access their properties when exiting Maidstone town centre via Westree Road or when heading towards Maidstone town centre via Fant Lane. If you reside within the closed extents of the A26 Tonbridge Road itself, we ask that you approach via the closest adjoining side road – such as Western Road or St Michaels Road – at the junctions of which we will have operatives stationed to allow managed access to residents.

If you reside in Bower Lane, Evelyn Road or Newton Close, due to the one-way traffic order and narrow width, we ask that you approach the area via the A20 London Road, Bower Mount Road, Cornwallis Road and Bower Street. This route will ensure the distance travelled through the ongoing construction site will be kept to a minimum.

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#### Junction of Queens Road

As the works progress it will become necessary to amend the extents of our closure in order to resurface the junction of Queens Road. During this time, the road will be closed between the A20 Terrace Road and the B2246 Hermitage Lane. Furthermore, access to the A26 will not be possible from Queens Road. Diversion details as follows:

Primary Diversion route via B2246 Fountain Lane, B2246 Hermitage Lane, A20 London Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, A20 Terrace Road and vice versa. The diversion route for over height vehicles will continue to exist as noted previously.

Residents of Fant situated south of the A26 Tonbridge Road will be able to access their properties when exiting Maidstone town centre via Westree Road or when heading towards Maidstone town centre via Farleigh Lane and Gatland Lane. If you reside within the closed extents of the A26 Tonbridge Road itself, we ask that you approach via the closest adjoining side road – such as Western Road or St Michaels Road – at the junctions of which we will have operatives stationed to allow managed access to residents.

If you reside in Bower Lane, Evelyn Road or Newton Close, due to the one-way traffic order and narrow width, we ask that you approach the area via the A20 London Road, Bower Mount Road, Cornwallis Road and Bower Street. This route will ensure the distance travelled through the ongoing construction site will be kept to a minimum.

#### **What we plan to do**

We will remove the existing road surface by a method known as milling. The complete area will then be swept by a mechanical sweeper to ensure the prepared surface is clean and free of dust and debris. If required, the existing manhole covers, and rainwater gully gratings will be adjusted or replaced to the correct level before the new surface is laid. Please note that this operation is noisy and can be prolonged as it is carried out using pneumatic hand tools. The new surfacing material will then be laid using a machine called a paver and compacted with a roller. This is a quick process and dependant on the design will either be a one or two-layer process. Finally, following completion of the surfacing, all associated road markings will be re-painted. The road will then be re-opened. Please note that during the whole process, audible warning reversing sirens will be heard along with flashing beacons; this is a health and safety requirement and cannot be turned off while the vehicle is operational.

#### **Why are we doing this work?**

The majority of capital investment in maintaining our highway network is funded through various capital maintenance grants from the Government. To make best use of that finite resource we carry out condition surveys and inspections, using a combination of mechanical and visual means, together with an assessment of local needs, and that helps to inform an annual capital works programme that balances value for money and our duties under the Highways Act 1980. Further details of our works programmes and our approach to highways asset management more generally can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk).

#### **How you can help us**

It is inevitable that residents and businesses near the works will experience some disruption and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused, but we will try to keep this to a minimum. Restricted Access to residential properties and all businesses up to the closure point, will be available, when safe to do so, but if you have any access needs, please let the workforce on site know whilst keeping your distance. Access to properties between the closure points will need to be restricted for a short period while work is carried out in front of each property and across road junctions. Traffic Management operatives will be available to help direct traffic within the closure.

**We need your help to make sure the work is done as quickly as possible and to the best possible quality. If your vehicle is usually parked on the carriageway, please make sure you park it somewhere else away from the site whilst the works are carried out, so the road is clear for us to resurface. We will place yellow, no parking cones to highlight the areas vehicles will not be able to park on upcoming nights. We would also ask that where possible, journeys to and from your properties be minimised between the hours of our closure.**

***For your safety and the safety of our workforce, please drive carefully and slowly through the roadworks.***

#### **How to contact us?**

If you need more information, you can visit our website [www.kent.gov.uk/resurfacingupdates](http://www.kent.gov.uk/resurfacingupdates) to find out how we look after the roads throughout Kent or report any faults you find on our roads. Alternatively, call us on **03000 41 81 81**.