

# A274 Sutton Road Maidstone Improvement Scheme



Newsletter 1

May 2017

## Proposed Programme

Detailed Design  
Autumn 2017

Vegetation Clearance  
February 2018

Construction Period  
February 2018 to  
August 2018

## Funding

Project cost  
£3million

£2million  
Government funding  
allocated

£1million from local  
developer  
contributions

## Next Steps

Public Engagement  
August 2017

Engagement with  
utility companies

## 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 Government Local Growth Funding of £8.9million 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

The A274 Sutton Road is busy and traffic will continue to increase through general development growth. Therefore the objective is to increase the capacity of the road, to improve traffic flow, by providing a widened junction and approach along both sides of the road together with improved capacity at the Willington Street junction. The route is highly constrained in terms of available land but the overarching principle is to widen on both the northern and southern sides of Sutton Road to maximise the benefits of the scheme.

Increased noise is an understandable concern and a complementary objective is therefore to provide traffic noise screening for Bell Meadow and Sutton Road residents to mitigate noise levels and improve the current situation.

Sutton Road is an established road with many mature trees and vegetation, unfortunately some trees and vegetation will need to be removed to accommodate the widened junction. There is an area of land available fronting Sutton Road to allow us to re-plant trees, vegetation and enhance the landscaping. There is limited availability to re-plant fronting Bell Meadow. However, mitigation measures such as acoustic fencing will be integrated with the design of noise screening.

Information about the scheme can be found on the project website. See details below.

An engagement session has been arranged for residents to view the plans and discuss the proposals with the project team (see overleaf for details).

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**Balfour Beatty**

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## Key Aspects of Project

- The junction will be widened to 3 lanes in each direction to provide road capacity and improve current and future traffic flow
- Dedicated turning lanes into Willington Street and Wallis Avenue
- Upgrade of Willington Street & Wallis Avenue signal controlled junction
- Bus laybys incorporated to improve free flow of traffic
- Improvement of journey time reliability in the morning and afternoon peak periods
- Reduce noise and pollution by decreasing congestion and limiting stationary traffic
- Traffic noise screening for adjacent residents



Sutton Road looking north west

## Public Engagement

A session has been arranged for residents to view the plans and talk to the project team to be held at the following venue:

- St Martin's Church, Northumberland Road, Maidstone; Friday 18th August 2017, 3.30pm to 6.30pm

## Scheme Layout

