



A249 Key Street Improvement Scheme

By

Kent County Council

Newsletter Issue 8 – October 2025



Aerial view of ongoing works on the new slip road at Chestnut Street roundabout

We are considerate constructors



We are registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme
Call: 0800 783 1423 visit: www.ccscheme.org.uk



GOOD WORKS



Dear Stakeholder,

We have reached a significant milestone in the scheme with the permanent closure of the old Maidstone southbound slip road from the Key Street roundabout. The closure is necessary to enable the widening of the carriageway at Key Street roundabout by reducing the number of exits on the roundabout, thereby increasing its overall capacity.

The new southbound slip road will be relocated off the new Chestnut Street roundabout. With the current closure in place, we will be progressing the construction of the new slip road and we anticipate that the road will be completed and open by the first week of December.

The scheme is currently on track to be finished by late February 2026. By then, we hope to have completed the final surfacing works and have all traffic management systems removed from the roads.

Traffic Management update

The southbound entry slip road off the Key Street roundabout towards Maidstone is now closed permanently so that the new slip road can be built. The diversion for this closure is from Key Street roundabout via Sheppey Way to Bobbing interchange, where the entry slip road onto the A249 to Maidstone can be accessed.

Temporary lights are currently in place on Keycol Hill and Chestnut Street to avoid having to close the roads while the works progress. We are committed to minimising disruption and will be operating under traffic light controls where possible.

We will continue to keep you updated on any traffic management plans such as road closures or lane closures.

Progress update and upcoming works:

On Sheppey Way, we are still carrying out the removal of Japanese Knotweed – a fast-growing invasive plant that can cause a lot of damage. Due to the environmental concerns associated with the species, the process is taking longer than anticipated to ensure that its treatment is carried out to current standards. This has caused delays to the works on the corner of Bobbing Hill and Sheppey Way.

**We are considerate
constructors**



We are registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme
Call: 0800 783 1423 visit: www.ccscheme.org.uk



GOOD WORKS



On Keycol Hill, we have started works on the embankment, gullies and utility diversions. Additionally, we are excavating and installing a new footpath and toucan crossing, including tactile paving.

We have installed the new pedestrian guard rail and completed the final surfacing works on Sheppey Way north footpath, towards Key Street.

UK Power Networks (UKPN) have completed their diversion works at the Chestnut Street roundabout. Backfilling is complete, and earthworks for the new slip road are underway. Work on gas main protection, kerb installation, landscaping, and excavation for the slip road is also in progress.

Upcoming works

On the Keycol Hill and Sheppey Way side of the works, we will be completing and resurfacing the footpaths. Additional works will include installing street lighting, landscaping and fencing as well as improvements to the pedestrian crossing.

We'll be rebuilding the bridge joint on the Key Street splitter island and installing new lighting and signs there, as well as on the Sheppey Way island.

On Chestnut Street, general construction will continue alongside UKPN's utility work. Scheduled activities include online carriageway work on the new slip road, kerbing, installing safety barriers, street lighting, and finally surfacing the new slip road.

Regards,

The Project Team

**We are considerate
constructors**



We are registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme
Call: 0800 783 1423 visit: www.ccscheme.org.uk



GOOD WORKS