



A249 Key Street Improvement Scheme

By

Kent County Council

Newsletter Issue 10 – January 2026



Key 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

A very warm welcome to 2026, wishing you all a Happy New Year. Thank you for following the updates on the A249 Key Street improvement scheme.

In this edition of the newsletter you'll find:

- a traffic management update
- a full schedule of upcoming nighttime closures and associated diversion routes
- a progress update on completed and ongoing works since the winter break
- a summary of the key construction activities planned for the final stages of the scheme
- information on pedestrian access changes around the junction.

Traffic Management update

The A249 northbound (towards Sheppey) exit slip road is temporarily down to one lane, allowing for the safe completion of works on Keycol Hill (towards Rainham).

The temporary pedestrian crossings will remain in place at Keycol Hill, Key Street and Sheppey Way until the permanent crossings are in place to ensure pedestrians can continue to cross safely.

During the final weeks of the scheme, nighttime closures are required to complete the remaining works on the roundabout and carry out final surfacing. These closures will impact all the roads approaching the roundabout but will be scheduled at different times. Due to the nature of the works, the programme may be affected by wet weather or low temperatures, however it is our aim to have the surfacing works complete by the end of February.





Homes
England

Details of the closures and associated diversions routes are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Roads affected</u>	<u>Length of nighttime closure</u>
6 to 13 February	Keycol Hill and northbound A249 exit slip road (towards Sheppey)	Closed for 8 nights
14 to 18 February	Key Street roundabout south side (roundabout exit and access to Chestnut Street), and northbound A249 exit slip (towards Sheppey)	Closed for 4 nights
19 to 22 February	Key Street roundabout north side (approach from Keycol Hill, Bobbing and Sheppey towards Sittingbourne)	Closed for 4 nights

Details of the diversion routes can be found on [One.Network](#).

Progress update and upcoming works

Since returning after the winter break, good progress has been made across the site. This includes drainage and earthworks, barrier installation, new signage and white lining. All utility diversion works have now been completed, and surfacing has begun on Keycol Hill. The new permanent signals on Sheppey Way are due to be commissioned in February, after which the temporary traffic signals will be removed.

Pedestrian access across the junction is currently routed via the north-side crossing at Sheppey Way. This temporary change allows the southern footpath to be closed while works continue on Keycol Hill and Old Maidstone Road. Access to Chestnut Street remains available from Key Street, with an additional pedestrian crossing provided at the Texaco Garage to support safe movement through the area.





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Upcoming works

- drainage improvements
- utility works
- kerb realignment
- completion of new crossings and carriageway
- site-wide landscaping and fencing
- commissioning of pedestrian crossings at Chestnut Street, Keycol Hill and Sheppey Way.
- reinstatement and surfacing of Keycol hill island
- footpath works on the southern overbridge
- construction of a new footpath from Chestnut Street and across old slip road
- works to Key Street splitter island, including bridge joints, new island construction and resurfacing.

These activities mark the final stages of the scheme, and will help us to deliver a safer, more efficient junction for pedestrians, cyclists and travelling vehicles.

Social value

In December 2025 our Graduate Engineers carried out careers visits to two schools in the area, Westlands School and Grovepark Primary School, to promote Civil Engineering as a career.

For further information on the Key Street project please visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-projects/in-progress-road-projects/a249-key-street-junction>

Regards,

The Project Team

