

Project News

Driving forward the Woking Integrated Transport Project

June 2020

Welcome to the latest edition of Project News, keeping you up-to-date with the Woking Integrated Transport Project, our multi-million pound highway improvement scheme for Woking town centre.

Site safety during Covid-19 emergency

Thanks to the diligence of our contractors, works have been able to continue throughout lockdown whilst adhering to government advice and industry guidelines around social distancing, meaning delivery of Woking's new highways has remained largely on schedule.

Travel actively in Woking

As the government calls for more active travel options, enabling people to walk or cycle to work, Woking remains ahead of the curve, with the wheels already in motion to create a cyclist's haven along Chertsey Road.

Resurfacing works follow hot on the heels of works recently completed along High Street. The upgrades help fulfil Woking's aspirations to be fully cycle friendly and link the town centre cycle routes to the borough's already established Planets Trail.

The semi-pedestrianised zone will boast a wide, shared cyclist and pedestrian path. The current slalom of raised flower beds is to be replaced with rainwater gardens which will catch surface water run-off, reducing the risk of localised flooding whilst brightening the appearance of the street.



The space will have a more open feel to it and the smart, new, light grey block paving that can be seen in other redeveloped areas such as The Broadway, will cover the length and breadth of the road. Outdoor seating areas are to be retained, and improved, outside Nandos and Weatherspoons and new seating area created outside Junction Tap.

Automated Bollards on Chobham Road will ensure that the area remains access-only for vehicles turning left into Commercial Way. Addison Road is also earmarked for smartening up and will boast brand new, secure cycle storage that is convenient for both Woking town centre users and commuters.

The works will be completed in phases with the first phase, from the corner of Duke Street to Chobham Road, already underway. Commercial Way and Chobham Road will follow and finally the remaining section of Chertsey Road and up towards the station is due for completion late 2020.

Dukes Court public plaza will be an attractive, green, social space
Development works at the Duke's Court site are progressing steadily and the landscaped public plaza along Duke Street, between the junctions of Locke Way and The Broadway, is beginning to take shape.

Highway improvements

A drop-off zone is being created at the front of the building along Duke Street to allow passengers to alight from vehicles easily and cars to continue their journey seamlessly without imposing on the nearby vehicle free zone. Improvements to the junctions of Maybury Road, Stanley Road and The Broadway to the east and south of the complex were completed earlier this year, including the development of a new car park entrance on Stanley Road. This in turn will allow for the creation of a spacious pedestrian walkway on Duke Street where the car park entrance was formerly situated.



Pedestrian area

As part of the new pedestrianised area, a series of rainwater gardens are being created. These specially designed flower beds absorb large quantities of water to mitigate the effects of flooding due to water run-off after downpours, as well as attract wildlife to the urban space.

Further enhancing the look and air quality of the new plaza, living walls are planned for the existing central tower and adjacent to the main entrance of the building.

More planting and plenty of outdoor seating will finish off the sociable feel of the space, which both Dukes Court tenants and members of the public alike will be welcome to enjoy.

Restaurant

Foundations for the new restaurant and al fresco dining area have been laid and construction will soon begin on the restaurant, which, once complete, will add to the town's growing culinary reputation.

Public art

A larger than life-size statue of composer and suffragette, Dame Ethel Smyth, is in production. When finished, the former Woking resident will take pride of place in the centre of the plaza, conducting passers-by with her toothbrush as she was reported to have done out of the window of Holloway Jail whilst incarcerated. Thousands of women marched below the window singing her most famous song, March of the Women, in a display of unanimity as they approached Hyde Park to demand a fair vote for all.



It is expected that both building and highway works will be complete by early 2021. For further information about the project, including an animation revealing the exciting plans for Dukes Court and the surrounding area, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/dukescourt

Basingstoke Canal bridge

You may have noticed the Basingstoke Canal, which was emptied earlier in the year along the stretch of canal adjacent to Chobham Road, has now been refilled.



Works have been going on to construct a brand new pedestrian and cycle bridge, uniting the two sides of the canal path, and the reflection of the gabion walls and polished steel railings on the water show a project excitingly close to completion. Just the connecting section remains to be built.

For towpath users, the ability to continue their journey without the interruption of a busy road and better connectivity to the rest of Woking's cycle and pedestrian routes will be much welcome improvements. Resident wildlife will also benefit from environment sensitive landscaping and bat-friendly lighting.

High Street bus shelter

In the last edition we promised new bus shelters along High Street by spring. If you travel by bus, you will notice a delay in installation. This is because when the Victoria Arch redevelopment works reach High Street, there will be a variation in surface levels which will need to be rectified before the shelters will sit properly in-situ. Therefore, the current shelters will remain in place until the rest of the works are completed.

Church Path

Good news for residents with physical and visual impairments, Church Path is now fully accessible as the hazardous steps outside the Carson & Co. building have been removed.



Partner works

As Thamesway Ltd. continues to expand its network of underground pipes to deliver green heat and energy to its customers and create an energy efficient town centre, some phased changes to traffic flow are to be expected.

- **From Monday 15 June 2020 until Friday 31 July 2020** Church Street West and Forge End will become one-way northbound only. Southbound there will a signed diversion route in place. When works are taking place across a car park entrance or exit, residents are asked to park elsewhere.
- **From Monday 8 June 2020 until Friday 14 August 2020** temporary traffic lights will be in place on the Chertsey Road/Stanley Road roundabout. Some on-street parking bays along Church Street East will be suspended. Pedestrian and vehicle access for residents and businesses will remain throughout the works and disruption to access for deliveries to local businesses will be minimised.

We are aware that these works may cause considerable disruption to residents in particular and we would like to thank them, and local businesses, for their continued patience throughout.

Starting soon... Victoria Arch enhancement scheme

A new town centre highways infrastructure project, the Victoria Arch scheme, will commence works in August 2020.

The four-year project will start with the phased demolition of existing buildings located within 'The Triangle' – the pocket of land surrounded by the one-way road gyratory system, located on the south-side of Victoria Arch (incorporating Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach).

Once cleared, this site will provide the space required to widen the highway along Guildford Road and Victoria Road, put in place enhanced traffic management systems and provide improved pedestrian and cycle routes to Woking Train Station, the town centre and join up with other existing off-road routes.

The final element of the project will be to work with Network Rail to widen and replace the Victoria Arch – the railway bridge crossing the A320 along Victoria Way.

Cllr David Bittleston, Leader of Woking Borough Council, said: "The scheme is funded by a £95 million pound grant secured from central Government. This significant sum paves the way to start this once-in-a-lifetime infrastructure enhancement project which will unlock 13 brownfield town centre sites by providing over 4,500 new homes."

To find out more and sign up to receive the project's enews updates, visit www.woking.gov.uk/victoriaarchscheme

Contact us

If you have queries regarding the construction process, please contact Farrans Construction on **02890 394043**. Alternatively, if you have any queries regarding the project, please email the project team at wokingitp@woking.gov.uk