

VICTORIA ARCH WIDENING SCHEME

SUPPORTING
WOKING'S
GROWTH

DEAR RESIDENT

The first phase of the multi-million pound Victoria Arch widening and highway enhancement scheme is well underway, with good progress made to clear the existing Triangle site.

Before the demolition moves on to the Guildford Road side of the Triangle, site surveys are being conducted to salvage and save items of architectural interest from the existing properties. You can read a progress update on page 2.

We have also delivered early enabling works to prepare for phase two of the project – the highway reconfiguration works. At the end of February, we removed two London Plane trees, located within the traffic island opposite the Sovereign's Pub.

We understand and appreciate that the felling of these trees caused some concern from residents and members of the public.

At this stage of the scheme it is premature to present our landscaping plans for the enhanced highway layout. However, we can define our commitment and aspirations for the future greening of this area – these are outlined on page 3.

As a council, we are committed to preserving and enhancing biodiversity across the borough. Back in 2012 and 2013, when we redeveloped the pedestrian areas of Commercial Way and Jubilee Square, we

removed some trees, but replaced these with an increased number and with varieties more suitable for the spaces. Today, these are thriving and enjoyed throughout the year.

Wherever possible, we aim to 'green' our urban spaces. To date, we have three impressive living walls installed in the town centre at Dukes Court, the High Street and Middle Walk along Commercial Way, and a fourth will be installed on the new Red Shoppers' Car Park over the coming months.

In addition, our annual tree planting programme alone, using biodegradable material and sustainable watering options, is on track to plant over 335 trees in 200 residential and urban locations across the borough.

We hope these examples and greening proposals provide reassurances for the future when the scheme is completed in early 2024.

As the scheme progresses, we will keep you informed of our plans to improve the highway network around the Victoria Arch railway bridge.

Louisa Calam

Victoria Arch widening
scheme project manager

The 'Triangle site' is the pocket of land surrounded by the existing one-way road gyratory system incorporating Victoria Road, Station Approach and Guildford Road.

➔ More news and updates at woking.gov.uk/victoriaarch

IN THIS ISSUE ➔

SCHEME PHASES AND UPDATE	2
TRIANGLE SITE DEMOLITION UPDATE	2
PRESERVING THE PAST	3
A MODERN HIGHWAY SYSTEM WITH A GREEN, SUSTAINABLE HEART	3
MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS	4



SCHEME PHASES AND UPDATE

The Victoria Arch widening scheme will be delivered in three key phases.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	KEY DATES
PHASE 1: The demolition of the Triangle site.	In progress until August 2021.
PHASE 2: Works to reconfigure the highways on the north and south sides of the Victoria Arch bridge, including a widened dual carriageway and improved access for pedestrians and cyclists.	Starting from summer 2021 – more detailed information to be published in the next newsletter.
PHASE 3: Works to widen and replace the Victoria Arch bridge, which will offer increased height capacity (able to accommodate double decker buses) and off-road access for pedestrians and cyclists.	Starting from December 2021 – more detailed information to follow in future newsletters.

TRIANGLE SITE DEMOLITION UPDATE

The demolition of the existing buildings within the Triangle site has run smoothly since it began in September last year. The demolition works remain on schedule to be completed by the end of August 2021.

If you have a view of the site, you will see that Lynton House and Jubilee House have been demolished to ground level, and the same works to Southern House are near completion.



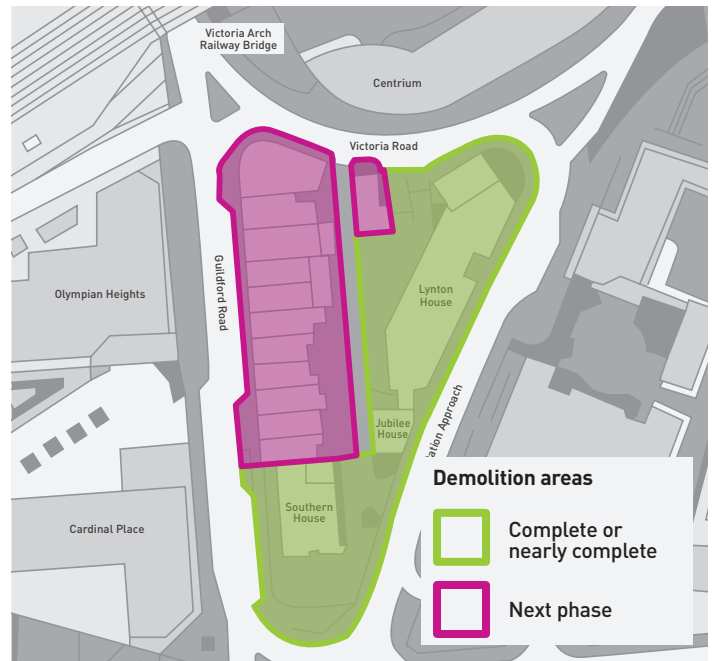
During the demolition. The view from the New Central development of Lynton House (left) and Jubilee House (right).



After demolition. The view of the cleared site where the former Lynton House and Jubilee House once stood.

Once the remaining utility services have been disconnected, the footprint of the old office buildings will be covered with a hard-core surface to create a solid, flat base.

The demolition of the second half of the site, incorporating Faith recruitment and the terraced shops and flats facing Guildford Road, will be conducted gradually as the properties are vacated and the relevant surveys completed to ensure a safe demolition process.



PRESERVING THE PAST

We're pleased to report that Charles Brooking, Surrey historian and owner of The Brooking National Museum in Cranleigh, is working with our demolition contractors, Hughes & Salvidge, to identify and salvage architectural items from the Guildford Road properties.

In future newsletters, we will give an update on the items reclaimed and added to Charles' 500,000 item collection!

A MODERN HIGHWAY SYSTEM WITH A GREEN, SUSTAINABLE HEART

As highlighted on page 1, we are committed to preserving and enhancing biodiversity across the borough within our rural and urban spaces.

Most small, medium and large development and regeneration projects managed by Woking Borough Council incorporate new planting, landscaping and,

where possible, sustainable materials and ways of reusing water, such as raingardens.

At this current stage of the Victoria Arch widening scheme, we cannot be prescriptive about the exact landscaping and greening plans for the highways on the north and south side of the Victoria Arch bridge. However, we can illustrate our aspirations and set out our commitment regarding what we plan to achieve in this area of Woking town centre towards the end of the project in late 2023 and early 2024.

At present, we're working with specialist contractors to deliver a new planting scheme for the Victoria Way central reservation spanning from the Brookhouse Roundabout junction to the Lockfield Drive junction. These works form part of the ongoing Woking Integrated Transport Project, which is near completion.

The design principles for this stretch of the A320 will form a mix of 'champion' (large) trees, raised beds, crossing gardens and, where feasible, rainwater gardens. The planting will feature seasonal perennial shrubs which are designed to add a sensory experience at key crossing points, and be low maintenance and attractive to wildlife.

Below is an artist's impression of how this approach will be delivered at the Bedser Bridge crossing point and eventually as part of the Victoria Arch widening scheme.



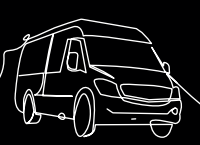
Our ambition is to extend the same landscaping and planting approach from the north side of the Victoria Arch, up the new two-way Guildford Road through to the top of Constitution Hill. Creating an attractive green corridor running through the heart of the town's main highway and, where there is space, further landscaping on either sides of the carriageway.



WE ARE UNLOCKING SPACE FOR NEW HOMES



SUPPORTING WOKING'S GROWTH



MORE INFORMATION



In addition to writing to you, general project updates will be published on our website at woking.gov.uk/victoriaarch



You can also sign up to receive email updates. Subscribe online at woking.gov.uk/victoriaarchnews

CONTACT DETAILS

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

For general enquiries or for more information, please contact **Woking Borough Council**.

Email: victoriaarchscheme@woking.gov.uk

Write to: Victoria Arch Scheme,
c/o Town Centre Engineers,
Woking Borough Council, Civic Offices,
Gloucester Square, Woking GU21 6YL.

ENQUIRIES RELATING TO THE TRIANGLE DEMOLITION WORKS

In the event of any emergency or during out of hours, please contact **Hughes & Salvidge**.

Phone: 07872 033 503 or 07714 696 288

SOCIAL DISTANCING



BE SENSIBLE
Limit contact with others and keep your distance



BE MINDFUL
Follow the measures in place to protect you and others



BE SAFE
Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms

TRANSLATION SERVICES

Do you need help understanding this information?

Czy potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji?

এই তথ্যটা বুঝতে আপনার কি কোনো সাহায্য লাগবে ?

શું તમને આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયની જરૂર છે ?

کیا آپ کو مدد درکار ہے ان معلومات کو سمجھنے کے لئے ؟



01483 743869



catharine.okon@woking.gov.uk

COMMUNITY PARTNER

DEMOLITION PARTNER

PROJECT DELIVERY PARTNERS

#WEAREWOKING

