

Project News

Driving forward the Woking Integrated Transport Project

December 2019

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.

Dukes Court facelift underway

One of Woking's most iconic buildings is having a facelift, as works to transform part of Woking town centre's business district gets underway.

Built in 1986, Dukes Court was viewed as a symbol of Woking's economic growth, offering 220,000 sq. ft. of premium office accommodation. The works will ensure Dukes Court continues to play an important role in the town's commercial future.

Central to the works is a new landscaped pedestrianised public plaza along Duke Street, between the junctions of Locke Way and The Broadway,

creating a welcoming open space for tenants and members of the public.

A new restaurant will add to the town's growing culinary reputation, whilst a huge living 'green' wall will improve air quality, and new signage and pedestrian routes will enhance the visitor experience.



In addition to the part pedestrianisation of Duke Street, improvements to the junctions of Maybury Road, Stanley Road and The Broadway will be made. Access to Dukes Court will also be altered by changing the main vehicle access point to Stanley Road.

Construction began in mid-November, with work conducted in phases. Completion is expected early 2021.

For further information about the project, including an animation revealing the exciting plans for Dukes Court and surrounding area, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/dukescourt

We've been busy...

Since our previous newsletter our contractors, Farrans Construction, has been busy completing phases of the transformational highways project.



During the summer, resurfacing works to the highway and footpaths along Church Street East, Stanley Road and part of Chertsey Road have been completed. We hope you'll agree that the smart grey block paving has made a significant difference to the area.

Current works to improve the pedestrian crossing and street lighting between Brook House roundabout and Chobham Road along Victoria Way are ongoing. These measures are intended to improve safety for road users and pedestrians.

We are aware that these works have been particularly disruptive to residents and businesses. We would like to thank you for your ongoing patience during the project.

New pedestrian footpath

A new pedestrian footpath adjacent to the train line has been created along Maybury Road offering a safe route to the train station for pedestrians.

In addition, the junction between Maybury Road and Stanley Road will be altered to incorporate raised traffic calming measures to reduce the speed of approaching vehicles.

These works will require the full closure of the junction from Monday 20 January to Sunday 27 January 2020.



Barriers, barriers everywhere

It would be hard not to miss the endless red and white barriers strategically located near the current British Heart Foundation store.

Since resurfacing works were completed earlier this summer, the barriers have been necessary to support our plans for the pedestrianisation of parts of Church Street East by the town gate. These barriers will shortly be removed and replaced with smart brushed stainless steel bollards to create boulevard-style pedestrian areas. Automated bollards will also be installed to enable access to certain areas for authorised vehicles.

We will be contacting local businesses requiring access for deliveries in the coming weeks.

Why not move the green cabinet?

Since we resurfaced Church Path, many of you have asked why we didn't move the green telephone exchange cabinet that sits in the middle of the widened footpath.

Well, the simple answer is that we can't move infrastructure without the permission of the owner. The good news is that BT has finally agreed to move it. The bad news is it'll take around three weeks thanks to the thousands of wires that will need reconnecting. However, we're still waiting for confirmation of when it will be moved.



New public plaza honours literary legend

A striking new public plaza in Woking town centre has been named in honour of the founding father of science fiction, Herbert George Wells, author of *War of the Worlds*.



'Wells Plaza', located outside the newly refurbished Victoria Gate offices, features conservation paving and seating for quiet contemplation. The centerpiece of the plaza is the inspiring bronze sculpture of Wells, 'Novelist & Thinker'.

Wells made Woking famous in the late 19th Century by choosing Horsell Common as the location for his Martian landing in the hugely popular science fiction novel, *The War of the Worlds*. You can catch the latest adaptation of *War of the Worlds* on iPlayer.

Next phase of project works to begin

To support the continued highway improvements across the town centre, Farrans Construction, will commence a series of phased works.

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to improve connectivity

Construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge spanning the Basingstoke Canal is underway.

The new bridge, located adjacent to the existing Chobham Road highway bridge, will unite the two sides of the canal towpath without the need for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the busy road.

The bridge design will feature gabion walls, a non-slip surface, steel handrails with built-in bat friendly lighting and associated landscaping.

During construction there may also be short periods of highway disruption. It is expected the new pedestrian and cycle bridge will be open to the public by summer 2020



Stanley Road zebra crossing

To encourage residents of Maybury and further afield to stroll into town, the existing zebra crossing along Stanley Road is to be relocated north of the junction with Walton Road. The new

position better reflects routes walked by pedestrians coming from Walton Road and is more convenient for those crossing Stanley Road.

High Street bus shelters

Good news! The existing tired and drab bus shelters at the western end of High Street are scheduled for replacement in spring 2020. The new shelters will be bigger to allow for more seating and feature digital timing screens providing up-to-date bus service information.

Partner works

As Woking continues its bid to be an energy efficient town centre, ThamesWey Ltd is expanding its network of underground pipes delivering green heating to customers.

From late February 2020, work will begin to lay district heating pipes and electricity cables beneath the highway from Poole Road to Victoria Way. Pipes will be laid along Poole Road, part of Goldsworth Road, Church Street West and Forge End to connect the Victoria Square development to ThamesWey's new sustainable energy station. Installation is expected to take approximately three months to complete.

During the works, two-way traffic lights will be in operation. Disruption will be kept to a minimum.

In late February, Thameswey will also begin installing heating pipes along part of Chertsey Road to expand its network to recently refurbished office buildings.

Furthermore, **Southern Gas Networks** is schedule to close Chertsey Road from the junction of High Street to Duke Street. **From 24 February to 3 April**, the highway will be closed to allow for essential gas pipe maintenance works. A signed diversion will be in place during the works.

You can stay up-to-date with highway works by visiting www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport

Future major works

Scheduled for late spring 2020 are a series of works to widen the Lockfield Drive junction with Victoria Way.

The work will see the east-bound carriageway widened to accommodate an additional lane at the junction with Victoria Way allowing easy access to the new car park currently being constructed, as part of the Victoria Square development.

An extended left turn filter lane will improve traffic flow and cut queuing times, whilst a slip road will be created along Victoria Way's west-bound carriageway providing direct access to the new car park. As you'd expect with such transformational work, this is a significant phase of work and will cause disruption to road users. More information about the works will be released in early 2020.

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