

# A38 Derby junctions improvement Newsletter

Newsletter issue 1 – August 2015

As you may know, Highways England are looking at long-term improvements to the A38 in Derby. We want to remove congestion points and alter the junctions to smooth traffic flow and improve local and long-distance journeys. This is the first A38 Derby junctions improvement newsletter - designed to keep you informed with progress updates on our scheme on a quarterly basis.





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## What are we doing and why?

We are proposing long-term improvements to journeys on the A38 by altering the Kingsway, Markeaton and Little Eaton junctions in Derby.

The A38 carries a large volume of traffic, both for long-distance and local journeys. But traffic flow is currently significantly delayed at these three “at grade” junctions (junctions on level ground) as traffic has to wait to cross. Traffic issues around these junctions are predicted to worsen in future, particularly as the area is expected to grow with new developments.

By replacing the “at-grade” junctions with underpasses at Kingsway and Markeaton junctions, and a flyover bridge at Little Eaton junction, traffic can flow through uninterrupted. Our scheme will help reduce congestion on the A38 and improve journey time reliability for drivers. The proposed scheme will allow us to improve road safety, as well as meet the needs of future traffic growth from existing and planned developments in the area, an essential element of Derby’s economic growth strategy.

## Public consultation



We recently held an extensive public consultation to show how the scheme has developed since previous consultations in 2002 and 2003. The consultation enabled us to present the current scheme options, explain how we’ve approached the designs, and gave us chance to ask you for comments and feedback to help shape further development of the project.

Our consultation ran from Monday 2 February to Friday 13 March. The main event was held at the Enterprise Centre, Derby, 5 - 7 February. This event was very well attended – with over 650 people coming to speak to the team.

In response to requests from local Parish Councils, we also held meetings at Breadsall Memorial Hall (26 February) and Little Eaton Village Hall (2 March). These were also well attended, with over 250 people coming to look at the scheme proposals and talk to the project team.

Finally, an exhibition was held at Mackworth Youth and Community Centre (26 March) at the request of a local MP.

During the consultation period, the project team discussed our proposals with more than 1,150 people, and we received almost 700 completed questionnaires, along with many other letters and emails. This is a fantastic response from the residents of Derby and demonstrates the level of interest in the scheme. We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to visit the exhibitions, writing to us and completing the consultation questionnaires.

We are compiling a report to show how all your views and comments were considered. We will publish it next month, and a copy will be available via our website.

## **Progress to date**

To help inform our final designs, we have been carrying out a variety of surveys to gather local information. These include land classification and archaeological checks, environmental surveys (including ecology, noise and air quality), non-motorised user surveys and traffic counts.

The survey data will enable us to understand existing traffic conditions, inform our assessments of potential impacts of the scheme, and allow us to modify our designs where necessary. Thank you to everyone who assisted us in carrying out these surveys.

We started our surveys back in November 2014, with a topographical survey along the length of the scheme – you may have seen surveyors taking measurements alongside the A38. This data gives us an accurate map on which to base the scheme design.

Traffic surveys were carried out in March. You may have seen the Automated Traffic Counters stretched across roads within the Derby area – and these were mentioned in the local media. This data will help us develop a traffic model to assess future traffic flows, enabling us to ensure the designs will accommodate expected traffic levels. This information will also form the basis for our economic assessment (a calculation of the economic benefits of our work). Traffic data also supports the noise and air quality assessments planned for later in the year.

In March, we commenced a variety of ecological surveys to investigate the flora and fauna in the vicinity of the scheme. Wildlife habitats are protected under a variety of UK and European laws, and surveys have to be undertaken in accordance with approved methodologies and best practice guidelines (this includes carrying out surveys during particular seasons).



Numerous surveys are currently underway, and we are in the middle of a very busy programme. The ecology surveys include great crested newts, water voles and otters, breeding birds, reptiles, botany and hedgerows, bats, white-clawed crayfish and tree condition surveys. We are also maintaining an ongoing air quality monitoring programme since mid 2013.

Our next newsletter will give you more information on how the surveys were carried out, and we'll share some of the findings.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

### Next steps

Work will continue throughout the summer on the environmental surveys and assessments, so we can identify potential environmental impacts of the scheme. We'll also continue to develop our traffic model, to assess the economic value of the scheme and its impact on traffic around the city. We are progressing the project with a view to conducting a further public consultation exercise towards the end of 2016.



From April 2015 Highways Agency became Highways England. Highways England is the new government owned company responsible for modernising, maintaining and operating England's motorways and major A roads, which includes roads such as the M1, A38 and A50 through Derbyshire.

### Contact us

For general enquiries about the scheme or to receive electronic versions of this and future leaflets, contact the Highways England project team via our email address:

**[A38derbyjunctions@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A38derbyjunctions@highwaysengland.co.uk)**

Or please call the team on **0161 930 5997**

Or visit our website for more information about the scheme and to register for email alerts whenever changes are made:

**[www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a38-derby-junctions](http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a38-derby-junctions)**

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