

A556

Knutsford to Bowdon improvement scheme

Newsletter – Issue 7

Summer 2017

On Monday 6 March we opened the new A556 to traffic. With drivers now using the new road, we're working on the next phase of the project which involves detrunking the 'old' A556 Chester Road.

Detrunking means that a redesigned Chester Road will be re-classified as the B5569 and will become the responsibility of Cheshire East Council (CEC). The redesign, agreed with the local authority, includes giving the road a rural look to discourage rat-running and use by anything other than local traffic.

In addition to the detrunking work we're addressing the historic drainage problems that were affecting local residents and motorists.

Flooding at Cherry Tree Lane before work started.



We'll be excavating the carriageway in a number of locations to locate damaged pipes and blockages and carry out the necessary repairs. Over the past 20 years, maintenance teams had been unable to access the drainage system due

to the high volume of traffic using the old road. The road couldn't be closed for long enough to carry out large excavation work.

These repairs are estimated to cost in excess of £1 million and we're doing them now, at the same time as the detrunking work, to minimise disruption.

We're also reconfiguring the junctions at Mere and Bucklow Hill. To enable the junctions to remain open while we do the work, we've installed temporary traffic management in the area.



Aerial view of the work underway at Mere junction.



Aerial view of the work underway at Bucklow Hill junction.

Progress report

- Our initial drainage investigations identified 8 areas along Chester Road that required repair. However the condition of the drainage system was worse than the surveys had identified and we've already excavated 40 areas so far, with others still to completed.
- Kerbing work along Chester Road is complete and we've started to install the earth mound (bund) that will separate the traffic from the shared user path that's being created for use by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
- The work we're carrying out at Mere and Bucklow Hill is extremely complex due to the large number of underground utility services located around the junctions. We've come across a number of uncharted services and we have been liaising with the relevant utility companies to complete the work safely. The junction layouts are now starting to take shape. As you pass through, you'll see areas that have been resurfaced and the new islands that have been constructed.
- Chester Road and Millington roundabouts are fully operational and also nearing completion. Occasionally, there may be a need to install temporary traffic management as we work on cabling and footpaths in the areas around them.
- The one-way system on Chester Road between Bucklow Hill and Mere will remain in place for the next few months. This is to allow us to safely carry out the changes to the road layout.

Chester Road/Tabley roundabout nearing completion.



- Work is nearly complete on the side roads.
- Cherry Tree Lane has reopened for access to the B5569, Chester Road.
- Old Hall Lane West has now opened, re-establishing access from Pickmere to Tabley.
- The new Vehicle & Operator Services Agency (VOSA) facility, which is being constructed on Bowdon roundabout, is well underway. It will provide a state of the art weighbridge and associated facilities for the agency to use to ensure the safety of vehicles using our road network.

We're carrying out the detrunking work in phases and expect them to be complete by the end of October. We understand that our work impacts on the local community and we are working hard to minimise disruption. We thank you for your on-going patience and understanding.

Contacting us

If you have any queries relating to construction activities, please do not hesitate to contact:

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