

Maidstone Bridges Improvement Scheme

**Newsletter 4
October 2016**

Key Dates

- Phase 3 started early October 2016.
- Overnight closures planned from the 17th October for two weeks and others in mid-November. Signed diversion routes will be erected.
- Phase 4 traffic management fully operational from mid-October.
- The majority of lanes will remain open during the peak periods to reduce delays.
- Substantial completion in November 2016

The improvement scheme started on 6th June. Construction work is being undertaken in phases to minimise disruption.

Update on Construction

- Retaining wall adjacent to UKPN sub-station complete;
- Bishops Way sub-way ramp filled;
- Traffic monitoring CCTV mast successfully moved with only 24 hours down time;
- New North bound lanes for the proposed alignment commenced;
- Diversionary work to Openreach BT fibre optic cables commenced, moving 24 ducts and constructing a protection slab;
- Paving works commenced on the River side;
- 24hr lane closures completed as planned;
- Public engagement event in Fremlins Walk held.



Retaining wall construction adjacent to the UKPN substation.

Works planned during the next phase :

- Complete diversionary work to Openreach BT plant;
- Complete the works on the Northern island: including the new North bound lanes;
- Widen the lower High Street and Bishops Way;
- Remove existing islands and construct new lane splitter islands;
- Commence resurfacing works on the Southern side of the gyratory system;



BT Openreach Fibre Optic Cables.

Maidstone Bridges Improvement Scheme



Maidstone Bridges Update:

Works commenced on the Maidstone Bridges scheme on the 6th June 2016. The tender issue programme identified a phased approach to the construction of the project with a completion prior to the Christmas embargo period. Good progress has been made despite a number of challenges. However, following the latest contractor update of the programme, KCC has been advised that a delay in completion is expected.

The main reason is because of the long lead in times for the delivery of the granite materials to match the existing Maidstone public realm design; this was specified to enhance the lower High Street. The delivery of this material has been particularly challenging and has caused delay to the programme. This has meant the paving work to the High Street has not been able to commence as planned.

The Principal Contractor has therefore concentrated resources on the main congestion busting traffic scheme and this remains on programme for completion by mid-November. All traffic management will be removed from the carriageway at this time and the new North bound lanes will be fully operational.

However, it will be necessary to continue works on the granite paving on the lower High Street beyond mid-November with completion anticipated in January 2017. This work will not affect the traffic movements and pedestrian access will be maintained at all times. We are continually re-assessing the programme and will be actively looking to bring forward the new completion date.

Communication has been arranged to update all the key stakeholders of this recent change in the completion date.

On a more positive note, it is forecast that the scheme will be delivered under budget. We are currently exploring the opportunity to use this surplus to enhance additional areas of slab paving in the lower High Street, again with no effect on traffic movements.

Jackson Civil Engineering has a dedicated Public Liaison Officer, Rebecca Edwards, who is available to deal with any queries. Rebecca will be available to meet with local businesses and residents to update them on construction activities and address any concerns they may have. You can contact her at REdwards@jackson-civils.co.uk or by phone on 07970 358089

Dates and shift patterns are subject to alteration due to unforeseen circumstances during construction

For more details regarding the phasing and traffic management arrangements please visit

kent.gov.uk/maidstonebridges or [@maidstonebridge](https://twitter.com/maidstonebridge)