

Keynsham High Street Public Realm Improvements (Phase 1)

Frequently Asked Questions – May 2021

Q. This seems like poor timing just as Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are easing. Why is the Council starting these works now?

We recognize the timing is not ideal and we apologise for the inconvenience. The works were due to start in Spring 2020, but the pandemic has created a series of delays. In addition to this we must deliver this phase of works by Spring 2022. A failure to do so would jeopardize the funding for this phase and the next which offers further public realm improvements, as well as shop front improvements and a cultural programme.

Q. How will the works be phased?

The public realm improvements will be constructed in short sections starting on the west side of the High Street outside the Methodist Church, continuing towards Bath Hill/Temple Street, then on the east side travelling from Charlton Road to Bath Hill. The work is expected to take eight months. You can view our construction phasing plan on the project webpage www.bathnes.gov.uk/keynsham, this will be regularly updated.

Q. I'm worried about dust and noise interrupting my business operation, particularly if I need to keep windows and doors open for ventilation. How will this be minimised?

Unfortunately, it is inevitable there will be some noise, vibration & dust as a result of the works. We have taken steps wherever possible to ensure that new materials are cut to size before they arrive on site but there will be a need to cut materials to fit specific areas as the works progress. Existing materials will also need to be cut and broken up or excavated for removal.

We will use wet cutting techniques and temporary screens around cutting areas and our site teams will attempt to let you know in advance where specific operations may affect you. If you have a particular concern about our operations around your premises, please do contact us and we will try and minimise the inconvenience as much as possible.

Q. Will the road be fully closed during the works?

The High Street will remain closed from 10am-4pm under an emergency traffic regulation order, put in place for social distancing, and will remain in place until at least 21 June or when the government advises these are no longer required. The High Street will then revert to its one-way system with occasional full road closures to facilitate improvements to the junction at Charlton Road, the later but similar works at the Bath Hill junction, and the resurfacing works at the end of the construction

programme. If the road does reopen in June, we will look to align the road closure for the Charlton Road junction improvements with this so that there is a smooth transition. The road is therefore likely to remain closed for a further 3 weeks before reopening to traffic.

Road closures will be signed in advance and in the event these coincide with your plans, please contact us to make us aware and we will work to minimise the inconvenience as much as possible.

Q. What will be the arrangements be for deliveries during road closures?

There may be some disruption to deliveries throughout the construction programme. We will work with businesses and residents to make alternative arrangements where possible. If you are concerned about how this might impact your business, please contact us.

Q. How will pedestrian & cycle movement be managed during the works?

The contra-flow cycle lane will be closed when necessary for safety grounds or to facilitate works to upgrade it. Works to footways will be subject to pedestrian controls (like temporary walkways) to facilitate works and to preserve safety. The construction works will not prevent traders, or their customers, from accessing their premises.

Q. I'm a blue badge holder will I be able to park close to the High Street during construction?

There are currently two temporary disabled parking bays located next to the HSBC bank these will be retained for the duration of the works. Unfortunately there is no way to retain safe parking in the area of the High Street directly affected by these works during their construction.

Q. Will I be compensated for disruption to my business?

The Council does not provide compensation to businesses impacted by any of our programmes of work. There are a range of business grants and loans available to support businesses through national and local restrictions, whether your business is closed or remains open. Please visit our webpage or visit the main council grants and government grant schemes here for more information:

beta.bathnes.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice/business-grants-and-loans

Q. I have a concern about the day-to-day construction activity who do I contact?

Always check our project updates on our webpage www.bathnes.gov.uk/keynsham
You can also email the project team directly: environment&design@bathnes.gov.uk.
This email address is only monitored during office hours.

Alternatively you can contact Council Connect by phone or email 01225 394041; council_connect@bathnes.gov.uk. For emergencies only the out of hours contractor contact is: 07384 908937.