

From: James Hinchcliffe **Sent:** 06 February 2012 17:22 **Subject:** FW: Work starts on Radstock road network upgrade **Importance:** High

For immediate release

Work starts on Radstock road network upgrade

Preparations by Bath & North East Somerset Council have started to significantly upgrade Radstock's road network in order to tackle traffic congestion and support the regeneration of the local economy.

The existing road network can't cope with the future homes on the Former Railway Land or development other sites in the future. The town's road system needs upgrading first to help reduce traffic congestion and pave the way for the additional homes and shops.

The preparations follow the Council Cabinet approving the Traffic Regulation Orders required to carry out the improvements in January 2012. On Norton Radstock Regeneration Company (NRR) land trees were removed on February 6th 2012. A contractor's compound will also be established on the land owned by NRR. This will also be used by Wessex Water who are commencing work in the town on February 8th 2012.

These preparations are required in order for the main programme of work to start on 19th March 2012. The improvements will take around six months. Whilst this work is taking place, Linden Homes are expected to submit details seeking approval of conditions associated with the planning permission on the site. This process is anticipated to conclude Autumn 2012.

Details of the main programme

The Council has been working hard to address the concerns raised by local people and businesses about the impact on the

town during the works after listening to what they had to say during the consultation in December 2011. A road improvement project of this scale will inevitably cause short-term disruption and we have been proactive in developing measures to mitigate the impact, particularly on trade.

We are seeking agreement with the Working Men's Club for 20 of their car parking spaces to be made available for additional public car parking. This decision is subject to their Board's agreement. The Council is also exploring other possible town centre parking locations;

On-street parking in front of the shops on Fortescue Road will be retained at all times. 13 spaces on The Street will be used in part during the works, as will 17 existing spaces outside Victoria Hall;

Existing access arrangements will be maintained to all existing commercial and residential properties, the car park behind Victoria Hall, and the access off the existing Frome Road;

The existing subway will remain open until a temporary footpath diversion is provided;

A minimum of two existing bus stops and shelters in The Street and the existing bus routes are to remain fully operational until the new bus stops and shelters that are to be provided on the new link road are completed and are fully accessible;

The contractor will phase the works to minimise disruption at any one given time.

Parking – the long-term solution

Although the completed development will result in 44 new public car parking spaces separate from the residential parking provided for the new homes, it is recognised by the Council that the completed scheme as it stands will result in the net loss of 16 out of 429 parking spaces in the town.

Work will be taking place with traders to develop plans to free-up additional short stay parking in the town that will benefit Radstock's economic prosperity.

Further information

People can find out more about the road scheme at www.bathnes.gov.uk/regenradstock

Any project updates will be issued via Twitter – follow @bathnes or search for #regenradstock
