



Environment & Infrastructure

To Residents / Businesses

Environment & Infrastructure
Hertfordshire County Council
CHN115
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford, Herts SG13 8DF
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 123 4040
Email: WelwynGardenCityTownCentre@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Your ref: G-I1409.2 Welwyn Garden City Town Centre
Date: 14th April 2021

To whom it may concern,

Welwyn Garden City Urban Realm Improvement Scheme Update

Hertfordshire County Council, in partnership with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and supported by Welwyn Garden City BID, have been developing a scheme to enhance Welwyn Garden City Town Centre. The aim of the scheme is to reduce traffic circulation, improve the environment for pedestrians and cyclists, and enhance the experience for people using the town centre. This has been a community-led project with a focus to create a vibrant town centre.

We wanted to provide an update on the scheme delivery programme for 2021 as businesses are set to reopen in the coming weeks and months following the latest Covid 19 national lockdown. Phase one of the works will start in Summer 2021 focusing on Stonehills. This will include reconfiguring of parking bays to reduce the conflict between vehicles and providing a pleasant atmosphere for retailers and visitors. A new public space will also be created at Stonehills' northern end, complete with feature benches and planting of new trees to provide an ideal meeting spot and location for outdoor events. The planned duration for the works is expected to last for up to 6 months, with no works in December in the run up to Christmas to allow for the festive shopping season.

Please see below the proposed programme summary which will be delivered in several phases over the forthcoming weeks/months for Stonehills;

Time Frame	Summary of Works
19 – 30 April 2021	Works to electricity and British Telecom service infrastructure near the former Debenhams store to allow the main scheme to progress in the Summer. Three parking spaces will be affected, no road closures required, and traffic flow will be maintained throughout.
July – Sept 2021 Construction Phase 1 (Dark Blue on plan, approx. 11 weeks)	Focus: Northern Stonehills (Former Debenhams store to Osbourn Way) – New public space created, complete with added benches, planting and new trees to provide an ideal meeting spot and location for outdoor events. There will be a 24-hour road closure of Stonehills throughout this period.

Time Frame	Summary of Works
NB: Construction Phase 1 and 2 to begin together	A new turning circle by the old Debenhams site will be delivered to enable vehicle movement Our aim is to keep the pedestrian route through Anniversary Gardens clear and open for as long as possible, only closing it at the time that coincides with the closing of Sir Theodores Way.
July – Sept 2021 Construction Phase 2 (Red on plan, approx. 8 weeks) NB: Construction Phase 1 and 2 to begin together	Focus: Southern Stonehills (Lloyds Bank to Former Debenhams store) – Carriageway improvements with reconfiguring parking bays along Stonehills. There will be a 24-hour road closure of Stonehills throughout this period. Carriageway improvement works taking place throughout the southern section of Stonehills.
Sept - Oct 2021 Construction Phase 3 (Orange on plan, approx. 4 weeks)	Focus: Northern Stonehills (Former Debenhams store to Osborn Way) and adjoining Osborn Way- Completing footway improvements outside shop fronts Phase 3 leads on from phase 1 We envisage these works will be in the majority outside of retail hours to ensure shops remain accessible and with minimum disruption when open/trading
Sept - Oct 2021 Construction Phase 4 (Light Blue on plan, approx. 4 weeks)	Focus: Southern Stonehills- Completing footway improvements outside shop fronts Phase 4 leads on from phase 2 We envisage these works will be in the majority outside of retail hours to ensure shops remain accessible and with minimum disruption when open/trading
Oct – Nov 2021 Construction Phase 5 (Pink on plan, approx. 5 weeks)	Focus: Stonebank – Repaving existing public space. Phase 5 will be carried out only after phase 4 has been completed to ensure a suitable pedestrian diversion route is provided. A full closure of Stonebank will be required to enable works to be carried out.

***Pedestrian through routes and access to shops will be maintained throughout the duration of works. These are subject to change and will be Covid safe.**

The phasing approach outlined has been developed to minimise works from October onwards in the run up to Christmas to support businesses at this important time of year. All road closures will be lifted after September.

Once Stonehills is complete we will deliver the remaining scheme, introducing pedestrian, cycling and traffic circulation improvements in Fretherne Road, Howardsgate, Wigmores North and Parkway. Measures will include improved pedestrian accessibility to and from the central green area in Howardsgate via raised carriageway tables and kerb build outs. Vehicular speeds will be slower and pedestrian visibility increased. Dedicated cycle lane access into the town centre will also improve journeys by bicycle. Works on this phase are due to commence from April 2022.

Should you wish to view plans or obtain further information regarding the scheme, please visit the project website at: <http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/wgctowncentre>.

Kind Regards



Steve Crawford

Project Engineer