

### **Southern Link Road Update**

Work on the Southern Link Road is progressing well and on schedule. The focus of the current phase of work is on increasing the size of the Norton Roundabout, completing the dualling back towards the Ketch Roundabout and partially dualling between the Norton and Whittington Roundabouts. When this phase of work is complete there will be two lanes running in a westerly (downhill) direction between the Whittington and Ketch Roundabouts and two lanes running in an easterly (uphill) direction between the Ketch and Whittington Roundabouts - except for a section under the railway bridge where the carriageway will taper down to one lane on the approach to the bridge before flaring out to two lanes again beyond it.

At the end of this phase, all three lanes of traffic (uphill and downhill) will still run underneath the existing railway bridge. The next phase of work will be to "extend" the railway bridge (although technically the extension will be a stand-alone structure) to the south and to construct a section of carriageway beneath it. In the final configuration both eastbound (uphill) lanes will pass beneath the existing railway bridge and both westbound (downhill) lanes will pass beneath the new railway bridge. A new pedestrian/cycling/bridleway bridge will be constructed over the full carriageway immediately to the west of the railway bridges. Full dualling between Whittington and Ketch Roundabouts is due for completion in early 2019. Plans to dual between the Ketch and Powick Roundabouts, which will entail constructing a new bridge over the River Severn, are also well advanced.

Our contractor, Alun Griffiths Ltd, has to restrict access to some lanes to give them room to carry out the various construction operations that are necessary to progress the scheme. As you are aware, this is achieved with cones and barriers which are prone to getting dirty during the course of the day. This "traffic management" is inspected on a daily basis and the reflective strips are cleaned or repaired as required. Where motorists are required to change from one lane to another, the transition areas are lit and there are warning signs and a reduced speed limit in force. Naturally we are reliant on motorists driving in a safe and responsible manner through the road works.

Although the vast majority of work is carried out during the daytime, some operations e.g. extensive surfacing, do require a full road closure. Given that the Southern Link Road is one of the busiest and most important routes in the county, a full closure is not feasible in the daytime and the work therefore has to be carried out at night. We always try to keep night work to an absolute minimum to reduce any impact on local residents. The contractor is required to work within the guidelines set out in British Standard BS5228 and the working methods they have agreed with Worcestershire Regulatory Services to control noise. In summary, this requires the contractor to comply with Worcestershire Regulatory Services "Code of Best Practice for Demolition and Construction Sites".

Night closures are advertised in advance via on site electronic Variable Message Signs, on Twitter @WorcsTravel and on the County Council's website which you can access via the following link: [SLR](#) if you are reading this online or by visiting the County Council website and searching for "Southern Link Road". If residents have any specific comments or concerns, the fastest and most effective way of reporting them is either by emailing [wts@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:wts@worcestershire.gov.uk) or by reporting online via the following link: [REPORT ONLINE](#) (if you are currently online) or by visiting the County Council website and clicking the "REPORT" button.

Southern Link Road Project Team