

Southern Link Road Update

Residents will recall from the last update that the focus of the current phase of work has been 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. Once this work is complete (July/August 2017) 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.

Current work is focussed on putting the "finishing touches" to this phase of the scheme such as completing the central reserve, installing signage, applying road markings and landscaping. Wherever possible soil that has been excavated during earlier work has been stored on site or nearby and is being reused in the landscaping scheme. Our contractor, Alun Griffiths Ltd, will continue to have to restrict access to some lanes to give them room to carry out this work.

At the end of this phase of work, 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 in readiness for the final carriageway widening beneath it. "Possession" of the railway track to install the new bridge has been booked with Network Rail for May 2018. 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.

Full dualling between Whittington and Ketch Roundabouts is due for completion in early 2019 and will include the construction of a new pedestrian/cycling/bridleway bridge over the full carriageway immediately to the west of the railway bridges. Plans to dual between the Ketch and Powick Roundabouts, which will entail constructing a new bridge over the River Severn, are also well advanced with the work currently scheduled to be completed in 2021.

If residents have any specific comments or concerns about the scheme, the fastest and most effective way of reporting them is either by emailing 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