

Text of BANES Press Release on the Road Proposals 27.06.2011

Next step for Radstock regeneration

Significant improvements to Radstock town centre have been announced by Bath & North East Somerset Council, with work expected to start in the Autumn.

In addition to its own funding, the Council has secured investment support worth £800,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to enable the improvements to the current road network to begin.

The Traffic Regulation Orders will be advertised this week which will enable the work to the town's road network to take place.

The improvements include:

- Replacing the double mini roundabout at the junction of A367 and the A362 with one mini roundabout;
- Allowing two-way traffic on The Street;
- Creating a new link from The Street to Frome Road.

This will form a vital strand of the regeneration of the town, which is identified as a priority in the West of England Local Investment Plan, which highlights projects that need support from the HCA and its partners.

Councillor Cherry Beath (Lib-Dem, Combe Down), Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, said, "The improved public infrastructure for Radstock is an essential component of the Council's vision to support regeneration in the town. In addition to this work, we will be working with the Somer Valley Partnership to create an economic action plan for the town.

"We have the opportunity to inject investment into Radstock that will make the public space in the town a more pleasant place for local people, help manage traffic more effectively, and provide access to the proposed new homes and business space on the former railway land.

"The advertisement of the Traffic Regulation Orders represents the next step towards getting this project going. We appreciate the strong local feelings about the proposed road layout and will be communicating regularly with traders and residents to ensure any disruption caused by the works is minimised."

Jay Lambe, HCA investment and regeneration manager, added: "The regeneration of Radstock town centre is a priority that has been identified within the Local Investment Plan and we are very pleased to be working with the council to support it.

"The existing highway infrastructure in Radstock has been identified as adversely impacting on the town centre for some time; it impedes access to poor accessibility to employment, retail, and other facilities which can have an adverse impact on the local economy.

"That's why these improvements are important for the area and we are very pleased that the council has announced that work is due to start on this project."

The phasing of works will be determined once the contractor has been selected. The work will be completed as quickly as possible to minimise the impact on the community. The construction work is likely to start by or before October 2011 and will take approximately six months to complete.

Notes to editors

The detailed outline of what the works include is as follows:

- Bath Road / Somervale Road junction converted from double mini-roundabout to one standard mini roundabout serving Bath Road, Somervale Road, High Street;
- Frome Road converted to access, buses and cycles only from the Charltons site to Bath Road;
- Buses only left out only from old Frome Road onto Bath Road;
- Bus lay-by on old Frome Road;
- Frome Road diverted to form a new link road;
- Bus lay-bys on the link road;
- New signalised junction comprising old Frome Road, existing Frome Road, diverted Frome Road (link road) and access to the southern part of NRR's site including pedestrian crossing facilities;
- Junction of Church Street/The Street / Fortescue Road converted to four armed priority junction with right turn lane into Fortescue Road;
- The Street converted to two-way traffic;
- Delivery bays and parking on The Street;
- Direction of flow reversed on Fortescue Road;
- Left out only from Fortescue Road;
- New mini-roundabout at Wells Road / High Street / The Street junction;
- Puffin crossing on High Street;

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is the single, national housing and regeneration delivery agency for England. Our vision is to create opportunity for people to live in homes they can afford in places they want to live, by enabling local authorities and communities to deliver the ambition they have for their own areas.