

The logo for Bath & North East Somerset Council features the text "Bath & North East Somerset Council" in a green, sans-serif font. The text is centered and flanked by two horizontal blue bars, one above and one below the text.

# Bath & North East Somerset Council

## Questions and plan released for Radstock improvements

A detailed plan of improvements to Radstock town centre's road network and a question bank containing answers about the project has been released by Bath & North East Somerset Council.

The work, which will start by or before October 2011 and last around six months, 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.

Councillor Cherry Beath (Lib-Dem, Combe Down), Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, said, "The plan will provide an even better idea to local people and traders of what will happen in Radstock as part of efforts to regenerate the town. As we move forward on the wider regeneration of the town, the Council will be listening to the views of local people and engaging with them as much as possible.

"To increase understanding about how the Council will be implementing the road project we have compiled answers to points that have been raised by local people, such as the effect on parking and local wildlife.

"The question bank will be placed on our website and updated when there is either more information about specific issues or new points that the Council wishes to address. Relevant documents, such as the plan to protect local wildlife, will also be available on these pages."

The information can be accessed at [www.bathnes.gov.uk/regenradstock](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/regenradstock) and people can also ask questions by emailing [regen\\_radstock@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:regen_radstock@bathnes.gov.uk)

The £1.2 million project is being funded by the Council and Homes and Communities Agency and is part 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.

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ENDS

The questions and answer that will be posted on our website are as follows:

## **Radstock public infrastructure – Questions and Answers**

### **1. Why is a new road going to support regeneration?**

In order for Radstock to encourage private sector investment and regeneration the town for the benefit of local residents, new shops, offices, and housing it must be supported by a better road network. The new road will help manage traffic more effectively, and provide access to the proposed new homes and business space on the former railway land.

The process of regenerating Radstock began as far back as 1996. The Council consulted on and agreed a set of regeneration principles that were publicly debated in 2006 and the work we are starting is consistent with these.

The Council appreciates the strong local feelings about the proposed road layout, but we must get on with the job of delivering economic regeneration.

### **2. Is the Council undertaking the regeneration of the town on its own?**

No. To further support the regeneration process, the Council will be working with the Somer Valley Partnership and Radstock Town Council and other interested groups to produce an Economic Plan for the town. The Radstock Action Group has arranged various events to discuss the future of the town, and we hope that this work can be fed into the process of completing an Economic Plan.

### **3. What will happen to car parking?**

There are currently approximately 460 on and off street car parking spaces in Radstock. In order for the works to take place, there will be temporary losses in car parking of 12 spaces at The Street and 11 spaces at Fortescue Road. These will not necessarily be at the same time, nor for the duration of the works. We are working with landowners in the town to see whether this temporary reduction in spaces can be compensated for.

### **4. What has happened to the traffic and car parking data obtained several years ago which has been collected by the Council?**

Traffic and parking counts were completed in 2009.

A full Traffic Assessment was completed as part of the planning application for the Former Railway Land – application number 06/02880/EOUT. The Council's highways engineers acknowledged the proposed changes to the road network as seeking to address existing congestion issues and creating capacity to accommodate new development.

## **5. Will cars be able to turn right at the junction of Church Street and The Street?**

The Council wants to ensure the new road network is as safe as possible for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, whilst maintaining the flow of traffic through the town.

Allowing cars to turn right at the junction of Church Street and The Street would result in a conflict between vehicles turning in Church Street and Fortescue Road creating a situation where they would potentially hit each other. It would also hold-up traffic exiting Church Street which is able to turn left out of Church Street to the roundabout and back.

## **6. What will happen to the 'Jubilee' oak tree?**

Thorough consideration has been given to how the oak tree could be retained as part of the scheme. Unfortunately, this is not possible because a roundabout at this location is required which is essential to the scheme. However, a replacement tree/s in an appropriate location selected in consultation with the local community will be provided.

## **7. What is the impact on the Conservation Area?**

The impact on the Conservation Area was considered as part of the planning consent for the former railway land. Further work was completed with the developer to ensure that the railway heritage within the site was given even greater prominence within the former railway land site. The design and materials of the proposed buildings will include a greater use of stone rather than timber cladding.

The Council commissioned an archaeological survey of the site area which will be directly impacted by the new road. This report is available on the Council's website.

## **8. What is the Council doing to support traders through these works?**

Radstock will be open for business throughout the duration of these works. We will be working with our contractors in close liaison with local traders to ensure the minimum level of disruption possible. Access to the shops will be maintained at all times. There will be clear signage to ensure that people are aware that it is business as usual.

We will be engaging with local traders throughout the works to inform them about the latest developments on-site.

**9. What is the Council doing to minimise the effect on wildlife?**

The Council takes the preservation of ecology in Radstock very seriously. We have appointed ecological experts who have prepared a plan to minimise and mitigate the impact of the works on badgers, bats, reptiles, and nesting birds etc. Ecologists will supervise and be available throughout the development. The plan is available on our website.

**10. Is planning permission needed to undertake the road project?**

No. The work is being undertaken under the Council's Highway Permitted Development powers. The project does not trigger the existing planning consent or the associated conditions for the Former Railway Land.

The works we are conducting are in line with the consented scheme for the development. The Traffic Regulation Orders required to implement the works are subject to consultation and have been advertised. They are also available on the Council's website.