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Your Ref:
Date: 24 November 2017

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Dereham Road/Longwater Lane junction improvement and Dereham Road widening scheme

The second phase of a scheme to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow on the busy A1074 Dereham Road is planned to get underway next year. The first phase has already seen two eastbound (Norwich bound) exit lanes built at the junction near the Roundwell medical centre.

The second phase of the work will see the section of Dereham Road between the Longwater Lane junction and Britannia Way widened to four lanes. At the Longwater Lane junction, both of the existing two lanes of traffic will be permitted to turn right onto Dereham Road.

The aim of the work is to reduce the current congestion issues and provide additional capacity on the road network to deal with the planned housing growth in the area.

The project is estimated to cost about £4.6million, which includes a high pressure gas main diversion. Funding is from developer contributions and a £2.0 million allocation from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, Local Growth Fund.

More detail on the plans is given below. If you think there is anything we may need to take into account before the scheme goes ahead please do let us know by 5 January 2018.

More detail on the work planned:

Dereham Road

Dereham Road between its junction with Britannia Way and its junction with Longwater Lane will be widened with two lanes provided in both directions separated by double white lines with road studs. The speed limit will remain as 40 mph as at present.

Longwater Lane junction

Road markings on the Longwater Lane approach will be amended to allow traffic in both lanes to turn right onto Dereham Road.

Pedestrian crossing at Lord Nelson Drive junction

A new Toucan crossing to be introduced to replace the existing crossing. The new crossing will allow people to cross in two stages with a large central island to make getting across the new wider road both easier and safer.

Roundwell Park travellers site access

For safety reasons and to reduce delays on this very busy section of road, the access to the site will be made suitable for left-in and left-out movements only. This means people going to the site will be able to turn left only from Dereham Road into the site. Vehicles leaving the site will be able to access Dereham Road by turning left only.

Cycling and walking

The existing pedestrian and cycleway will be retained along the north side of Dereham Road and connected onto existing routes.

Improving drainage

The works will also see improvements made to the drainage in the area and will tackle the known issue near the Roundwell medical centre, which has seen surface water accumulating during periods of heavy rain. Due to the road widening works, additional drainage provision is also required for the increased catchment area.

Along the south side of the road – open ditches set well back from the road are proposed wherever space is available without any implications on trees and utilities. Soakaways are planned where there are other constraints on site.

Along the north side of the road – the whole verge area in front of the Roundwell medical centre will be acquired, so that a bank of aquacells can be installed at this location to take the water swiftly off the road and safely allow it to drain into the ground.

Tree removal

As part of the scheme, it is regrettable that some existing trees will be removed, but this is unavoidable due to the constraints of the space available. More new trees will be planted within the area than will be lost.

Utilities works

There is an existing high pressure gas pipeline currently passing across Dereham Road south to north. As part of the scheme, the pipeline will have to be upgraded and diverted to suit the new traffic density.

Land required

To achieve the proposed changes, some land will be required from private landowners. It is hoped that land can be acquired by negotiation.

Programme of works

- Some trees need to be removed in February 2018 to make the construction areas available for high pressure gas pipe diversion works;
- High pressure gas pipe works will follow in April or July 2018; it is expected to last for 5 months on site;
- Further trees will be removed in winter 2018, to make the site ready for road widening works;
- The major road widening works has currently been programmed to start around December 2018 or early 2019, and will probably last for approximately 5 months.

Construction Method and Traffic Management

Detailed traffic management strategies have not been finalised at this stage, however disruption will be managed to keep it to a minimum. Work requiring a road closure will take place outside peak times.

Access to local business and properties will be maintained at all times, unless agreed otherwise with individual property owners.

More detailed information on construction sequences and traffic management will be provided prior to the start of works.

An overall scheme layout plan numbered PK5090-PH2-PRE-100 is enclosed.

Let us know your views

If you think there's anything we may have missed or overlooked in the plans above please do let us know by 5 January 2018.

The best way to respond would be via email: DerehamRoad@norfolk.gov.uk
(Please note the email account will be activated from 27 November 2017)

Information can also be found on the consultation hub website: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/>