

Norfolk County Council: Go-ahead given for roundabout to replace A140 Hempnall crossroads

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Go-ahead given for roundabout to replace A140 Hempnall crossroads

It has been announced today that planning permission has been granted for the scheme which will see the Hempnall crossroads on the A140 replaced with a new roundabout.

Now that planners have approved the scheme the main construction work is likely to start in the spring, with preliminary work already underway.

Cllr Martin Wilby, Chairman of the Environment, Development and Transport committee, said: "This is great news and means that we will be able to start the main construction work in the spring, and expect to see the roundabout open by this autumn.

"As is the case with any improvement scheme there will be some disruption but we will make sure this is kept to a minimum, and I'm sure the short term pain will be well worth the long term gain."

The Department for Transport awarded Norfolk County Council £3.05 million towards the £4.36 million cost of the scheme in October 2017. Local funding is in now in place for the rest of the cost and once completed, the new roundabout should reduce journey times, ease traffic congestion and improve road safety.

An informal public consultation on the plan, that ran in March and April 2018, showed overwhelming support for the scheme.

Cllr Alison Thomas, County Councillor for the Long Stratton division, which includes the Hempnall crossroads, said: "I've been campaigning for this improvement for many years so it's wonderful to know that work to build this vital roundabout is set to start soon.

"The case for an improvement at this junction was clear as the accident record sadly speaks for itself. The new roundabout will make this section of road safer and enable motorists to access the A140 at this point without the need to detour for safety purposes. This will cut the daily delays that people have had to face, particularly on the B1527 to Hempnall."

The existing junction, known locally as the Hempnall crossroads, has a poor injury accident record, with nine accidents in the last five years (latest available figures run up to the end of November 2018). These accidents resulted in 13 casualties, with two categorised as serious.

Two thirds of the injury accidents involved vehicles emerging from the side roads onto the A140, with the remainder being tail end collisions in traffic and single vehicle loss of control incidents. The roundabout will improve this section of the A140 that has seen a number of collisions over the years and sadly some very recent fatalities.

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Notes for editors

The scheme is expected to cost £4.36m, with £3.05m funding from the Department for Transport and £650,000 from New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal with central Government. The remaining local contribution is expected to be funded through a combination of developer funding and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

As the new roundabout will be built to the west of the existing crossroads, and off the line of the A140 this will allow disruption to be kept to a minimum. Details of any necessary traffic management will be provided nearer to the time that it may be required.

Next steps

A temporary road closure of B1527 Hempnall Road is planned to take place from Monday 28 January to Friday 1 February 2019. This will be in place between the junctions with the A140 and Brick Kiln Lane (700 metres approximate length of closure). There will be no access to Hempnall from the A140 Hempnall crossroads junction during this time.

Norfolk County Council is managing the road closure to allow utility diversion works to go ahead. The work has been coordinated to minimise the duration of the road closure required.

The official diversion route using roads of a similar standard is via B1527, B1332 Norwich Road, A143 and A140.

For political comment

Cllr Martin Wilby (Conservative) Chairman of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee, on 07920 286618 or 01379 741504

Cllr Terry Jermy (Labour), on 01842 630851

Cllr Tim East (Liberal Democrat), on 01603 743241

Cllr Mick Castle (Independent), on 07966 798928

Cllr Alison Thomas, County Councillor for the Long Stratton division, on 07920 286603

For further information please contact:

Communications Team at Norfolk County Council

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Email: pressoffice@norfolk.gov.uk

Attachments

- Aerial view looking north.jpg [Aerial view looking north.jpg](#)
- Hempnall Cross Road Scheme Plan.pdf [Hempnall Cross Road Scheme Plan.pdf](#)

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