

Working in partnership



Smallbrook junction improvements

Questions and Answers

Why is the scheme necessary?

The council collects accident data so it can plan and undertake the most beneficial safety work.

Over the past ten years, the Smallbrook Roundabout at Asheys has been identified as the junction where there have been most injury accidents. In that time, there have been 22 collisions resulting in injury as well as numerous other non-injury collisions and near misses.

This safety scheme is necessary to address the issues that have rendered this junction an accident blackspot.

When will the work start?

Work is due to start in the first week of October

How long will it go on for?

The entire project is programmed to take six months. The first month will be spent carefully clearing away vegetation to allow the junction to be realigned and to create greatly improved visibility splays.

There will then be an estimated two months in which four utility companies – water, gas, electric and telecommunications – will divert infrastructure that runs through the site. Given this is third party work over which we have no control, this aspect of the scheme could be subject to change which could affect the overall duration.

The creation of the new junction is expected to take a further three months.

Why is it taking so long?

As explained above, the clearance of vegetation is a necessarily painstaking operation. Though the vegetation itself is deemed to be low-value habitat, we are keen to ensure the work does not adversely affect any wildlife. Local wildlife experts from Arc will remain on site throughout the clearance to advise and supervise as required. Though this is clearly the right thing to do in the interests of local ecology, it will mean the clearance is a slow process.

The other aspect that adds to the duration is the presence of significant utility company infrastructure that will need diverting.

Furthermore, the whole project is also being undertaken over the winter when progress can be hindered by inclement weather and when the working day is short.

How with the junction be made safe?

The project will include a number of safety features including:

- New greatly improved visibility splays, particularly for traffic entering the junction from Carters Road and Smallbrook Lane.
- Improved street lighting
- Reduced speed limit from 40mph to 30mph.
- Realigning the approaches to the roundabout and introducing new traffic islands to ensure cars slow down to pass through the roundabout junction. It will no longer be possible for cars to 'straight run' across the junction.

The introduction of anti-skid 'slow-down strips' on the approaches to the new roundabout

What traffic management will be in place during the scheme?

During work Smallbrook Roundabout will be controlled by three-way temporary traffic lights.

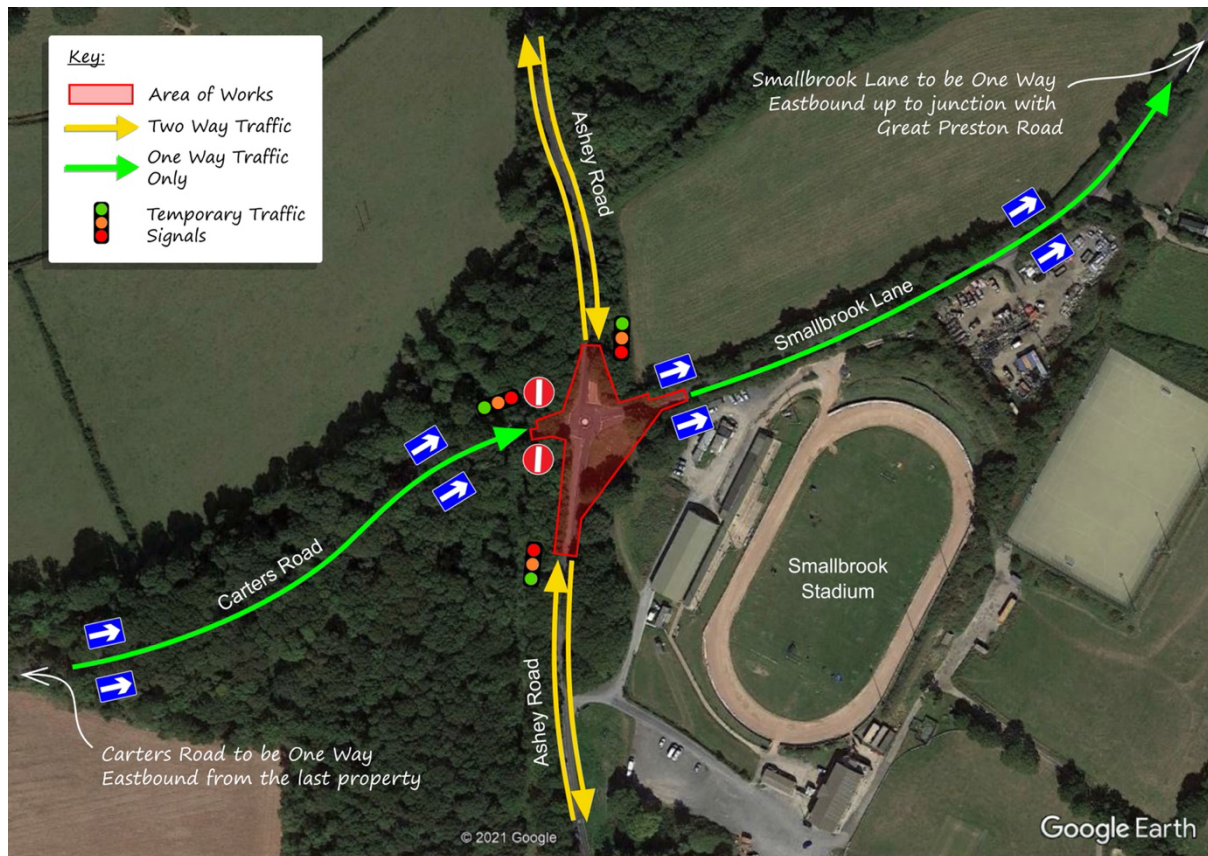
Smallbrook Lane will be one way in an eastbound direction (towards Ryde). Traffic will be diverted westbound via Great Preston Road, St Johns Hill, Green Street and Upton Road.

Carters Road will be one-way eastbound from the last property, towards its junction with Ashey Road.

Some short-term road closures may also be necessary although those will be communicated in advance, although if progress with the scheme permits the one way restriction will be removed for the festive and new year period.

The entire junction will also need to be closed at the end of work for resurfacing. This will be done overnight and, again, advance notice will be given.

A map of the traffic arrangements is below.



Who is paying for the work?

The work is being paid for with Government grant through Local Transport Plan funding.

Will the work be harmful to local wildlife?

We are working very closely with Arc to ensure that is not the case. On completion we will also undertake an agreed programme of work by way of habitat mitigation and enhancement. This will involve planting of trees and bushes that have high habitat value – such as hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn as well as holly and honeysuckle. We will also install six dormice boxes.

While we will do all we can to meet our environmental responsibilities, it must be stressed that our number one priority is road safety. This is a scheme that will make a great contribution to improving safety at what has been identified by data as being a clear accident blackspot over the last decade.