

Working in partnership



3rd March 2021

St George's Way, Newport junction improvement scheme

As part of the ongoing programme of work to improve traffic flows in and around Newport, Island Roads on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council will this month begin a major project at St George's Way.

The project is the next in the series of schemes outlined as part of the Newport Strategic Junction improvements (see programme overview attached) and follows on from the recent junction improvement work at St Mary's. Like the St Mary's project, the work on St George's Way is funded by a Government grant and developer contributions and not local authority resources.

While this project will bring obvious benefits, the work will also require the closure of one lane of St George's Way meaning a local diversion will be in place. This briefing note explains more about the work, the diversion route and other traffic management measures that will be implemented.

Why is it happening and what does it entail?

The primary function of this project is to improve traffic flow in this area and prevent the bottlenecks occurring as they do currently at either end of St George's Way.

Extending the lanes at either end will enable traffic to travel along and beyond St George's Way via Coppins Bridge and Matalan roundabout more efficiently. Currently there is limited, dedicated lane space for traffic wishing to travel towards Ryde via Coppins bridge (to the north) and for traffic wishing to turn right at the Matalan Roundabout towards Church Litten and the town centre. This means that long queues form along the length of St George's Way, particularly at peak times. The extended lanes will shorten queuing times, allowing more traffic to exit at Coppins Bridge during each cycle of the lights and at the Matalan roundabout, meaning less congestion and also less idling by stationary/queuing vehicles which is better for the environment.

The scheme also involves the upgrade of the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to Furrongs (the latest sensor technology will be installed) and the introduction of a dropped kerb and tactile paving to assist those with mobility issues.

The project will also require work by the statutory utility services to re-route their apparatus.

You can see an overview of the scheme attached with this briefing document.

When will this work take place?

The project is expected to last for at least six months starting towards the end of next week when the new traffic arrangements will be put in place overnight to allow work to begin the next day.

Prior to that, on 8 March, a works compound will be established at the southern end of Upper Coppins Bridge car park. Pedestrian access to the rear of properties in Ash Road will be maintained.

The one-way restriction will be removed in time for the school summer holidays with all subsequent surfacing work being undertaken overnight.

Please note:

While we will endeavour to work closely with and support the utility companies during their works, there may be circumstances beyond our control that could impact on the schedule and/or duration of work.

The work is also subject to change through other factors beyond our control including the weather and or product supplies, however we will do our utmost to keep the community informed of any such changes.

How will this affect road users?

During the works, there will be a diversion in place around-the-clock for traffic travelling northbound (towards Coppins Bridge). We will however be scheduling work to ensure that one lane of St George's Way remains open (from north to south) for most of the duration of the works. Doing this will help to reduce the impact on local traffic flows.

A plan of the diversion route can be found below. All roads on the diversion route are main (strategic) roads.



- Southbound traffic can still travel along St George's Way to the 'Matalan roundabout
- Northbound traffic will need to follow the diversion route via St George's Approach, Church Litten and South Street where it will rejoin the Coppins Bridge roundabout
- South Street will be one-way to traffic travelling east towards Coppins Bridge roundabout
- Furlongs remains open to traffic joining St George's Way
- Medina Avenue closed at the northern End, access only via southern end
- Taxi Ranks in South Street will move to St James Street
- Buses currently operating from Church Litten will transfer to South Street

While access to and from Furlongs will generally be available during the scheme, there will be times for up to a week at a time when access will be restricted to allow works to take place across the junction.

Additional traffic management arrangements

During the works the following additional traffic management arrangements will also be in place. **These arrangements will be reviewed on a regular basis and changes made where necessary:**

Medina Avenue will become a cul-de-sac (blocked at the northern end) to prevent vehicles using this residential road in the interests of safety. Therefore, all access and egress will be from the southern end of Medina Avenue.

Residents of **Prospect Road** will not be able to turn left onto South Street as this will be one-way to facilitate the diversion route. Traffic wishing to go from Prospect Road to the town will have to follow the local diversion route.

The **South Street taxi ranks** will be located in St James Street in what is currently a limited waiting zone (30-minutes). There will be nine spaces provided in St James' Street compared to ten that are currently in South Street (five outside Morrison's and five outside Peacocks).

The ranks outside Morrison's are required to facilitate the one-way diversion route and the ones outside Peacock are needed to accommodate Southern Vectis buses displaced by the need to use Church Litten as a free-flowing diversion route. (Note: Southern Vectis is using Church Litten to enable it to provide services while complying with Covid-19 social restrictions).

A section of the **Upper Coppins Bridge car park** (a number of spaces at the southern end indicated by the shaded blue section on the diversion map) will be used as a site compound for work vehicles/staff welfare. The southern end of the car park has been chosen because it has direct access enabling staff to get to and from the work site. In addition, this section is traditionally the least utilised.

Emergency Services

All the blue light services have been briefed and are happy with the diversion arrangements. Fire and Rescue Service vehicles will have a dedicated lane to enable them to turn right out of the South Street HQ.

Easing congestion and enhancing traffic flows along St George's Way will be a long-term benefit to emergency services as well as to all road users.

Further information

Information is being made available about this scheme through the local media, letters to residents most affected by the work, visits to the key businesses in the area and via electronic briefing letters like these to a wide range of community contacts.

A dedicated webpage has been established for the scheme, accessible via the home page of www.islandroads.com which includes frequently asked questions and answers and other key information. This page will be kept updated throughout the scheme.

We will also be giving updates as appropriate on our social media platforms <https://www.facebook.com/isleofwightcouncil> and <https://twitter.com/iwight> and Island Roads will do the same via its Twitter feed @IslandRoads

If you have any concerns, you can email Island Roads at info@islandroads.com or in an emergency call the Island Roads Help desk on 01983 822440.

We remain grateful for everyone's continued patience as we progress this important junction improvement scheme.

Thank you!

Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads

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