

Public Information

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Norfolk County Council

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Heartsease Fiveways roundabout – temporary full closure of the roundabout and all approaches for resurfacing work

Work to make Heartsease Fiveways roundabout much safer for all those who use the area is making good progress, with most of the work nearing completion. As mentioned in our recent letter, the next and final phase of the project is to resurface the whole roundabout area and its approaches. This information notice is to provide the final details of the closure.

Background to the project

The aim of the project at Heartsease roundabout is to improve the safety of the area, particularly for those walking, cycling and using wheelchairs or pushchairs. The old roundabout had a poor safety record and there were no designated crossing facilities.

Improvements include changing the alignment of the roundabout so there is only one circulatory lane around it and so that each arm will have a single lane for entry and exit. There will be new parallel crossings on all arms for those walking and cycling, as well as improvements to signage for existing cycle routes in the area to encourage the use of quiet residential streets for cycling. Pavements around the roundabout have been converted to shared-use pedestrian and cycle paths and widened to provide segregated paths, where possible.

Temporary road closures – Saturday 13 April until Saturday 18 May

- From Saturday 13 April Heartsease Fiveways roundabout will be closed on all its approaches. Plumstead Road, St Williams Way and Heartsease Lane will close for the first time since work began last year, joining the existing closures on the Harvey Lane and Plumstead Road East arms.
- The existing closure on Margeston Avenue will also remain in place until work is completed.
- We have applied for a five-week permit to complete the work until Saturday 18 May but we will work with our site team to make sure work is completed as soon as possible and are hopeful that we can finish the resurfacing in a shorter timeframe.

- Contingency has been built into the programme to allow for any unforeseen circumstances, such as bad weather or issues arising on site.

Access

- Access for those on foot will be maintained throughout the closure period.
- Access for people cycling will also be maintained but they will have to dismount through the closure area.
- Access for emergency vehicles will be maintained throughout the closure.
- There is some impact on vehicle access to properties within the closure area – those affected have been written to separately with full details.
- Between 3 and 8 May, access to Aldi will only be available via Plumstead Rd and exiting via Harvey Lane.
- **Bus services**
Buses through the area will still be running while work takes place but will be following the diversions listed on the relevant routes.
 - First Bus services 23/23A will divert via Hilary Avenue and Borrowdale Drive
 - First Bus services 24/24A/24B will divert via Harvey Lane
 - First Bus service 33 will continue to follow the existing diversion route, via Gordon Avenue and Thunder Lane
 - Please visit www.firstbus.co.uk/easterncounties and go to 'news and service updates', then 'planned changes' for further information
 - Temporary bus stops will be signed on the ground and it is planned for the buses to serve stops along their diversion routes to help keep people moving while the closure is in place.

Diversions

Due to the number of roads affected by the closures, diversion routes will not be signed because the signage needed could lead to confusion. Those locally will be able to navigate through the most appropriate side roads for their journeys and the closure will be flagged on the outer approaches to allow drivers to re-route in good time before reaching the area.

Why is a full closure needed?

Changes to make Heartsease Fiveways safer for everyone, and particularly for those walking, wheeling or cycling, mean that the roundabout has been re-built in a completely different way. The resurfacing involves significant building up of the road by up to 40cm in some places. The existing surface has to be removed and then work to resurface needs to be completed in layers across the whole area to minimise the surface joints, with cooling time of up to a day needed between each layer for the materials to set properly before the next is added. We have also had to build in time to reverse temporary work carried out to the Aldi entrance to allow change of access during the project construction period. All these factors add time to the programme but this approach will ensure the best end product, which should reduce the need for future maintenance. In addition, the site is quite small and therefore restricted so the area needs to be closed to make sure the construction team are safe while they work.

Further information

The work will be carried out by Norfolk County Council's Community and Environmental Services Department and their contractors. The project cost is around £4.4m and will be funded mainly through the Transforming Cities Fund money awarded to the County Council by the central government's Department for Transport (DfT).

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience this work causes and thank people for their patience while these important safety improvements take place. We understand that any disruption on the roads is frustrating and will be working with our contractor, Tarmac, throughout to minimise this as much as possible.

Contact and further information

- Durga Goutam – Project Engineer (design), Alex White – Technician (design), Bob West – Resident Engineer (construction) - 0344 800 8020
- transportfornorwich@norfolk.gov.uk
- www.norfolk.gov.uk/heartseaseroundabout
- Contractor: Tarmac

Up-to-date information about roadworks in Norfolk is available on the County Council website at www.norfolk.gov.uk/roadworks



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