

Chippenham Station Hub written update

Background

The Chippenham Station Hub scheme is a Local Growth Funded Project, which the SWLEP is delivering with Wiltshire Council and its partner organisations – Network Rail and Great Western Rail alongside a wide range of stakeholders.

An initial LGF sum of £16M was allocated to the project, which included the potential to explore an element of car parking intensification on the northern platform. Following further feasibility work this project was deemed not to represent good value for money and the money was reallocated by the SWLEP.

The Chippenham Station Hub project was developed in order to:

- Help delivery economic development in a sustainable manner by improving the use of public transport
- Enhance the experience for those arriving at the station, improving the station's role as a transport gateway to Chippenham town centre
- Support the growth in demand created by Great Western Main Line Modernisation Programme

The projects include the following benefits in particular:

- Improve the attractiveness of public transport links as well as pedestrian and cycle connectivity to the station and town centre. This will also reduce congestion at the station and on the local highway network.
- Public realm enhancements to the Station Square and north side walking route to the lift, to be delivered by GWR, will create a more welcoming and safer station environment. These will include a larger pedestrian realm, improved accessibility, better walkways, a widened entrance to the short stay car park, an increase in disabled car parking spaces and more cycle parking facilities.
- A new lift in the northern car park to be delivered by Network Rail will improve accessibility and benefit passengers with reduced mobility, but also those travelling with children or heavy luggage or who simply find stairs a struggle.
- Development around the station, such as the office block and car park at Sadlers Mead will create jobs and support growth and make it more attractive to residents and businesses looking to relocate into the area.

WORKS COMPLETED TO DATE:

The previous Phase 1a works at Chippenham railway station delivered an upgraded and refurbished ticket hall, ticket gatelines to improve station security with a better staff presence and a refurbished catering retail outlet, all complementing the recently installed new footbridge and lift access to the south of the station and the platforms.

WORKS TO BE COMPLETED BY AUTUMN 2021:

A new lift in the north car park will lead onto the Access for All footbridge which was built at the station in 2016. The work requires a temporary closure of the public right of way over the footbridge while the lift is being connected to the bridge deck. **Work will take place from spring to summer 2021.**

A new designated walking route leading up to the lift which requires the reconfiguration of the stairs. These works will follow the lift installation and will also require a temporary closure of the stairs as well as a (through the reconfiguration of the stairs) permanent change to the Public Right of Way across the bridge. These works will be managed and delivered by Great Western Railway. **Works to take place summer to autumn 2021.**

These works include:

- Install third lift in the north car park (NR activity)
- Create dogleg steps exit off new footbridge (GWR activity)
- Create 6 x disabled parking spaces (GWR activity)

NB – Footbridge will be temporarily closed for a limited number of days/nights towards the end of the installation of the lift, to enable the connection to be made from the lift to the deck.

It is anticipated the staircase work will result in a longer closure.

New Station Square entrance including public realm improvements to the Station Square including improved pedestrian and cycle links to the town centre, additional cycle parking, improvement works to the bus interchange, surfacing works including to parking area and the taxi rank. These works will be managed and delivered by Great Western Railway. **Works to take place from late spring to summer 2021.**

These works include:

- Reconfigure the layout and clear demarcation between transport modes
- Widen entrance of the short stay car park, reconfiguring spaces therein.
- Path around short stay car park resurfaced
- New disabled parking in short stay car park
- Extend pedestrian realm at front of station and resurface
- Make station exit wider
- Move Biffa bins away from this area
- Existing taxi area becomes a cycle hub
- Taxis move to a new two-lane rank area to the right of Station Square as one exits the station. Taxi rank reduces in size from 10 vehicle capacity to 6;
- Station Square reduced in size, foliage removed and new path created in direction of main ped flow

A new development at Sadlers Mead consisting of a high-quality commercial building and decked car parking as well as improved cycle and pedestrian connectivity. These works are being managed and delivered by Wiltshire Council. **Works due to be completed by spring 2021.**

Update: Following the suspension of the Good Energy office development as a result of Covid-19 impacts, Wiltshire Council continues to pursue opportunities to bring forward the site in the future.

A range of wider Sustainable Transport Improvements which include improved bus passenger waiting facilities, new cycle and pedestrian routes and facilities and capacity improvements around the train station. The works include the replacement of the existing mini roundabout at the junction of Station Hill and New Road with a new signalised junction. These works are being managed and delivered by Wiltshire Council and are due to be completed by spring 2021.

18 January 2021

For immediate release

Major scheme to improve access to Chippenham Railway Station

New Road and Station Hill is the next area to benefit from improvements as part of the £1.98 million package of transport measures aimed at improving pedestrian and cyclist access to Chippenham railway station.

This major scheme will see new traffic signals installed at the junction of New Road and Station Hill together with new upgraded crossings to the north of the railway arch around New Road, Ivy Lane and Marshfield Road.

These improvements, which start on Monday 25 January 2021, will be carried out in phases to minimise disruption and ensure the works can be completed as quickly as possible.

Phase One involves the installation of traffic signals and associated infrastructure around the New Road and Station Hill junction. During this period New Road, between Marshfield Road and Station Hill, will be closed (through the railway arch). Temporary traffic lights will operate between New Road and Station Hill and a temporary diversion will be in place via New Road, The Bridge, Bath Road and Ivy Lane. This work is anticipated to last for 6 weeks from Monday 25 January 2021.

Phase Two includes replacing the existing Zebra Crossing with a Toucan Crossing on Marshfield Road (outside St Pauls House), with work extending into New Road. A short section of the A420 outside of St Pauls House will be closed for traffic coming from New Road. A diversion will be in place via New Road, The Bridge, Bath Road

and Ivy Lane. This work is anticipated to take up to 3 weeks and will commence upon completion of phase one.

Phase Three consists of replacing and upgrading the pedestrian crossing on Ivy Lane (opposite the railway arches). This work will be carried out alongside phase two. It is not anticipated that any additional traffic management will be required. Work within this phase is expected to take up to 2 weeks to complete.

Phase Four will involve replacing and upgrading the existing pedestrian crossing on A420 Ivy Lane / Marshfield Road, outside of Bewley's House. The road will be closed for up to 2 weeks, with a diversion via Bath Road, West Cepen Way and Marshfield Road.

The final phase includes extensive resurfacing of the road on New Road and The Bridge (south of the railway arch to the junction with Bath Road, on Station Hill (up to St Martin's Church) and around Ivy Lane (between the two railway arches). This phase will start once phase three has been completed and where the removal of traffic management associated with phase two allows.

Works will be carried out between 8am and 6pm including Saturdays.

Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "This complex project has been carefully planned to ensure the works that will cause most disruption take place during the period of national restrictions when there is less traffic on these roads and to minimise potential disruption to the town centre. We have also worked closely with utility companies to reschedule their maintenance works minimising further inconvenience to road users.

"A full-time clerk of works will be on site during the construction phase to liaise with local shops to minimise the impact the works will have on their customers and deliveries.

"We have made every effort to ensure these major improvement works are carried out as swiftly as possible and with minimal disruption to local people. Once completed, this scheme will complement other projects which have taken place in the area supporting more sustainable methods of travel to Chippenham Railway Station."

Details for the various phases, including traffic management arrangements and diversion routes, will be available shortly on the council's website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-improvements. Further details on progress and future traffic management requirements linked to the resurfacing phase will be available on this webpage as well.

These improvements are part of the larger £16 million Station Hub project, funded by the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) through the Local Growth Fund, to develop the station and its surrounding area.

Paddy Bradley, SWLEP CEO said of the works: “We’re glad to see another milestone met for the Station Hub upgrade. This important project will help develop access to the station for both cyclists and pedestrians using Chippenham Station. Crucially the work will help bring together the components of the station improvements and assist the long-term development of Chippenham and its economy.”

Ends

Notes for editors

For more information please contact the communications team at communications@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Full details of the Chippenham Station Hub project can be viewed at: <https://swlep.co.uk/projects/project-detail/chippenham-station>

This package of sustainable transport measures was developed as an alternative to one of the Chippenham Station Hub phases following deliverability issues with part of the original package – Phase 3 Station Parking Capacity Improvements.

SWLEP approved the £1.98 million for the design and construction of this package of measures in January 2020.

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) is a private sector led partnership between local businesses, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Council, the military and the education sector. Working with its partners, the SWLEP sets the economic priorities for Swindon and Wiltshire and facilitates projects that help accelerate economic growth and job creation in the area. Between 2014 and 2021 the SWLEP is making investments worth £518m to grow the local economy, including investments worth £169m secured in three local growth deal bids to the government. The SWLEP’s Strategic Economic Plan 2016-2026 identifies five strategic objectives to prioritise future investment -skills and talent, transport, digital capability, place-shaping and business development. The SWLEP’s vision is for Swindon and Wiltshire to be renowned for innovation, entrepreneurialism and a great quality of life by 2026.

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and formed from a partnership between local businesses, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Council, the military and the education sector. It is led by a Board, which has a membership of 3 public sector leaders and 12 business and education leaders. Working with its partners, the SWLEP sets the economic priorities for Swindon and Wiltshire and facilitates projects that help accelerate economic growth and job creation in the area. Its mission is “To ensure all of our communities benefit from inclusive and sustainable growth, making the Swindon

and Wiltshire area world-renowned for its convergence of innovation, entrepreneurialism and great quality of life.”

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