

PROPOSED HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS
A361 NORTHGATE STREET / NEW PARK STREET
(BREWERY CORNER) – DEVIZES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an information item on the proposed highway improvement works at the A361 / A360 Northgate Street / New Park Street junction in Devizes.

2. Background

- 2.1 Wiltshire Council in implementing its 'Local Transport Plan 2006 -2011' is seeking to develop integrated transport measures throughout the county. These measures include improvements to pedestrian crossing facilities to encourage alternative modes of transport to the motor vehicle such as walking / cycling and improvements to relieve congestion on the highway network.
- 2.2 In the spring of 2007 Wiltshire Council (then Wiltshire County Council) carried out major highway maintenance work on the A361 Bath Road and Northgate Street in Devizes. As part of the overall scheme it was proposed that improvement works should also take place at the A361 / A360 junction. The junction is referred to locally as 'Brewery Corner'.
- 2.3 As part of the proposals negotiations have taken place with an adjacent land owner in order to transfer ownership of land to the highway authority. The additional land will facilitate the widening of the junction on the north east quadrant and combined with changes on the A361 will permit the inclusion of additional traffic lanes on the approaches to the mini roundabout from both Northgate Street and New Park Street. (See 2.7) A general layout of the proposal is shown at **Appendix 1** of this report. .
- 2.4 Unfortunately the negotiations with the adjacent land owner proved to be both lengthy and more complex than first envisaged. As a consequence the transfer of ownership to Wiltshire Council was unable to be completed in time for the work to be undertaken during the maintenance work in paragraph 2.2 and was deferred.
- 2.5 The negotiations regarding the land have now been concluded and the necessary legal transfer has taken place. It is proposed that the highway work will commence in January 2010.

- 2.6 As one the main traffic routes through the town the existing junction is heavily utilised by traffic. The junction currently has single lane approaches resulting in limited capacity and is characterised by frequent peak time delays and congestion. Pedestrian facilities at the junction could also be considered less than desirable with no obvious provision, especially for those wishing to cross New Park Street.
- 2.7 It is anticipated that the proposed widening improvements at this junction will result in significant improvement to both operational capacity and pedestrian provision.
- 2.8 As a result of the proposed scheme it will be necessary for British Telecom to undertake diversionary works to relocate an existing chamber from the area of carriageway widening to the footway. It is anticipated this work will take place in advance of the main highway works for an estimated duration of one week.

3. Scheme Programme

- 3.1 The BT diversionary works are programmed to commence on Monday 11th January 2010 and will take approximately one week to complete.
- 3.2 The main highway works at the junction will commence on Monday 18th January 2010 and will take approximately five weeks to complete. A plan indicating the provisional phasing and estimated duration for each phase is shown at **Appendix 2** of this report.

4.0 Environmental Impact of the Proposals

- 4.1 The proposed junction improvements fall within a designated conservation area. Careful attention must be made during the detailed design to ensure all new materials are in keeping with the sensitive nature of the existing street scene.
- 4.2 It will be necessary at times to use of 'three way' temporary signals during the works to control the movement of traffic. This length of the A361 / A360 is designated as 'Traffic Sensitive Street' and as such temporary signals will have to be manually controlled throughout the peak hours. It may be decided by the Traffic Manager that temporary signals can only be permitted outside of peak hours i.e. 09.30 – 15.30. It should be noted however that restricted working hours will inevitably extend the overall programme duration.
- 4.3 It is envisaged that the proposed scheme will provide an improvement to the overall operational capacity of the junction which will in turn lead to a reduction in both delay and congestion.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The scheme is being funded from the Local Transport Plan (LTP), Integrated Transport block allocation 2009/10.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

7.0 HR Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific HR implications related to this report

8.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 One of the aims of the scheme is to improve the accessibility and pedestrian access to local facilities for all road users.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – General Arrangement
Appendix 2 – Proposed scheme phasing & duration

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report