

An update from Cambridgeshire County Council

All of the dates in this article are correct at (25 July 2008). If dates do change, they will be publicised on this website

The work currently taking place on Station Road in Swavesey is part of the preparation for a new junction for the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.

On 4 August, after Windmill bridge has reopened, we will start constructing kerblines, drainage, duct crossings and a new footway/cycleway on the St Andrews Church side using temporary traffic lights. The existing footway/cycleway will be temporarily diverted onto the carriageway and segregated from traffic. This work is expected to take 3 weeks to complete.

Once this side of the junction is complete, we will move to the MG Owners Club side of the road. This is scheduled to happen on 25 August and will involve constructing the kerblines, drainage and duct crossings. Again this will be controlled by traffic signals and should take 3 weeks to complete.

The following phase is currently scheduled to start on 15 September and will see the road closed to all motor vehicles. During this time however, a route for cyclists and pedestrians will still be maintained.

The road will be closed to allow the old road surface to be removed, a concrete slab for the busway to be constructed and the road surface re-instated. This is expected to take 7 weeks, as there is a significant amount of work involved.

The concrete slab that crosses the junction involves several separate 'pours' of concrete, each with curing time, shuttering and reinforcement having to be set up for each one. The road is scheduled to re-open on 3 November.

Once the road is opened, the final phase of work starts on 3 November and is primarily off highway works, but may involve the occasional use of traffic signals. The accesses to the Kiss and Ride car park at Swavesey may be built at this time. The whole junction should be completed by 17 November.

The schedule for this work does include some contingency time. If things go well then some dates may come forward. However, if we experience poor weather or encounter a so-far undetected pipe or cable, there may be delays. Regular updates will be posted on the village website.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience this work is going to cause and we will be working with the contractor to try to keep disruption to a minimum.

Alternative arrangements for bus services during the closure will be widely publicised.

In terms of Windmill bridge, again, we are sorry for disruption this closure caused, and for the delays associated with the completion of the work.

There are two main reasons for the delays. Firstly, there was a problem with one of the utility companies diverting cables. This then delayed the demolition of the bridge until after Christmas.

Secondly, there was very wet weather at the start of the year. This happened at a time when our contractor should have been doing the footings for the bridge, but the ground was simply too wet.

The contractor was very much hoping to make up the lost time but this did not prove possible. Once again, we are sorry for the disruption the closure caused.

The overall schedule for the guided busway is still on-track and we expect to open the busway in spring 2009.

We are discussing timetables, routes and tickets with bus operators at the moment and all of these details will be widely publicised much closer to the time of opening.

If you have any enquiries about the guided busway, please contact the busway team on 01223 716972.