

NEWSLETTER

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Bee Network Phase 2

The upgrade of a major stretch of road between Castleton and Rochdale town centre is underway, after the approval of £13.5m of external funding for the scheme.

The Bee Network project will see a number of junctions along the busy A58 Manchester Road upgraded, with new crossings to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and new, optimised lights which will monitor traffic movements and speed up journey times.

Seven junctions are in line for improvements, including Manchester Road and Bolton Road, Manchester Road and Roch Valley Way and Manchester Road and Drake Street.

The project will be delivered in stages over an 18 month period to minimise disruption as much as possible, including:

- A new crossing being created across Manchester Road to enable safe and easy access to Highfield Hospital.
- A new cycle lane being created to extend the existing cycle lane in Castleton from The Royal Toby Hotel into Rochdale town centre.
- New greenery and planting being introduced along Old Manchester Road, alongside road resurfacing, 20mph speed limits and traffic calming measures.
- Increase of parking, with 30 new spaces being created close to Beech House School, to support people using Mandale park.



September

Phase 1 - The scheme was substantially completed by the end of September, including the installation of the bus stops, footway/cycleway surfacing and commissioning of the new pedestrian crossing.

There was a last-minute revision with SP-ENWL regarding a cable upgrade between Gypsy Lane and Tomlinson Street, which meant a delay with the buff-coloured surface to the cycleways in this location. This will be upgraded, and once complete the buff surfacing will be completed.

Phase 6 - This scheme was also substantially completed in September, with the junction going "live" on 26th September. There are still a few minor items still to be completed (such as the pedestrian guardrails), but all major traffic management has been removed.

October

There will be some finishing/snagging works to complete on Phases 1 & 6, but the main work will be the commencement of the next phases (4 & 5). This will be similar to Phase 6 (Tweedale Rd), with the re-modelling of the junctions with New Barn Lane, Old Manchester Road and Kemp Avenue and the cycleway constructed between them.

Works will initially involve the reconstruction of the central reservation, narrowing it and moving it slightly to the east to allow subsequent construction of the cycleway on the western footway.



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