

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 08

October | November 25

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.



October

October saw the start of next phases of the scheme with Areas 4 & 5 starting at the end of September. This will include the re-modelling of the junctions with New Barn Lane, Old Manchester Road and Kemp Avenue, and the cycleway constructed between them.

Works has been concentrated on the realignment of the central reservation between New Barn Lane and Tweedale St, narrowing it and moving it slightly to the east to allow subsequent construction of the cycleway on the western footway. Work has gone well, despite finding an unexpected gas main in the location of the eastern kerb, which resulted in a more sensitive excavation and slight change in design. Despite this, works to the two main junctions started as programmed on 3rd November.

November

Work will continue on the central reservation, laying the new (temporary) road surfacing and completing the installation of the pedestrian crossing points north and south of New Barn Lane.

The junctions with New Barn Lane and Old Manchester Road have been closed to traffic to allow for the realignment of the kerb lines and installation of the new cable ducts for the new traffic signals. This will have to be done under the close supervision of Cadent due to the proximity of both low and intermediate pressure gas mains.



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