

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.



February 2026

February has seen the substantial completion of the footpaths, including the final surfacing, and the cycleways (excluding the final buff-coloured surfacing – this will be carried out after the road resurfacing to avoid staining the new surface). It also saw the completion of the new signals, including Kemp Avenue.

The resurfacing of the carriageway started in mid-Feb with the removal of the old surface and adjusting the manhole covers and the like to suit the new designed levels. This was carried out under a full (overnight) closure of Manchester Road to allow the work to be carried out safely.

March 2026

March will see the completion of the road surfacing, buff cycleway surfacing, road markings and the eventual commissioning and switch-on of the new traffic lights.

Work will also start on the next Phase of the scheme – the upgrading of the pedestrian crossing between Tweedale St and Drake St, starting with the realignment of the central reservation and installation of ducts for the new signal cables. This should last for around 8 weeks, finishing in early May.



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