Beeston High Road

IMPROVEMENTS

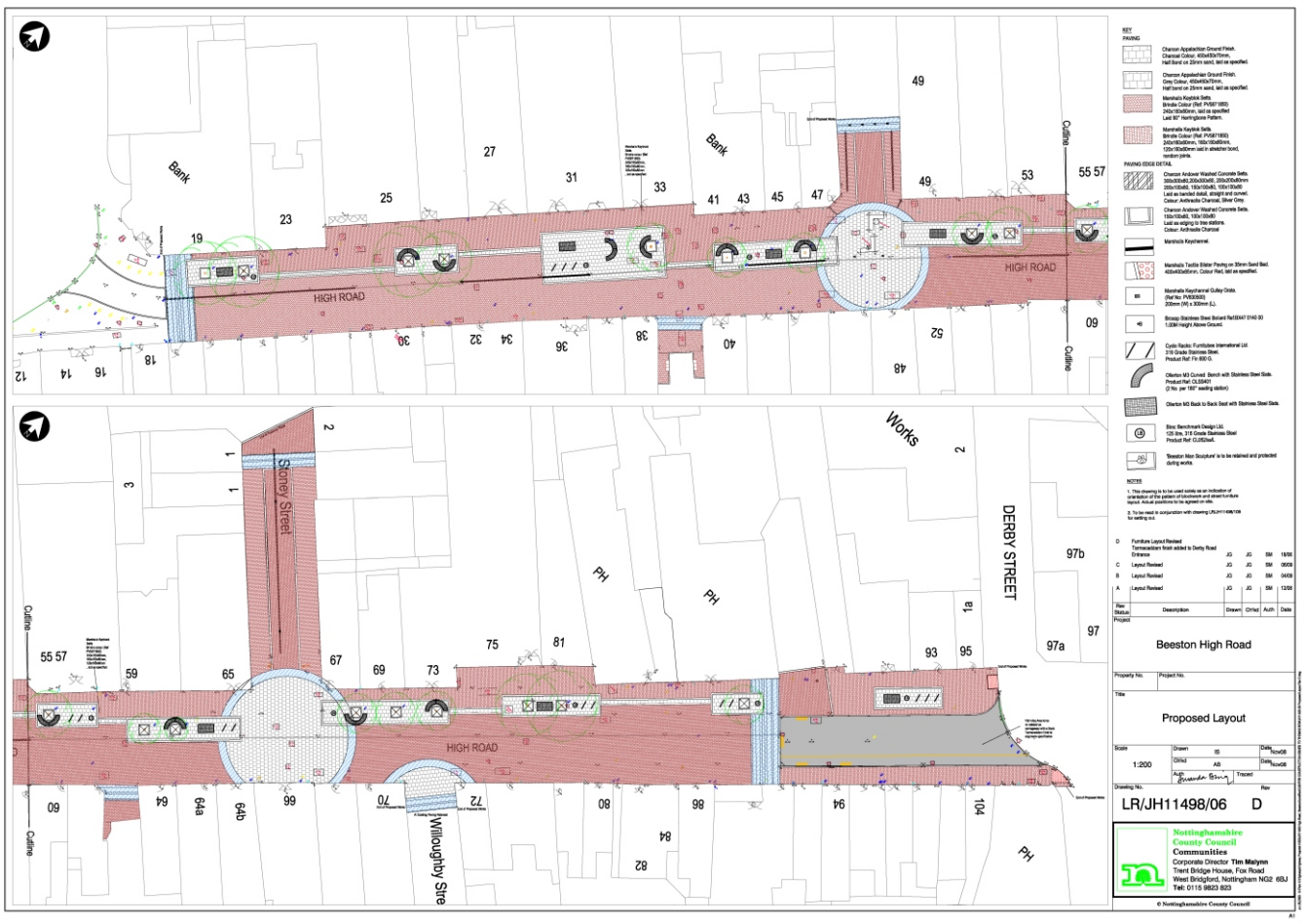
Frequently Asked Questions

Broxtowe Borough Council

Positive People - Positive Leadership - Positive Partnerships

If you shop or work in Beeston, you'll have noticed that a lot of work is currently taking place as part of the overall masterplan aimed at improving the town centre and ensuring that it remains an excellent place to visit or do business.

This fact sheet provides some more information about the works, why it's taking place now and what the finished scheme will look like.



WHAT'S THE BACKGROUND TO THE WORKS?

- A few years ago, Broxtowe Borough Council and its partners worked together to develop a masterplan for the town centre, to ensure that we properly plan and try and influence the future of our town centre. The plan included proposals for a wide range of issues, such as the need to improve the look and feel of the town centre 'street scene' i.e. its benches, bins, bollards and actual paving. The plan noted that work had taken place to improve the Broadgate end of town, using more modern high quality materials and recommended that a similar design theme should be carried out.

- The Borough Council has been working with the Beeston Business Forum and Nottinghamshire County Council to develop an improvement scheme for the main town centre, picking up the design used at Broadgate and it is this scheme which is currently being implemented.

WHAT CONSULTATION HAS TAKEN PLACE?

- The scheme has been subject to consultation with local businesses, local councillors and the public. We held an exhibition in the council offices and on the High Road itself in May last year to encourage people to talk about what we were proposing to do and to put forward their comments. Key messages we received from this were that people didn't want us to move all cycle stands off the main High Road or to put in all modern seats with no back rests. So we changed the designs accordingly.

WAS THE SCHEME REALLY NEEDED?

- The current town centre paving is over 20 years old and was laid when Beeston was pedestrianised in the 1980s. Some recent maintenance work has been carried out to some areas, for example with part of the drainage channel being upgraded approximately 2 years ago, but the scheme has remained relatively untouched for over 20 years.

- Many parts of the paving had started to sink, creating an uneven surface, tree roots have added to this creating further cracks and the town centre overall was looking a little unloved. As a council, looking after the street scene is important to us and we see that putting in place a really good quality, well designed scheme can do a lot, making Beeston an even more enjoyable place to shop or do business. The way a town centre looks has been proven to help attract people to invest in an area, so the scheme is not only designed to put right some faults, but also to make sure that Beeston is fighting fit to face the future and its competition, whether this comes from nearby towns or new developments such as the proposed Tesco store.

WHAT'S THE COST OF THE SCHEME?

- The overall works are costing approximately £570,000. The funding for this has been drawn from various sources and includes £80,000 from the Borough Council, with the remainder from Nottinghamshire County Council, Section 106 monies paid by Tesco and the Regional Development Agency for the East Midlands. This funding arrangement helps to minimise the cost of the scheme on the local council tax payer by drawing in funding from outside the Borough.

HOW LONG WILL THE WORKS TAKE AND WILL THERE BE FURTHER DISRUPTION?

- Working in a town centre, where access to shops for both deliveries and customers has to be maintained is not easy. Works have to be carefully planned and can take longer than in an area which is less busy. The works are scheduled to be complete in November 2009, prior to the Christmas trading period starting.

- The Borough Council and Thomas Bow, the contractor have contacted all shops to ensure they are aware of the scope of the works and who to contact with any issues or queries. The aim is to try and minimise disruption but it is inevitable that some will occur. We are asking everyone to bear with us at this time, as we are confident that the completed works will prove to be an excellent investment for Beeston.

WHAT WILL THE COMPLETED WORKS LOOK LIKE AND WILL THE TREES BE REPLACED?

- A plan of the scheme is illustrated above. It's unfortunate that 9 trees had to be removed before works started, but they had been identified as having developed multiple defects.

- 7 new trees will be replanted of the type and variety which will be more suitable for the High Road environment. We have also worked with Notts Wildlife Trust to ensure we identify the right type of tree species to be replanted, along with bug and bird boxes to encourage even more wildlife and bio-diversity in the town centre.

ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?

- We hope this fact sheet has provided you with some useful information on the High Road works and answered some of your questions. But please don't hesitate to contact us if you require any further information. In the first instance please contact: **Jackie Harwood, Corporate Communications Manager on Tel: 0115 917 7777 or email: jackie.harwood@broxtowe.gov.uk.**