

TRAFFIC CALMING THROUGH NORTON

Active Travel Corridor (ATC)

I have for some time been briefing on the plans for the Active Travel Corridor (ATC) that will run from St Peters, across the pedestrian footbridge over the A4440 and then along Brockhill Lane, Church Lane and Woodbury Lane on to Worcestershire Parkway Station (WPS). The plans for the walking and cycling route are well advanced, but due to ongoing discussions with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) who will deliver the ATC scheme, they are not yet firm enough to be shared. The main points include psychological traffic calming in Church Lane (i.e. no chicanes or sleeping policemen, but traffic calming nonetheless), traffic light control of the rail bridge at The Retreat (much like at Eckington bridge) and a change in priority at the Retreat road junction (i.e. you will have to physically turn left into Woodbury Lane from Church Lane, the right of way being on through Littleworth). As soon as I am able it remains my intention to share the wider plan with you all at a public briefing.

Modification of Norton Road

Again, as I have briefed on several occasions, as part of the South Worcester Urban Extension (SWUE), the Norton Road will be closed; a bund and tree planting will close the road just north of Yew Tree Close (between the A4440 and Taylors Lane). As you leave the St Peters roundabout heading towards Norton, the road will be re-directed south-west, across what are currently fields, towards a further traffic-light controlled junction/roundabout at the heart of what will then be the SWUE, at which point you will turn left to re-join the Norton Road somewhere between Regiment Close and the St Peters Garden Centre roundabout. The main arterial road for the SWUE which you turn left from, will continue south-west through the SWUE to join the A38.

Full dualling of the A4440

Scheduled to be completed before the end of the year, this will eventually provide a swift journey from the Whittington roundabout to the Ketch roundabout, though it is fully acknowledged that until the second bridge and the Temeside Way work is complete, it will continue to back-up at peak times.

Resultant traffic calming

Following completion of these three changes, it is anticipated that the attraction for motorists to 'rat-run' and speed through the Parish will be greatly reduced. The focus is on the ATC work to provide the greatest affect, and thankfully this remains likely to be delivered soonest, though a timeframe cannot yet be placed on it. The intent remains to maintain the rural look and feel of the Parish, despite the three big projects (ATC, SWUE and WPS) on our doorstep, and traffic calming through Norton is an important part of this.

Kevin Fincher, Chairman
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council