

COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Bermuda Connectivity

23 June 2021

1. The Scheme

- 1.1 Bermuda Connectivity is a highway scheme, focused on opening up the existing bridge to two-way traffic, delivering additional highway capacity, and improved connectivity between West Nuneaton and Griff roundabout.

The scheme will deliver the following range of benefits for the local community in the wider West Nuneaton area:

- Contribute towards reducing journey times for local residents on a number of routes in the West Nuneaton area
- Contribute towards reducing congestion in parts of the town centre, thus improving links onto the A444 in Nuneaton for residents in other parts of the town
- Enhance accessibility to local businesses, amenities and residential areas, particularly in Bermuda and adjoining areas
- Support economic growth in Nuneaton by enhancing accessibility to existing and future local jobs
- Improve connectivity to Bermuda Park Rail Station
- Provide an improved environment for cyclists and pedestrians to increase mode choice and accessibility
- Drive forward further economic growth in Nuneaton, including potential employment and housing development along the new highway link route
- Complement the wider economic aspirations of the Coventry and Warwickshire subregion, such as Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Strategic Economic Plan

2.0 Progress update

- 2.1 CR Reynolds were appointed as Principal Contractor with work commencing in the last week of April 2021. Works have started later than had been anticipated in the contractor's tender programme and additional items such as the monitoring and design around an existing gas barrier now need to be taken into account, as a result an initial exercise to update the contractor's programme is being carried out. The first phase of work, between now and Winter 21/22 is the completion of improvements to St Georges Way and the opening of the Bermuda Bridge.

Works to date include:

- Establish the site compound to the rear of Bookers Ltd on St George's Way.
- Management of street works applications required to start works and confirm traffic management arrangements,
- Removal of existing kerbs and footway on the west side of St George's Way, including the removal of non-scheme related waste from site.
- Commence works on the west side of St George's Way to establish off road foot/cycleways.

3.0 Current Issues

3.1 Anticipated delay with the signing of the Basic Asset Protection Agreement (BAPA) with Network Rail was later than expected and this has prevented construction of a gabion wall, adjacent to the rail track on St George's Way, which is required to construct a section of footway/cycleway. However, the signed BAPA has now been received and the work can be programmed accordingly.

3.2 Outstanding land agreements are to be finalised on the following plots, these are not currently creating delay for the scheme but have the potential to cause delay at a later point:

- Temporary land adjacent to Holland and Barrett's offices, required for works on The Bridleway (Phase 2 work)
- Access to land owned by Deeley's, for completion of the gas barrier runs (Phase 2 works)

These two agreements have been nearing completion for some time and are currently under consultation with Legal Services

3.3 There is a potential need to amend the expected traffic management arrangements on the A444 to include some periods of complete road closure rather than single lane closure whilst the bridge bearings are replaced. The issue is that the bridge bearings, which are large rubber pads, have been in situ for 40 years and it is not clear without exposing them how easily they will be replaced. A road closure would allow for the installation of a protective barrier, and safe working zone, in order for the contractor to work safely on the A444 under the bridge. The WCC teams are working together to minimise delay and disruption and the proposal will be shared publicly in advance of any closure.

3.4 A gas barrier, providing gas venting for the previous land fill site, which sits to the west of Bermuda Bridge has been subject to monitoring over the last 5 months. This monitoring was required to determine whether the gas barrier was functioning correctly and to confirm a suitable

design where it will be extended to allow for the new road levels. The design of the gas barrier is ongoing and is anticipated to be completed during the summer.

- 3.5 Additional work has been identified to construct an extension to the shared foot/cycleway and to provide an additional crossing point on Bermuda Rd. If, following initial design and pricing, this work is added to the project then further land is likely to be required and funding identified. Project Board will be presented with the findings and will determine a way forward.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 The contractor's tender programme is currently under review, to consider contract award and some of the issues listed above.

The current projected milestones are:

Works Description	Completion
Phase 1 - St George's Way	Winter 21/22
Bermuda Bridge Works	Winter 21/22
Phase 2 – The Bridleway etc	Late 2022

5.0 Finance

- 5.1 The scheme has a budget of £10.359M, which can be broken down as:

WCC Growth Fund	£3.202M
WCC CIF	£5.657M
CWLEP Growth Deal	£0.5M
CWLEP Growing Places Infrastructure Fund	£1.00M

- 5.2 Current spend against the scheme stands at £2.95M, which includes for the design and development of the scheme including some of the land acquisition.

- 5.3 The scheme estimate, including spend to date, is broken down as follows:

Scheme Development – WCC	£1.793M
Scheme Development – External	£1.456M
Land Acquisition	£0.664M
Works	£4.834M
Part 1 Compensation Claims	£1.5M
Contingency	£0.112M