

19 April 2016

Frequently asked questions – A127 / A132 Nevendon Interchange improvement scheme

There are two elements to the Nevendon Interchange improvement scheme.

The first element includes works approved to improve the Nevendon roundabout. The second includes proposed changes to Christopher Martin Road. Details of both elements are outlined below.

Element One: Nevendon Interchange improvements

1. Why are you undertaking these works?

With business and housing growth in the area it is essential to have an efficient road network. This scheme will help us to manage the flow of traffic and future proof the network.

2. How is the scheme being funded?

Essex County Council has secured funding from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) throughout the Local Growth Fund. These improvements build on work previously undertaken through the Basildon Enterprise Corridor project which included increasing capacity of Cranes Farm Road and East Mayne.

3. Where will the work take place?

Nevendon roundabout improvements:

- Widening of the Nevendon roundabout from two to three lanes.
- Introduction of a left turn lane for vehicles under traffic signal control for vehicles travelling eastbound on the A127 Southend Arterial Road to the A132 northbound towards Wickford.
- Traffic signals upgraded to support the management of peak traffic flows.

As part of this project proposals have been in place to increase the length of the merging lanes from the Nevendon roundabout northbound onto the A132 towards Wickford, however there is insufficient land to provide an additional traffic lane at this time. It is recognised that congestion remains an issue along this stretch of the A132 and there are longer term proposals to provide a dualled road link from Nevendon to Wickford. Such a scheme would be significant and would most likely be funded from future housing and jobs associated with the Basildon Local Plan. Short term measures to manage traffic flow are being investigated following recent feedback.

Temporary construction site compound – Christopher Martin Road:

During the Nevendon roundabout improvements, Christopher Martin Road will be closed to vehicles from the A132 East Mayne junction in both directions to provide safe access for construction traffic.

4. When will construction begin and when do you expect it to finish?

Construction work on the Nevendon interchange improvements is expected to begin late April 2016, with an anticipated completion date of Winter 2016. These dates may be subject to change, for example if there are poor weather conditions or any unforeseen circumstances.

5. Will the works impact my journey?

While efforts will be made to keep the road network flowing as efficiently as possible, road users should expect delays to journeys caused by temporary road layouts. This includes the temporary closure of Christopher Martin Road from the junction with A132 East Mayne for a length of for approximately 269ft / 82m during the construction period. Access to businesses along Christopher Martin Road will be via Honeywood Road / Gardiners Lane South.

Drivers are advised to find alternative routes where possible or allow additional time for their journey.

Where temporary road closures are necessary diversions will be in place and advertised in advance via local signage and www.roadworks.org.

6. What times will the works be taking place?

Works will generally take place between the hours of 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday however extended working hours are permitted, allowing works to take place overnight and at the weekend as required. Any overnight roundabout and road closures will be advertised in advanced.

7. Will pedestrian access be maintained during the works?

Yes, the contractor will provide safe and clearly signed temporary routes for pedestrians and where applicable, cyclists.

8. Will it be difficult to get access my property/business during the work?

Access to properties and businesses will be maintained throughout the duration of the work. Should there be any temporary restrictions to access then this will be communicated to those directly affected.

9. Why are you improving the Nevendon Interchange where there are other junctions and roads that require improvement, for example the A127 / A130 Fairglen Interchange?

Essex County Council, in partnership with Southend Borough Council, has produced a route management strategy for the A127, entitled the A127 Corridor for Growth an Economic Plan (a copy of which can be found on the Document section of the scheme webpage). This includes a range of proposals to manage traffic flow in the area including schemes which require significant levels of funding and can be linked with forthcoming development in Local Plans.

This includes other key junctions such as the A127 / A130 Fairglen interchange and Rayleigh Weir.

This plan is currently being reviewed and updated.

10. How will you keep local residents and businesses updated?

Updates will be made to the Major Scheme pages of the Essex Highways website (A127 / A132 Nevendon Interchange improvement scheme). Updates will also be made to frequently asked questions as appropriate.

Individual properties or businesses directly affected by the scheme will be contacted separately.

To view the latest road information updates please visit: www.roadworks.org.

For further information about the scheme you may contact Essex County Council by email: contact@essex.gov.uk.

11. Where can I find out more about the future development planned for the area

The emerging draft Basildon Local Plan details proposals for housing and employment in the borough which can be reviewed at Basildon Borough Council's website: www.basildon.gov.uk.

Element Two: Christopher Martin Road proposal

1. What future changes are being proposed for Christopher Martin Road?

Proposals are being considered to reduce congestion northbound on the A132 East Mayne at the junction where it meets Christopher Martin Road. This will be achieved by removing the traffic signal controlled junction and introducing a section of one-way road (westbound) within Christopher Martin Road itself for approximately 269ft / 82m from the junction. A vehicle length restriction will also be implemented along the new one-way section.

The aim of the proposal is to prevent the delays to northbound traffic towards the Nevendon roundabout and A127 caused by vehicles travelling east, exiting Christopher Martin Road onto the A132 East Mayne blocking the junction. As an alternative, vehicles travelling from Christopher Martin Road to East Mayne can either choose to travel via Paycocke Road or Cranes Farm Road, creating a more efficient route for vehicles accessing the A127 and Wickford.

2. What will the impact be on the network, including Paycocke Road if these proposals are implemented?

Traffic surveys have been taken prior to construction of the Nevendon roundabout improvements, and will continue throughout the roadworks which require the temporary closure of Christopher Martin Road from its junction with East Mayne. We will monitor impacts on the road network, including Paycocke Road.

This data will enable the proposal to be fully evaluated in a 'real life' situation. This will evidence whether or not the current proposals for Christopher Martin Road are viable and identify whether any other measures are required.

The evaluation is expected to be complete by summer 2016 and the outcome will be updated on the scheme pages of the Essex County Council website.

3. Will a consultation be undertaken if proposals are put forward for implementation?

Yes, a three-week statutory consultation period would be advertised in advance on-site and in the local press.

During a consultation period, comments are welcome:

- by post: Essex County Council Transport Strategy & Engagement Team,
Economic Growth & Development, County Hall, Market Road,
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH
- by telephone: 0345 603 7631
- by email: contact@essex.gov.uk