

# Improving our Market Place



Newsletter 04  
29/09/17

As you receive this the work on the project has moved to the Boots side of Market Place and Denmark Street has re-opened. We appreciate that there were higher than anticipated delays during the first few days, exacerbated by issues on the M4. The traffic is settling, particularly as drivers find alternative routes if they are not using the Town Centre directly. Please be assured that the position is being closely monitored to judge whether changes need to be made and indeed the phasing of the traffic lights at the station has already been changed to allow greater priority from Wellington Road through to Station Approach. Up to date traffic information can be found at [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org) and you can plan your journey at [www.myjourneywokingham.com](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com)

Utilities work will now be undertaken on the remainder of the site and this will be followed by the start of the construction and laying of the new York Stone surface. The utilities continue to be difficult with historic work poorly executed which needs to be addressed to ensure the high quality finish we are all looking forward to. Balfour Beatty are managing to deal with these issues and keep the programme on schedule.

We do recognise the disruption that is being caused and would like to thank businesses and residents who are working with us to ensure that the town is very much open for business. The refurbished Market Place is at the heart of the long-term vision for the future of Wokingham town centre, as set out in the 2010 Town Centre Masterplan, and improvements to Market Place have always been widely supported. The overall aim is to co-ordinate the vision for the town, reinforcing its quality whilst encouraging its viability for the future. The development at Peach Place, the forthcoming work at Elms Field and plans to tackle Carnival Pool, together with



Market Place will deliver that for everyone associated with the town whether as a business, resident or visitor.

We have been asked why Denmark Street has not had the finished surfacing laid at this point. In order to ensure a high quality finish, with all joints appropriately aligned, the York Stone has to be laid out from the building line of the Town Hall at the centre of Market Place. By so doing this will ensure that, visually and structurally, the surface flows from building line to building line across the space. As indicated in the last newsletter Denmark Street will be laid after Christmas once the main area is completed.

We continue to welcome feedback and comments and have valued discussions to date. Contact details are available at the end of the newsletter.



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## Of Interest

- Throughout the project we will be welcoming work experience students from our local schools and it will be a pleasure to give them such an opportunity at the heart of their own town.

At the beginning of September Balfour Beatty hosted their first student from St Crispin's. Mwamba Phiri spent 5 days as part of the employment and skills plan in place for the project. She spent her time working alongside the project team and learnt about the construction of the new Wokingham Market Place, assisted with procurement of materials for the project and also assisted with quality management.

Mwamba was an absolute pleasure to mentor for the week and we look forward to welcoming more work experience candidates.

Mwamba said: "I enjoyed spending the week with everyone at the Balfour Beatty offices within the Wokingham Market Place Scheme. Everyone was so helpful and my mentors gave me lots of insight I needed into my interests to work within design and architecture, as well as equipping me with plenty of practical skills. All I can say is thank you for having me."



- A number of market traders are now back from their holidays and I am sure you will be pleased to see Darren with his flowers and Rose and Charles with their plants and garden supplies. Please continue to support all the traders and share the site of their temporary home near Argos.

## Works update

### This month has seen:

- Continuation and completion of utilities works on Denmark Street which was reopened on 25th September 2017.
- The works included the installation of new ducts, replacement of steel gas mains and supplies into the buildings as well as adding protection measures for electricity.
- Difficulties arose due to uncharted services and problematic ground conditions.

### Next month will see:

- Diversion works on the main area of Market Place which were started on 18th September 2017
- During these works, we are planning to carry out the permanent construction of the substructure as the diversion works proceed, which will allow us to save some time on the programme going forwards.
- Main construction is planned to start mid-October 2017.
- Broad Street diversion works will continue into the main construction period and up to Christmas.

## Want to keep up to date?

### The following will be regularly updated:

Wokingham Town Council website

[www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk)

Wokingham Borough Council website

[www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

Wokingham Information Centre & Notice Boards at the Town Hall

Wokingham Town Council social media:

 /wokinghamtowncouncil  @wokingham\_TC

Wokingham Borough Council social media:

 /wokinghamboroughcouncil  @wokinghamBC

### For queries:

[wokingham.environmental.improvements](http://wokingham.environmental.improvements)

[@wokingham.gov.uk](https://twitter.com/wokingham.gov.uk)

Wokingham Town Council: Jan Nowecki, Town Clerk, 0118 978 3185



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