

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

Could you please tell us if you are making the pavements wider down Belgrave Road and taking the traffic lights down. Will the buses be able to go to Birstall, Thurmaston and Syston, etc and back or which way will they go and how much will it cost us. Can the answers be put in the Mercury thank you. Before you knock flyover down block it off which will only take a few pounds?

ANSWER

As part of the planning permission for the relocation of the Sainsbury's store to Melton Road and the redevelopment of their existing site off Belgrave Circle, Sainsbury will be responsible for the demolition of the flyover on Belgrave Circle. This will involve not just the demolition of the flyover, but also work to Belgrave Circle itself to accommodate traffic displaced from the flyover. In addition work will also be undertaken on Belgrave Road to the north and Belgrave Gate to the south of Belgrave Circle where significant areas of land will be released as a result of the demolition of the flyover. This land will be used to enhance the highway for all modes of transport and enable some greening of the area to take place as well.

The flyover is a significant barrier to linking the City Centre with the important shopping centre on Belgrave Road and its removal will enable better development to occur and better links to be made. The redesign of Belgrave Circle will ensure that the junction will be able to accommodate the traffic currently using the flyover. While an experimental closure of the flyover would be cheap and easy to carry out, it would not give a realistic picture of its removal, as some of the space currently occupied by the flyover is required to improve the junction at ground level to accommodate the traffic currently using the flyover.

Separately the City Council is also investigating ways of improving the environment in Belgrave Road to enable the shopping centre to function better. Wider footways would be a major advantage, but any scheme would have to ensure that buses could still operate through the area to serve the north of the City and destinations in the County. As investigations proceed and draft schemes are prepared consultation will take place to allow people to make their views known so that a satisfactory design emerges. Until a design has been prepared it is not possible to identify what such a scheme might cost.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Customer Access
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG

e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.