

Belgrave flyover demolition - Frequently Asked Questions

VERSION: DRAFT V7

The project

1. What does this project involve?

The project includes the Belgrave flyover demolition, road and landscaping improvements at the roundabout, improved pedestrian/cycle links between Belgrave Road/Belgrave Gate, and 78 car parking spaces serving Belgrave Road shopping and business areas.

2. Why is this work being done? What will be the benefits?

The scheme will improve connections between the Golden Mile and the city centre and create a more visually attractive area including a pleasant landscaped gateway for cyclists, pedestrians and other road users. The scheme will also include the creation of 78 public car parking spaces to support the Golden Mile shopping area and local businesses.

3. How much is the work costing? Who is paying for it and who is carrying it out?

The work is being paid for by Sainsbury's as part of the planning agreement. It is part of a multi-million pound investment being made by the company to help regenerate the area.

The flyover demolition work is being carried out by AR Demolition, a local firm.

4. What will it look like when finished?

The area will be more open with a clearer view connecting Belgrave Road and Belgrave Gate, improving the area's look and feel, and providing a more attractive and easier access route to the wider area.

The demolition options consultation leaflet includes an artist's impression of how the area will look.

5. How was the decision to demolish the flyover made?

The decision was made after a lengthy planning process and extensive consultation carried out by Sainsbury's prior to the planning approval in Dec 2012.

6. What consultation was undertaken?

In 2011 Sainsbury's representatives initially briefed local ward members, the city mayor and Keith Vaz MP at a public meeting. Colour leaflets with tear off response cards were published outlining the scheme and informing residents of the public exhibition. The leaflet was distributed to 5 – 6,000 properties around the application site in January 2012.

Presentations were also made to the Golden Mile Regeneration Group meeting and an advert was placed by Sainsbury's in the Leicester Mercury on 10th January 2012. A press release was issued to the local media to announce the plan, the exhibition and the Sainsbury's consultation process.

In January 2012, there was an online exhibition on the Sainsbury's website with feedback via a digital reply card and a two day public exhibition at the Peepul Centre, Orchardson Avenue to explain the proposals to residents and answer any questions. Leaflets were given out and a Freephone number given to allow feedback views on the proposal.

The wider plans were supported, either partly or in full, by 73% of consultation

respondents.

In February 2012 Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive, Thurmaston Town Council, Golden Mile Group and Belgrave and Latimer Ward meetings were briefed. A static exhibition was placed in the Peepul Centre and at the Belgrave store from 21 February to 24 February.

7. What was the planning process?

The planning approval decision was made in 2012 by the council's planning and development control committee. This was a 12 month process and included up to 6,000 leaflets being distributed in the Belgrave Road area to explain the proposals and seek views.

Planning application processes ran from 23rd March 2012 when the planning application was submitted. All submitted documents and plans placed on the council website and copies also in Customer Services Centre for viewing. On 30 March 2012 individual letters went out to adjacent properties informing them of application and inviting comments.

Usual site notices were displayed around the site and the application was advertised in the Leicester Mercury for additional publicity of major planning application.

The application was reported to Planning and Development Control Committee on 21 June 2012 and granted with resolution to approve subject to the signing of a s106 planning legal agreement and a s278 agreement. Planning permission was granted 12 December 2012 subject to conditions, a S106 agreement and s278 agreement.

Further information on the planning process can be found at leicester.gov.uk/planning

8. Was there consultation on how to demolish the flyover?

Leicester City Council and Sainsbury's asked for the views of residents and traders on the impact of the proposed works in January 2014. There were two proposed methods and people were asked to indicate which one they would prefer. There was the opportunity to vote online or by post and there were several public meetings and briefing sessions to explain the works.

Almost 1000 responses were received and a summary of the results will be available at consultations.leicester.gov.uk The majority of votes were for the short option which is as follows:

Short option (Nine weeks):

- Flyover demolished in three large sections
- Majority of works will happen during two nine day periods between 7.00am - midnight:
- Belgrave Road closed in both directions at Belgrave Circle for nine days
- Belgrave Gate closed in both directions at Belgrave Circle for nine days
- Lane closures during remaining seven-week period with the roundabout staying

- open
- Regular daytime works and single-lane closure to demolish the section directly above roundabout
- Diversions will be in place during the closures
- No overnight works, except two nine-day works until midnight, including weekends.

9. Has the city council only decided to take over the flyover down because Sainsbury's is footing the bill?

The scheme forms part of the council's wider regeneration plans for the Golden Mile and has been secured through a Section 106 legal agreement linked to the Sainsbury's proposals to develop a new superstore at Melton Road and redevelop the site of the former Sainsbury's store. It costs well over £4 million pounds which include the demolition of flyover, associated highway works and new car parking space.

10. What are the benefits for the area?

The new store will generate an additional 300 jobs on top of the existing 140 transferred from the Belgrave Road store and future business units on the northern part of site could generate another 200 jobs.

There will be improvements to the adjoining area of open space and pedestrian and cycle links and crossings at Melton Road and Nicklaus Road junctions and to the boundaries and landscaping of neighbouring houses.

Current proposals include planning permission for 10 new retail units and eight business starter units with remaining land to be available for future employment use which would generate additional jobs.

11. How will the area/junctions be improved for users?

The scheme will also include improved cycling and pedestrian facilities, improved traffic signals, street lighting, road markings and signs, public areas and 78 new car parking spaces.

The scheme will include additional flare lanes on Belgrave Road (inbound) and Belgrave Gate (outbound).

Additional capacity will be provided through the Belgrave Circle roundabout by increasing the number of lanes available to all traffic. New traffic signals will be provided.

12. Isn't having more parking spaces against the council's green travel plans?

The city council is committed to encouraging alternative forms of travel to address traffic congestion, reduce pollution, improve air quality and address climate change.

The works at Belgrave Circle will improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and buses within a much more pleasant green, open space. However, we also have to strike a balance that helps encourage businesses and the local economy.

We have listened closely to traders' concerns along the Golden Mile about parking issues for local shoppers and the new scheme will see the introduction of 78 additional parking

spaces to help address these concerns. This will ensure the Golden Mile shopping facilities are available to all users, by whichever means of transport is most appropriate for their needs and circumstances.

13. Has there been a trial run on closure?

The completed scheme will see major improvements to the roundabout to improve capacity, including new traffic signals and extra lanes into and out of the roundabout.

Any trial closure would not be able to recreate the final scheme as the new lanes and signals are not yet in place. However, as part of the planning process, a transport assessment was carried out which modelled the traffic flows to demonstrate how the improvements to the roundabout will help offset the impact of losing the flyover.

Demolition of the flyover

1. How will the flyover be demolished?

The demolition work will involve dividing the flyover into sections, first dismantling the ones at each end and finally removing the central section.

The flyover will be mechanically demolished using specialist large demolition equipment. All concrete will then be taken by lorry to AR Demolition Urban Quarry - less than one mile from the site - to be processed and recycled.

In a two-week public consultation over the two possible demolition methods, people voted in favour of the short option which will now see the work carried out over just nine weeks.

The flyover will close to traffic for the last time on February 1 for two weeks of preliminary works to remove the flyover's road surface before the demolition gets under way in earnest on February 15.

The flyover will be taken down in three large sections, starting with a nine-day road closure of the northern part of the roundabout beneath the flyover, from February 15 to 23.

During that time traffic won't be able to exit the junction north towards Belgrave Road, though the rest of the roundabout will remain open as normal.

A second nine-day closure will take place from March 15 to 23, to enable the section of the flyover immediately above the southernmost section of the roundabout to be removed. Again the rest of the junction will remain open as normal.

Works will take place from 7am to midnight during the two closures, although the noisiest works will be done during the day.

During the rest of the demolition, traffic will be able to continue using the roundabout.

Demolition work will be completed at the end of March. This will be followed by further works, including road improvements at the roundabout and Belgrave Road, and the creation of 78 new parking spaces for local shoppers and businesses.

2. Why is the work being done in this way?

The demolition methods and machinery chosen by the contractors will minimise disruption and noise as far as possible.

The demolition of Belgrave Flyover by mechanical means using large specialist demolition rigs was selected on the basis of practicality, cost, duration of works and the safety of a tried and trusted demolition method.

3. What time will work be carried out?

The demolition works will be carried out between 7am and midnight Mon-Fri and weekends.

4. How long is the work going to take?

The flyover demolition work is due to be completed by mid April

The majority of the project, including all major works is due to be completed by October 2014. The works will be finished in time for the annual Diwali celebrations which take place on the Golden Mile and Cossington Street Recreation Ground.

5. Why couldn't the demolition be delayed for a week to avoid half term?

The full use of the half term week is absolutely essential to managing the level of disruption for this project as traffic levels are generally 20% less than at other times.

Delaying by a week would move the closure of the northern side into the following week when the risk of traffic congestion is much higher. This would lead to greater impact on commuters, city centre based businesses, and bus companies.

Belgrave Road will remain open for business via the diversion routes and side streets.

We need to ensure the full nine days are available to us in case there are any unforeseen occurrences.

The demolition team plans to get the East/West route up and running early in the half term week to aid the traffic flow around the island and on Dysart Way and Belgrave Gate.

6. What about the dust?

Dust arising from the demolition works will be controlled at source by use of portable water misting systems and local damping during works. The perimeter fencing will be screened with a fine mesh netting. Dust control monitoring will be carried out throughout the demolition works.

7. I've heard there is asbestos in the flyover. How is that being managed?

There is asbestos cement sheeting used as formwork to hold the concrete deck in place when the bridge was built. The asbestos contained within the sheeting is held in a good cement matrix and then one side of the cement sheet is bonded to the concrete. This ensures fibres are unlikely to be released.

The initial deck works are to remove this sheeting. It will be carried out by trained operatives wearing appropriate breathing and protective equipment and damping down will take place during these works.

Background reassurance monitoring will be carried out during these works to confirm that our control measures are working. All asbestos containing materials will then be removed from site to

a suitable licenced landfill facility for tipping.

8. Won't this add to traffic pollution levels?

An air quality assessment was prepared by RSK consultants for the developer. The scheme provides an opportunity to rationalise and improve the road layout, while at the same time improving the amenity of this important gateway to the city and commercial district. 116 trees will be planted as part of the scheme.

There should therefore be no significant detriment from this scheme in emissions or in pollution levels in the area.

How will transport be affected?

1. What disruption will it mean to pedestrians/cyclists/other traffic?

The flyover is due to close on 1 February 2014, for two weeks of preparatory work, before the demolition begins on 15 February. Road works continue until October 2014.

Temporary traffic diversions and safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians will be in place throughout the works. More detailed information on this will be provided on a regular basis and there will be an information point on the old Sainsbury's site where traffic information is available.

2. Where can I find out more information about traffic diversions or alternative routes?

There will be information signs on parts of the city's main roads network from the week commencing 20 January informing drivers of road closures and highlighting alternative routes available.

The Area Traffic Control team will broadcast regular traffic and travel news on BBC Radio Leicester (104.9 FM) and leicester.gov.uk/traffic. Information can also be found at roadworks.org

The city council will use social media to remind the public about the demolition options consultation, works taking place, and the impact on traffic/travel around the city until the project is completed.

After the decision on demolition has been made and announced on 31 January, traffic and travel information will also be available at leicester.gov.uk/begraveflyover

Please see the following for more information:

- https://twitter.com/Leicester_News
- <https://www.facebook.com/leicestercitycouncil>
- <https://twitter.com/atcleicester>

3. What provisions are being made for cyclists and pedestrians during and after the project?

Safe pedestrian and cycle access will be maintained throughout the works. Once complete, improved cycle and pedestrian access will be provided. There will also be marshals on site to direct cyclists and pedestrians to safe routes.

4. I am a regular bus user on this route. What does the demolition mean for me?

Bus services 2, 5, 5A, 6, 22, 25/6, 100, 128 & 126/7 that operate on Belgrave Road and Abbey Park Road will be diverted at a number of different stages throughout the demolition process. More detailed information on this will be provided through the media and in the local area once the preferred demolition option has been announced.

5. Where can I find information on bus route changes?

When details of the demolition option are confirmed, information will be available at:

- leicester.gov.uk/belgraveflyover
- Notices at affected bus stops
- Details in the local media
- Bus service websites will have information about the works and show details of the Belgrave flyover website.
- Leicester bus service website will have information about all the works and will point people to leicester.gov.uk/belgraveflyover

What will be left when the site is demolished?

1. How many trees will be removed and how many planted?

58 trees are to be removed and 116 to be planted.

2. How much more parking is being created?

There will be new off-street public car parking with 78 spaces fronting Belgrave Road adjacent to the old Sainsbury's store site. This will help meet the parking needs of shoppers, businesses and visitors to the Golden Mile.

3. When will the new car parking be open?

The new car parking is due to open in autumn 2014.

What about the existing businesses?

1. How will this scheme benefit local businesses?

This scheme forms part of the wider plans to regenerate the Golden Mile to support existing businesses and encourage new investment in the area. The scheme will create a much improved and attractive trading environment for shops and local businesses. The proposals will create new attractive landscaped routes for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users visiting this area.

The need for additional parking has been a longstanding request from the local traders on the Golden Mile and this scheme will provide public car parking with 78 spaces fronting Belgrave Road and within easy walking distance of local shops and businesses.

2. What will happen to the former Sainsbury's site after the works are completed?

Sainsbury's is currently marketing the former site and seeking a development partner to bring forward its regeneration. The flyover demolition and road works will create a more attractive development site to strengthen the local trading area. The local community will be fully informed of progress.

3. What is happening to Shoe Zone and B & M Stores who are currently trading on the former Sainsbury's site?

For the time being, these businesses will continue to trade as normal with customer parking.

What if I need more information or want to make a complaint?

1. Where can people find out more information about the scheme?

More information on the scheme is available at leicester.gov.uk/belgraveflyover

2. What can I do if I want to complain about the noise/disruption?

The work will include some noisy operations, including drilling and crushing concrete for example. The city council's Noise Team is working with the contractors to help ensure the noisiest work is done during the day, and they will monitor the works to ensure that noise levels are within health and safety guidance.

However, anyone who does want to report noise problems should contact the Noise Team on **0116 252 7001** between **9am and 6pm Mon-Fri**

3. Will plans be available near the site?

The plans will be on display at the information point to be set up before works commence on the former Sainsbury's site. The area will be clearly branded and more information will be available when it is set up.

If you have another query we haven't covered

You can visit our information point which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am - 4pm on the former Sainsbury's site, Belgrave Road, Leicester LE4 6AR. There is also key information on the outside of the cabin if there is nobody in there that day.

Call us on the freephone information line: **0800 038 1129**
(line open 9am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday and 9am - 4pm Friday)

For any out-of-hours emergencies relating to the Belgrave Road works, please call 07501 53111

If you have any other queries or concerns, please contact the Leicester City Council Customer Services Centre on 0116 252 7001 between 8am and 6pm (Monday to Friday)