

## Place Operations

Cheshire West and Chester Council  
4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

**Tel:** 0151 356 6691

**Our ref:** Sut/08/01/2020

**Your ref:**

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**Date:** 09 January 2020

Residents of  
Sutton Way

Dear Resident

### **Sutton Way Boulevard, Ellesmere Port – New cycle route**

The long awaited construction of a new shared cycle and pedestrian route on Sutton Way started in November. The scheme will see the current footpath widened, helping to make cycling and walking safer and easier.

Initial consultation took place in 2016 but the project was put on hold due to concerns over the loss of wildlife habitat, if the Hawthorne hedge was removed. Following inspections by TEP Environmental Consultancy, the hedge was found to have minimal ecological value.

The scheme was reintroduced for a second time following wider consultation with residents during the Sutton Way Flats Regeneration project. A large proportion of residents indicated that the current hedge made them feel vulnerable and in fear of crime as the footpath was hidden from the road and extremely dark, dirty and overbearing.

A Site and Crime report was completed by Cheshire Constabulary which looked at reported and recorded crime and antisocial behaviour, the recommendations made were to have the hedge completely removed or pruned to one metre in height.

The current hedge is a Hawthorne and as such has thorns which already cause regular punctures to cyclists. Any cycleway improvement therefore needed to include the removal and replacement of a more suitable hedge. The replacement hedge will be a slow growing beech maintained to approximately one metre high. This will be wider than the current hedge and will offer better ecological and wildlife value.

The scheme will now see a wider shared cycle and pedestrian route delivered, a replacement beech hedge, additional tree planting, daffodil bulbs and wild flower sections.



The section between Rostherne Avenue and Bebington Road (both sides of the road) will have the current hedge removed and only a small section replaced. This will have a selection of Cherry Blossom trees added, daffodil bulbs and wild flower sections. The current informal crossing point at this location will also be upgraded to an uncontrolled crossing point.

Like all projects of this size, it does include a variety of upgrades along the route and will be delivered in sections. All properties close to or affected by the works will receive a letter prior to the commencement of each phase.

Detailed plans showing all improvements and changes are now on display at Civic Way Library. In addition I will have a copy on display and can answer questions in the old Rent Office in Tarporley Road on the following days:

Tuesday 14 January – 10am to 2pm

Wednesday 15 January – 2pm to 5pm

Thursday 16 January – 4pm to 7pm

Yours sincerely

John Hickey

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Visit: [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)