

# A2 Update

**In December the A2/A282 Dartford Improvement Scheme was opened five months earlier than expected by local MP Howard Stoute. On a crisp morning he cut a ribbon to mark the addition of the new flyover to the other link roads already up and running around junction 2 of the M25.**

From the new flyover, work could be seen progressing on the M25 Widening Scheme to the south of the junction. With a significant proportion of traffic no longer needing to use junction 2 roundabout, work will now begin on upgrading it with new surfacing, kerbs, safety rails, signage and slip roads.



On the final day before the flyover opened, local residents and schoolchildren from Fleetdown Primary School met the mascot and representative of the Considerate Constructors Scheme, Ivor Goodsite, on the new flyover. They all made a final walk across the flyover, despite the cold weather, for some memories to tell future generations. The school is one

of a dozen in the area that we visited during the scheme, and also took part in Noise Action Week at the Darenth site offices, in conjunction with Dartford Council.

The land under Littledale Viaduct is to be left as a gently rolling landscape as agreed with the Darenth Parish Council. With little direct sunlight and no direct water it is a harsh environment, where nothing will grow. The area will also be made secure with steel fencing. Facing Green Street Green Road both sides of the road will be banked with Kentish Ragstone to ensure a tidy, clean and easily maintained area and to give an improved visual impact on this approach to Darenth.



# Looking Ahead

The next three months will see the M25 work in the central reserve completed, providing drainage and a new concrete barrier between the four lanes of traffic in each direction. We will maintain three lanes throughout peak periods, with some lane closures overnight,



to allow preparation for the low noise surfacing to be applied and gantries erected for overhead signage, some of

which span both carriageways. To allow you to plan your journey we will tell you when these lane closures are due to take place.

The continued use of the Quick Moveable Barrier machine has increased the work we are able to do on both carriageways. As a result we are hoping to complete the scheme sooner than expected.

The new dedicated link road from A2 westbound onto the M25 southbound will also be open to traffic, taking even



more motorists away from junction two roundabout.

Communications work associated with both road schemes will continue until the end of the year, with minimal affect on the travelling public or disruption to local residents.

## Our Recovery Team

As part of the Highways Agency focus on customers, the Darenth site has a recovery area for those customers whose vehicles break down or are otherwise incapacitated on major roads within the site area. Eleven recovery units have been situated at strategic points to enable them to attend immobilised vehicles quickly and remove them to the safety and comfort of the site compound waiting area. The compound operates 24 hours a day with staff continuously monitoring 42 cameras covering the site roads. The CCTV room is in contact with the Highways Agency Regional Control Centre, Police Control and Dartford Crossing to maintain

network resilience through the area and beyond.

BDV are the company running the recovery operation, keeping drivers and their passengers safe

by removing them from the busy roads in all weather. National recovery agencies meet if necessary at the compound, to avoid congesting the roads.

**Here are some grateful comments recorded in our book in the waiting room.**

*“Very fast and friendly pick-up. Strapped motorbike down well. Use of phone really handy. Rest area at compound great... excellent service “*

*“You guys were very fast, friendly and helpful. It’s nice that there’s a place to sit, have water/coffee and a tea. We were treated really well in all the facilities. WE ARE IMPRESSED!” (People from Canada)*

*“On way to Aberdeen when clutch went!! We were looked after so well, with a warm place to sit, tea, and much needed toilets! Service was excellent and was with us within minutes.“*

*“Everyone has been brilliant, from the driver of the recovery truck to the team in the control room. They could not have been more helpful. Thank you very much.“*

# Environment

The drainage at Bean Junction has been improved with the introduction of a pond fed by an interceptor which filters the water that drains from the A2. A new environmental area around the pond includes some of the 70,000 plants and saplings of the finished landscaping programme for the A2, and is designed to extend the local dormouse habitat. A further 30,000 plants are planned adjacent to the M25.

We are planting small trees because larger trees require



more water to survive, and watering is not a practical option on highway embankments, which are often steep and exposed. Smaller trees have a much higher success rate, grow in a more natural way, and over five or six years will generally thrive and eventually grow larger than those planted that are initially bigger. Some 80% of planting has been completed with the remainder planned for the Autumn.

The first section of the environmental barrier at Hawley was up by Easter, while work over Hawley Road has also enabled a pipebridge to be installed. This will take some surface drainage into balancing ponds, and will be hidden by the barrier. The environmental barrier at the Swanley end of the scheme has also been started.



*Tree planting*



*The environmental barrier at Hawley*



# Community Relations

On behalf of the Dartford team, (the Highways Agency, Costain, Jacobs and all the suppliers and subcontractors) a cheque was presented to the local Ellenor Hospice in Dartford. The Ellenor Hospice at Home cares for patients in the comfort of their familiar surroundings, providing nursing



and family support. The Dartford hospice at home was the first of its kind in the world, and needs around £3 million each

year to provide its services. They have a team of 40 nurses, treating about 500 patients in the boroughs and surrounding villages of Gravesham, Dartford & Bexley. Anyone suffering from a life-limiting condition is eligible. The Shining Lights section, to which we donated the money, cares for the 80 children in their care. It allows for treatment at home, respite care, and bereavement support. For more information please visit [www.ellenorfoundation.org](http://www.ellenorfoundation.org)

Darenth Community Primary School benefited from the help of the Dartford Team to create a sports

training pitch. This was in addition to the pond and a herb garden which the team had already provided.

The next public meeting will be held on:

**Thursday 10th July, 7.30 pm,  
Sutton-at-Hone Village Hall.** Tallents Close.



The Visitor Centre at the Costain Site Office off Green Street Green Road is open during weekday office hours. Please call in and see us. To be sure that there is someone available to meet you it is best to make an appointment by calling the number below. You will be most welcome.

*If you have any queries or wish to bring any problems to our attention, please contact:*

### **Martin Griffiths**

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**Public Helpline: 0845 603 6374**

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/a2a282>

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/M251B-3>

For real time traffic information:

**08700 660 115**

[www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo](http://www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo)

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0870 numbers will cost no more than 8p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

For general Highways Agency information:

**08457 50 40 30**

email: [ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

## **Safe driving at roadworks**

*Remember that tiredness can kill. Take regular breaks from driving.*



**During 2006 two workers were killed and 19 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads.**

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works' traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.