

A421 Great Barford Bypass Third Newsletter - August 2006

Welcome to the third and final edition of the newsletter for this scheme. In this issue we present a series of photographs taken over the months of construction and some recent photos showing sections of the bypass that are almost complete. We also talk about how we are working for the environment and helping to prevent flooding.

The work is nearly complete and we are hoping to open the bypass in August and expect it to be open to traffic for the August bank holiday weekend. There are charity events being planned for 20th and 22nd August and contact details for these are also included in this newsletter. The actual date for opening will be publicised nearer the time.

Great Barford, Flood Alleviation Scheme.

For many years the Northern end of Great Barford has suffered from flooding, however, thanks to the work on the new Bypass, there has been enough earth to build new flood defences. Two earth banks are being built in a project involving the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Internal Drainage Board.

The earth banks are being built on each of the two streams to the north of Great Barford. These banks will only allow through a certain amount of water and as a result, any flooding will be held upstream of the two earth banks, away from the village.

Environmental Measures

In Bedfordshire there are a number of protected species such as great crested newts and badgers. We have designed and built several ways to keep them off the bypass. For example we have included mammal crossings under the road; plus badger netting and newt fencing along the bypass' boundaries.

The Highways Agency is the second largest planter of trees and shrubs in England after the Forestry Commission.

To improve the look of the new road, we will plant 140,000 new trees and shrubs over the Autumn and Winter.

Opening Festivities

Fun Run As part of the Opening Festivities, on Sunday 20 August 2006 there is to be a sponsored Charity Event in aid of St John's Hospice. The Bypass will be taken over for the day by the Rotary Club of Bedford who will organise the event. Three events are due to take place.

1. 10km Run, (for individuals, and teams)
2. 6km Fun Run (for individuals, families and teams)
3. 6km Fun Walk (for individuals, families and teams)

If you would like to take part or help, please call **01767 641 044** or visit

www.barfordbypasschallenge.org for details.

Great Barford Driving Challenge

On 22nd August Martine Brooks, a blind woman from St Neots, will be driving along the new road to raise money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Anyone wishing to make a donation should contact Peter Paskell on 01480 218280 or go to the event website www.gbchallenge.info

Great Barford Street Party

On the day the bypass opens, there will be a street party so that children from the village will have a day to remember. It is being organised by a group from the village with the help of the Parish Council. The old main road will be closed between Silver Street and High Street for 4 hours. The remaining local traffic will be diverted via Silver Street and High Street.

The afternoon will include a Fancy Hat competition on the theme of transport and maybe some other events as well. All Great Barford children up to 13 years old are invited. Older children and adults are very welcome to join the party, but the organisers are requesting that they contribute their own food.

For further details or information please call our Public Liaison Officer, Peter Paskell on 01480 218 280.

Or write to:

The Great Barford Bypass Site Office, Edmund Nuttall Ltd. Roxton Road, Near Roxton, Bedfordshire.
MK44 3BP

For real time traffic information:

08700 660 115

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

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 3p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

Safe driving at roadworks

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



During 2005, five workers were killed and 12 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads. This was the worst year since 1999.

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, drivers approaching roadworks are advised to:

- 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