

# Eastern Gateway, Crawley

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why is the scheme required?

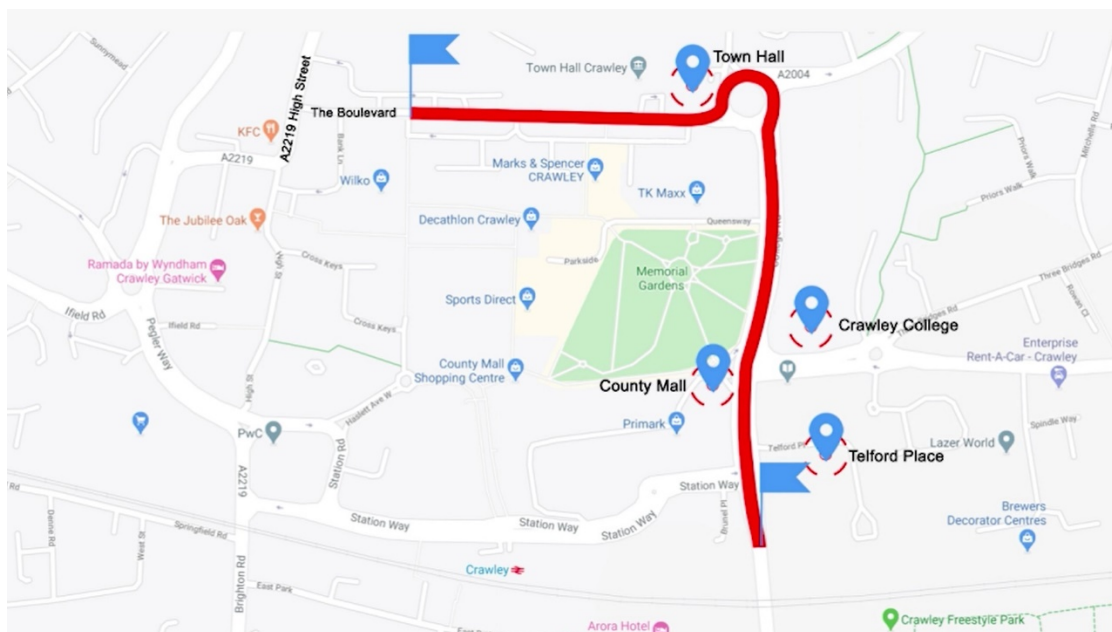
West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) has identified that the county requires significant investment in new infrastructure to help stimulate economic growth, with Crawley as a key growth location. The [Crawley Growth Programme](#) is a £60 million package which will “unlock” jobs, business space and home building in the town through major infrastructure improvements.

The Eastern Gateway project aim to improve pedestrian, cycling and bus access and facilities and create better connectivity between the railway and bus stations.

The Eastern Gateway includes improvements to public space and connectivity to support key development opportunities at the Town Hall, County Buildings, Telford Place and Crawley College.

### 2. Where is the scheme?

The Eastern Gateway project covers the eastern half of The Boulevard, Exchange Road, the southern end of Northgate Avenue, College Road including the roundabout, Southgate Avenue up to and including the junction with Station Way.



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### 3. What does the scheme include?

The Eastern Gateway Scheme features include the following improvements and changes:

- Decluttering of the highway to enhance the visual appearance of the town centre
- Soft urban landscaping
- Cycling facilities (cycle lanes and toucan crossings)
- Public realm quality materials to enhance the Town Centre
- Limited raised carriageway and change in surface treatment to improve pedestrian connectivity
- New pedestrian crossing facilities
- New signalised junction layouts to improve the junction efficiency and allow better management of traffic.

### 4. What will the schemes cost to implement and how is it funded?

The estimated cost for implementing the Eastern Gateway scheme is £8.85 million funded through the Crawley Growth Programme. The Crawley Growth programme will be delivered by a major partnership of public and private organisations, including the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership, West Sussex County Council, Crawley Borough Council, Metrobus, Gatwick Airport Limited, Manor Royal Business Improvement District (BID) Company.

### 5. Who is delivering the project?

As part of the Crawley Growth Programme, West Sussex County Council are the lead authority for the Eastern Gateway Project and Contract Management for the proposed improvements.

### 6. When will the scheme be built?

Further design alterations were completed in Spring 2021. Construction has started in Summer 2021 and will be completed by Spring 2022.

What to expect during the works:

Phase 1 / 2 / 3

The roundabout and College Road will operate throughout the scheme with one lane open in either direction

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On College Road, heading South towards Haslett Avenue (where the cycle lanes will end), the works to the central reservation will be conducted first, meaning traffic will use the lanes adjacent to the footway. When works move out to the cycle lanes, this will move the traffic to the lane either side of the central reservation.

On The Boulevard, traffic will operate as usual until 14th July, when a temporary West to East one-way system and associated diversion signs will be put into place.

#### Phase 4

The junction of College Road/Haslett Ave East will operate the same as now with temporary signals. There is ongoing liaison with County Mall to maintain access to their carpark and prevent delays.

#### Phase 5

Minimal works to surfaces and footways, signals will be replaced but the existing set up will be replicated and traffic will still flow in both directions.

### **7. Will the local community be affected during construction?**

WSCC will be working closely with the contractor and affected stakeholders to minimise any disruption to local community and businesses. Phasing of each section of the scheme has been carefully planned to minimise disruption for residents and businesses.

We will communicate relevant information in a timely manner using appropriate media channels to ensure that everyone is kept informed as the project progresses.

### **8. Will the improvements reduce congestion?**

The Eastern Gateway is an urban realm improvement project. It is anticipated that the improved pedestrian and cycling facilities will encourage sustainable travel modes, facilitate modal shift and enable better management of peak demands.

Traffic signals on College Road (southbound), at the junction of Haslett Avenue East, currently have phasing for the left turn. We recognise that this can cause congestion at times, therefore we have worked with the Traffic Signals and Street Lighting Team and this phasing will be removed. Traffic will only be stopped from turning left at this junction when pedestrians wish to cross.

### **9. What provision has been made for walking and cycling?**

The Eastern Gateway Project proposals will feature improved pedestrian and cycling facilities. On some sections, cyclists will come from a dedicated cycle lane, onto clearly

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marked shared use space. These plans meet current standards for width of shared use facilities and we have worked closely with safety advisors to maximise safe use of these spaces.

**10. How will the existing cycle lanes be linked?**

WSCC are committed to investment in sustainable modes of transport. We will ensure that the existing cycle network is linked to the proposed scheme, thereby providing a comprehensive cycle network for Crawley.

**11. Will the proposed improvements require additional land?**

The proposed improvements are all contained within the existing highway. Nevertheless, we recognise that there are several interactions with neighbouring properties and developments which will require close co-operation.

**12. Will the roads become narrower, to accommodate the new cycle lanes?**

Vehicle lanes on The Boulevard and College Road will be narrowed, but robust safety modelling has been undertaken, working with current size constraints.

The scheme involves proposals that alters the carriageway's vertical, horizontal alignments to accommodate improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. This alignment alteration is facilitated through the introductions of raised tables and narrow traffic lanes which has been subjected to extensive modelling and safety audit process to ensure suitability

**13. Will the roads remain open during the work?**

Every effort will be made to maintain access to premises and minimise the impact on the road network on all road users. The Traffic Management Plans are due to be developed and confirmed following the completion of the detailed design stage. The proposed temporary traffic management will be communicated to affected stakeholders in advance of starting the work to capture feedback.

There are no anticipated access issues for users of the car park in Telford Place.

**14. Will there be any environmental impact?**

Surveys were undertaken to assess and minimise the impacts of the scheme on the local habitat. In general, the scheme is not expected to have a significant negative impact on species or habitats along the route. Should the surveys identify species requiring protection an appropriate mitigation plan will be developed to reduce the impact of the proposed improvements.

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With consideration for the existing trees on the roundabout, due to tree type, expected lifespan, location, conditions and the new roundabout layout, we decided that the best action was to remove them and plant new trees. We will remove a total of 13 trees, replacing them with 10 in the inner roundabout island. We will also plant a further 12 new trees in the newly created soft landscape areas around the roundabout. Shrubs and wildflowers will be planted in College Road.

**15. Will access for pedestrians be maintained during the works?**

Wherever possible, footpaths will be left open. Where there is a requirement to close a footpath, we will work with our contractor to provide alternative routes and advance notices. If it is necessary to close a pedestrian crossing point, alternative safe crossing points will always be provided, by diverting pedestrians to another crossing if needed.

**16. Will the works affect my bus journey?**

We will endeavour to liaise with all bus operators to manage, mitigate impacts on bus journeys and timetables.

**17. Will emergency services be affected by this works?**

We will be working closely with emergency services to ensure that the works have minimal impact on their operations.

**For more information or any other questions, please email**  
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