

Proposals for the Hard Ings Road Improvement Scheme

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City of Bradford MDC

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Introduction

Proposals are currently being developed for changes to Hard Ings Road (A650), Keighley.

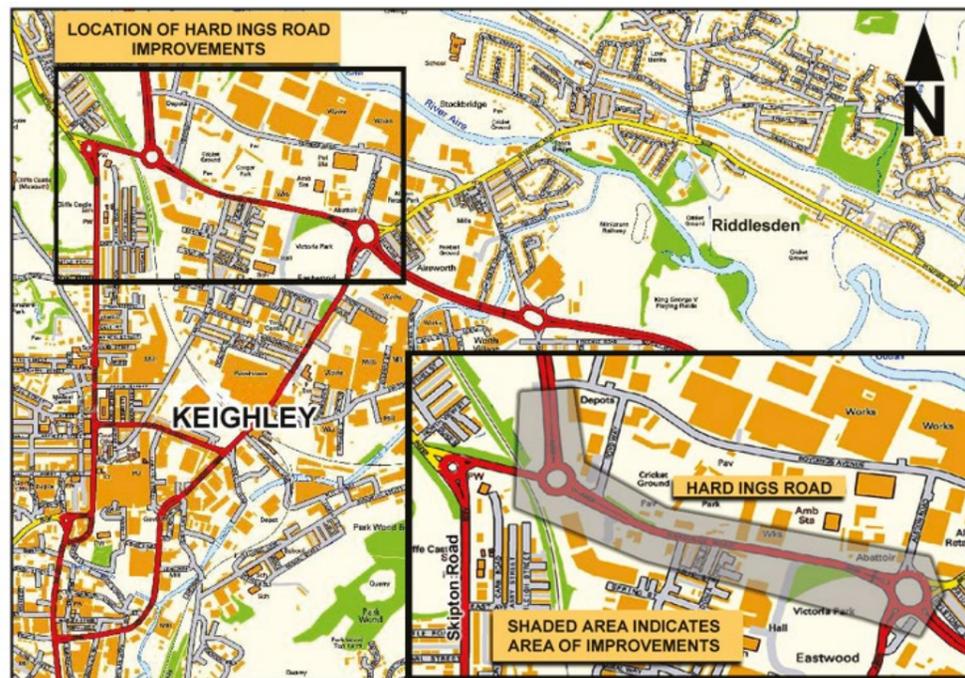
The A650 is a key route between Bradford and Keighley, as well as linking Skipton to the Pendle area of Lancashire. The route is predominantly a dual carriageway, except for a short section, known as Hard Ings Road. Consequently, this part of the route is a pinch point for traffic. The resultant congestion impacts upon drivers using the A650.

The scheme for Hard Ings Road is being developed by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (CBMDC). The scheme has received investment through the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund as part of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal – a £1 billion package of government investment to accelerate growth and create jobs across Leeds City Region.

The improvement works for Hard Ings Road will reduce congestion and improve road safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Improving pedestrian safety is a key priority for the scheme. With a growing residential population

in the vicinity, an increase in traffic will have an effect on congestion in Keighley town centre. Keighley is the principal town of Airedale and an important industrial economic base. Reducing congestion along Hard Ings Road will increase investment opportunities in the area and increase economic growth.

In order to reduce congestion and offer improved provision for cyclists and pedestrians, a number of changes to the road layout are being brought forward, including the provision of additional traffic lanes on Hard Ings Road along with the installation of traffic signals at Beechcliffe Roundabout and the Hard Ings Road junction with Lawkholme Lane. Shared footways for pedestrians and cyclists together with a signal controlled crossing at Lawkholme Lane, that will allow both pedestrians and cyclists to cross, known as a 'toucan' crossing, are also planned.



A map showing the location of the Hard Ings Road improvement scheme.

Key Benefits

Reducing congestion

Increasing the capacity of the local road network.

It is well known that Hard Ings Road is currently a pinch point for vehicular traffic and road users often experience lengthy delays. These important highway development works will ease congestion and improve the ability of the road network to accommodate higher volumes of traffic and reduce congestion through this key strategic part of the A650.



Encouraging sustainable modes of transport

Improving the experience for pedestrians and cyclists.

Improving pedestrian and cyclist facilities is important as it will enable local people to walk and cycle around this area more easily and safely. Improving the provision for pedestrians and cyclists will also offer safer use of the highway, and will reduce the likelihood of accidents along this stretch of road.

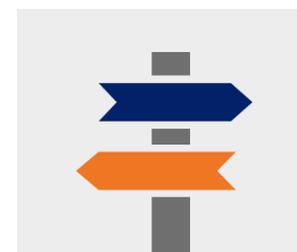


Although there is only one bus service which operates along Hard Ings Road (the 727), congestion at Bradford Road Roundabout causes significant delays at peak times for a number of other bus services. Therefore this scheme will have a positive effect on bus times in the wider area.

Enhancing the quality of the local environment

Installing new planting and improving air quality.

Improving the capacity of the road network will reduce the length of time vehicles are stationary. Reducing standing traffic times will help to improve air quality. In addition, improving the provision for cyclists and pedestrians provides opportunity to encourage more people to travel on foot and by bike.



New and replacement planting and landscaping will improve the visual appearance of this stretch of road. The scheme includes native tree planting and the installation of shrubs as well as the replanting of verge and embankment areas. Beechcliffe Roundabout will be replanted as part of this scheme to improve the visual appearance of this part of the A650.

The changes to Hard Ings Road to facilitate these improvements do not require planning permission. However, in order to bring forward the scheme supporting formal legal orders need to be obtained, including Side Road Orders and Traffic Regulation Orders for waiting restrictions. Progression of these will require further consultation, but before they are submitted, CBMDC want to give local people and stakeholders the opportunity to have their say on this important project.



Introducing the Design

Reducing congestion

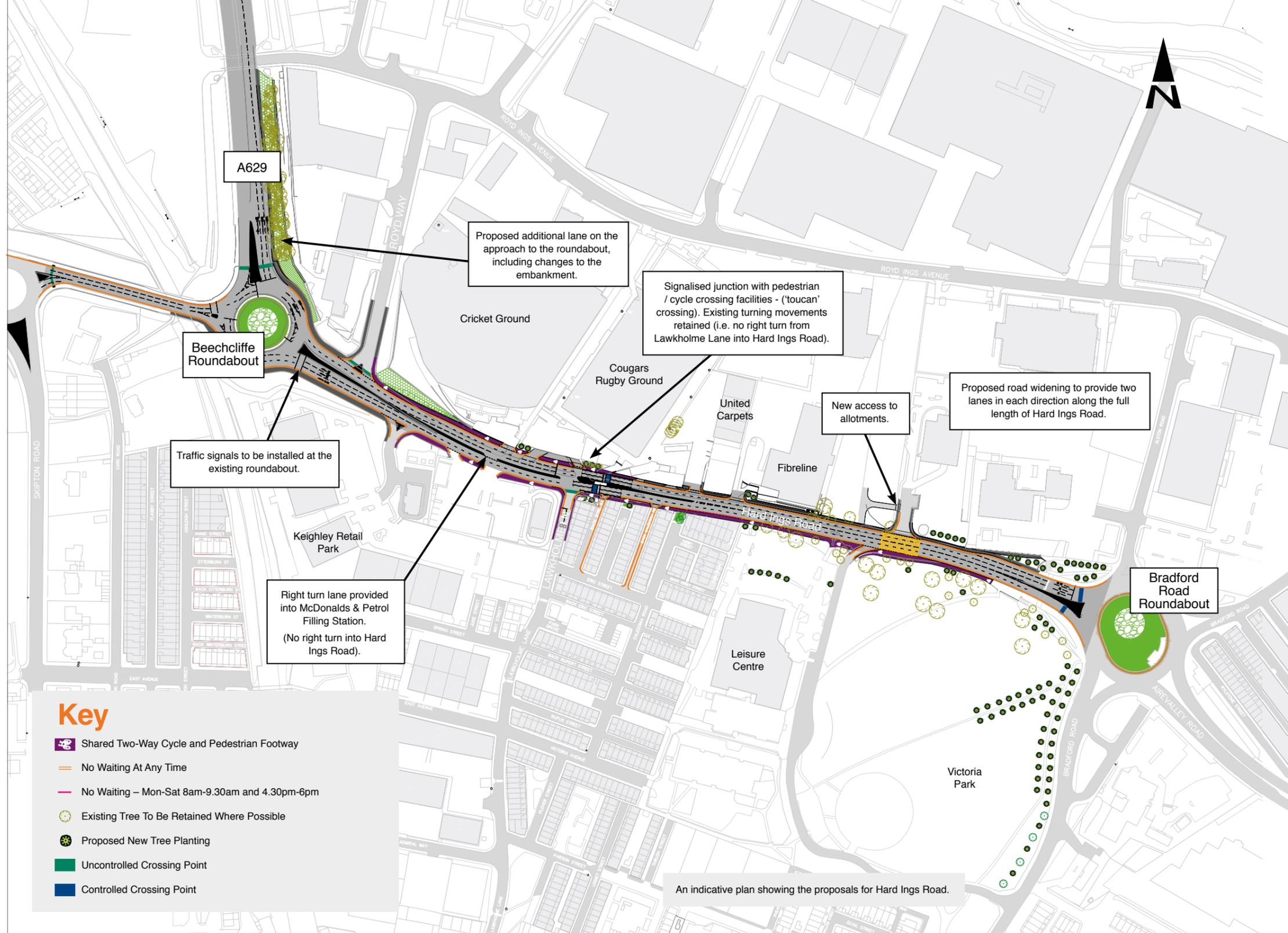
- On the approach to Beechcliffe Roundabout from the A629, an additional lane will be provided.
- Traffic signals will be installed at the Beechcliffe Roundabout to improve operation of the junction and reduce journey times for road users.
- Hard Ings Road will be widened along its full length to provide two lanes in both directions between Beechcliffe and Bradford Road roundabouts.
- The existing junction of Hard Ings Road with Lawkholme Lane will be signalised, with existing turning movements retained. This will incorporate a 'toucan' crossing for use by pedestrians and cyclists.
- The central reservation will be extended at Hard Ings Road between Beechcliffe Roundabout and Caledonia Road.

Improving the pedestrian and cyclist experience

- A shared, two-way cycle and pedestrian path will be installed, running along the southern side of Hard Ings Road between Bradford Road Roundabout and Keighley Retail Park.
- A shared, two-way cycle and pedestrian path will also be installed, running from the proposed 'toucan' crossing to Royd Way to tie into the existing cycle route on Royd Ings Avenue.

Landscaping

- To allow for the additional lane on the approach to Beechcliffe Roundabout, the adjacent embankment and roundabout will be remodelled and new landscaping will be installed. The new planting will include grass, trees, bulbs and shrubs.
- Where possible, new native trees will be planted along the roadside and verge areas. As this vital highway scheme involves the widening of the road and additional cycle and footways, this means that some trees will have to be removed in order to implement the scheme. The CBMDC have worked hard to ensure that each of the trees that need to be removed will be replaced with trees either within the scheme or nearby.
- Landscaped areas affected by the construction works will be replanted. Existing embankments close to Beechcliffe Roundabout and the cricket ground will be cleared and replaced with shrubs and trees.



Delivery

Subject to the assembly of land and formal legal orders, including Side Road Orders and Traffic Regulation Orders for waiting restrictions being approved, it is anticipated that the project should be complete in 2019.

Key Considerations

Disruption during highway changes

In order to complete these much needed improvements, work within the live highway will have to be undertaken. As a result of this, there will be some disruption to users of the highway network while works are being constructed.

The CBMDC has and will continue to work hard to ensure that disruption to businesses, local people and road users alike is kept to an absolute minimum. Regular communication in advance of and during construction will ensure that people are fully aware of the works being undertaken.

Local land owners

The scheme has been designed to achieve maximum benefits whilst minimising the need for land outside the existing highway boundary.

Where land is required the CBMDC has been and continues to work closely with local land owners to assemble the land needed to ensure that these vital changes to the road network can be delivered. A separate consultation programme is being undertaken with those affected.

Helping local businesses

The lengthy journey times currently experienced by road users through this important route have a direct impact on local businesses. These proposals are key to reducing the negative impact of delays at this location on the highway network.



Consultation Programme

On 12 September 2016, the CBMDC will launch a consultation programme for the Hard Ings Road improvement works. The consultation will run for approximately four weeks, until 7 October 2016.

To engage with members of the public and key stakeholders, we will use a number of different techniques:



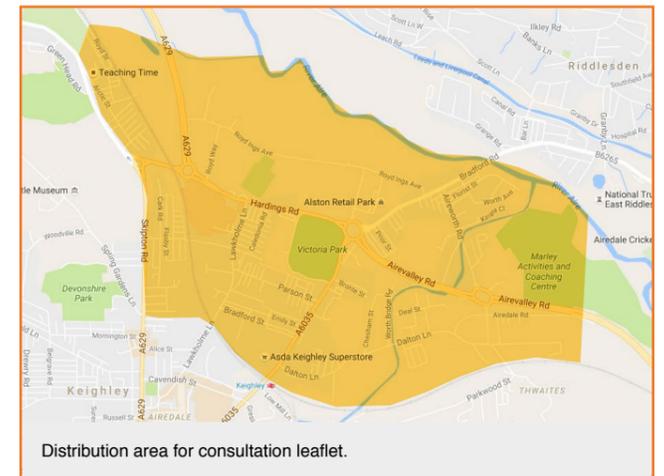
Briefing pack

Copies of this briefing pack will be distributed to stakeholders, including local ward councillors and other elected members, to make them aware of the consultation and how they can submit feedback on the proposals.



Consultation leaflet

Consultation leaflets will be distributed to all residential and business properties within the area shown. The leaflet will provide information about the proposals and detail opportunities for members of the public to provide feedback and will give information on where people can ask questions.



Distribution area for consultation leaflet.



Community Access Points

Community Access Points (CAP sites) are local shops, amenities and other key locations where the public can easily obtain copies of the consultation leaflet.



Consultation website

A dedicated website (www.hardingsroad.com) will be launched on 12 September 2016. This website will provide information about the Hard Ings Road scheme and associated consultation activities. Site users can also ask questions and submit comments through the dedicated project email address (info@hardingsroad.com).



Telephone information line

A dedicated information line (0800 032 1880) will be opened on 12 September 2016 to answer calls about the Hard Ings Road scheme. The line will operate from 9am to 5pm (Monday to Friday) with an answer phone facility to take calls outside these hours.



Public drop-in session

A public exhibition will provide stakeholders and members of the public with the opportunity to discuss the scheme with key members of the project team. **The details for the drop-in session are as follows:**

- **Victoria Hall, Hard Ings Road, Keighley, BD21 3JN**
- **2pm – 8pm**
- **Thursday 29 September 2016.**

Seeking Feedback

The CBMDC is committed to engaging openly with members of the general public and key stakeholders.

The CBMDC wants to inform stakeholders and local people about the proposals and wants to give you the opportunity to contribute to the finalisation of these plans. This briefing pack has been produced and distributed at the start of the public consultation to inform key stakeholders about the consultation and give more details about the consultation programme.

Key principles

All of our engagement activities will be guided by the following key principles:

- We will be open and honest when presenting information.
- We will ensure that all public engagement materials can be easily accessed by local stakeholders and the wider general public.
- We will be clear and 'plain speaking', avoiding jargon or technical terms where possible.
- We will ensure all comments and feedback received during the consultation are considered before the proposals are finalised.

What Happens Next?

The consultation is scheduled to end on 7 October 2016.

All feedback received during the consultation will be considered on an ongoing basis by the project team and suggestions will be incorporated into the finalisation of the scheme where possible.

Contact details

To find out more about the Hard Ings Road scheme please contact The Consultation Team using the following:

 **0800 032 1880**

 **info@hardingsroad.com**

 **www.hardingsroad.com**

The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille.

Please call The Consultation Team on 0800 032 1880.

