



Norfolk County Council



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Dear Residents and Businesses,

Consultation on proposals for Dereham Road/Grapes Hill junction

Norfolk County Council is asking for feedback on proposed changes to the approach to the Dereham Road/Grapes Hill junction in Norwich. We are writing to let you know how to find out more about the project and how to take part in our consultation.

This project is part of a series of improvements we're making in the city, aimed at improving bus journey times and reliability of services across our public transport network. We're using funding awarded to us by the Department for Transport for our Bus Service Improvement Plan to invest in infrastructure at strategic locations, relieving specific areas of congestion that affect buses so we can deliver better, more punctual services. Through these changes, along with funding for additional and extended services, the current £2 fare cap and zero-emission buses, we hope that more people will choose the bus for their everyday journeys into and around Norwich.

What's being proposed and why

This project is making changes to Dereham Road on its approach to its junction with Grapes Hill. It is designed to create more space for buses and general traffic to help relieve congestion, which currently can cause delays for all road users. If approved for construction, we expect to see an improvement to journey times for all those using the junction, helping to improve reliability for bus services in the process.

The following table explains what changes we're proposing and the reasons behind them. The enclosed plan shows what the project would look like on the ground – the numbered proposed changes below correspond to the relevant points marked on the map.

	Proposal	Reason for proposal
1	Existing eastbound bus lane on Dereham Road approaching the Grapes Hill junction reduced to 90m (it's currently about 110m)	This allows better road space re-allocation for traffic turning left at the junction, which increases capacity for buses and general traffic.
2	Removal of existing central reservation island on the approach to the Dereham Road junction with Grapes Hill	This would be replaced with hatched road markings. The new layout allows for wider traffic and bus lanes, while maintaining the same traffic distribution.
3	Wider traffic and bus lanes through realigning the kerb within the pavement either side of the Dereham Road junction with Raglan Street	Wider lanes improve safety and traffic flow, reducing queues at the signalised junction of Dereham Road and Grapes Hill.
4	New signage for existing 'no right turn' restriction on exit from the wine merchants and Valentine Street due to removal of the central reservation island (see proposal 2)	Improves safety and traffic flow in both directions and prevents traffic straddling across the bus lane.

Please note that the existing controlled pedestrian crossing and cycle lane facilities at the Dereham Road junction with Grapes Hill will be retained, as will the uncontrolled crossing point and pedestrian island near Raglan Street. All road markings in the area will be refreshed as part of the scheme.

How to comment

There are two ways to comment on the consultation:

- Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/derehamroadbuslane where you can complete our online survey to share your thoughts on the proposals.
- Ask for a hard copy of the survey by calling or emailing us using the details at the top of this letter. Large font and other formats are available on request.

Next Steps

The deadline for comments is Thursday 22 February and we will carefully consider all responses ahead of advertisement of the formal Traffic Regulation Orders needed to deliver the project. This will be done in consultation with the local county council member and cabinet member, as appropriate. The webpage above will be kept up to date with the latest progress and information.

Background

The Department for Transport (DfT) has awarded the county council nearly £50m of funding for its Bus Service Improvement Plan, aimed at improving bus services and infrastructure facilities across the county. The plan includes measures such as integrated travel hubs, new and more frequent services and bus priority infrastructure schemes such as this project at the Dereham Road/Grapes Hill junction. You can read more about our work on the Bus Service Improvement Plan by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/busstrategy.

Yours faithfully,



Niki Park, Head of Passenger Transport