

All systems go for the South Devon Link Road

A very BIG THANK YOU!

That's the message to everyone who helped to make the South Devon Link Road possible.

On 8th May this year, 60 years after it was first considered, it was announced that the South Devon Link Road had been granted full approval by the Department for Transport (DfT). The new road will unlock economic growth and improve the prosperity of our communities across Torbay and Devon.

This is fantastic and momentous news for the thousands of people who have written to back the project, campaigned and gathered a wealth of support from businesses, residents, politicians, the emergency services, colleges, schools, health and leisure organisations and many others besides.

We know that not everyone felt the same way however, and we understand the concerns, which we are keen to address. A new set of exhibitions will be held in September to explain the schedule for construction, including the procedures in place to stop residents and motorists from experiencing further delays, measures to protect the environment and how the phases of road building will take place.

Everyone is encouraged to come along and find out more – and we are still very keen to hear your views. We will be working with the media to show progress as it happens, and keep the website - southdevonlinkroad.co.uk updated with the latest news.

In the meantime, we would like to say thank you to everyone who has given their comments and helped shape the project so far.

This, our second newsletter, contains information on the final plans, a schedule of work, contact details and the new playground plans. We hope you find it useful.

Project Team.

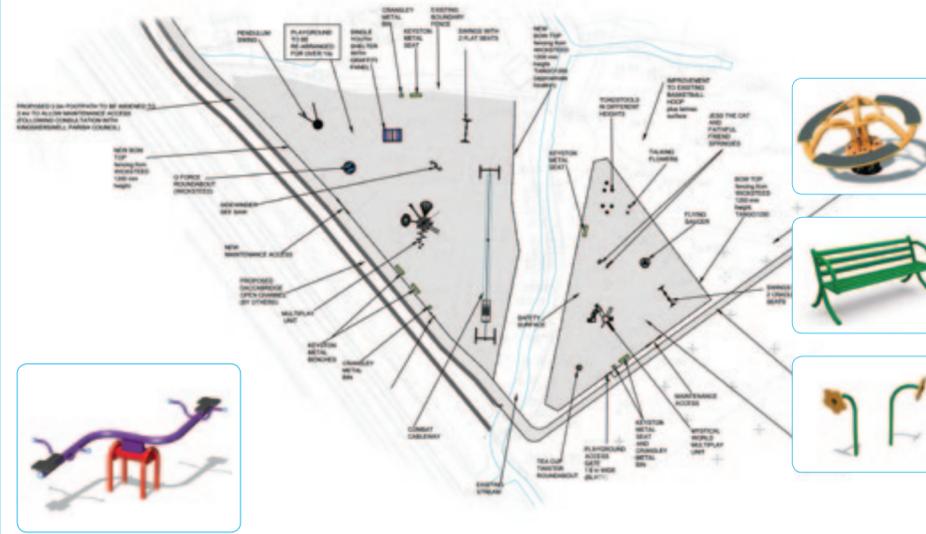


The team behind the South Devon Link Road project.

Playing for keeps

A new playground for Kingskerswell Village is an important part of the development plans. Paul Ewings, Project Engineer for the scheme met with the Parish Council late last year to discuss the new facility and to develop plans to provide new equipment for local children.

Creation of the new play area is due to start in the autumn: the dedicated playground area for children under ten will be complete by Christmas. This area will include a variety of different playground equipment to encourage creative and energetic play in a safe environment.



Local connections

Winning the Kingskerswell Bypass contract was both a professional and personal success for Galliford Try chief executive Greg Fitzgerald. Greg is a local man and has spent many hours stuck in the queues the £110 million project is set to solve.

Galliford Try is a national leader in high-profile construction and infrastructure projects, but has further home-grown connections as it is also the parent company of Linden Homes, which has its south west head office in Newton Abbot.

The project will give Galliford Try the chance to showcase its capabilities as it sets about improving congestion, air quality, business and leisure links, and injecting millions of pounds of investment into the region.

Mr Fitzgerald, who lives in Ideford, said: "We are delighted to be awarded this landmark scheme, which is set to benefit thousands of local motorists, as well as the many tourists who travel to this popular area from further afield."

"I am particularly proud to be involved in such a prestigious project which will bring many economic and social benefits to South Devon – not to mention improving the safety of our local highways."

Greg Fitzgerald,
Galliford Try.

What are the plans?

Looking after the environment

A top priority for us is the protection of the environment. The scheme has been designed to minimise the impact on wildlife and flora, with a steering group established to consider how best to diminish the effect on the environment. Natural England, the RSPB and the Environment Agency are helping to advise the project team to ensure that wildlife, landscapes and the flora of the downs are looked after. Work has already begun to ensure that the environment is not affected any more than necessary; in some cases, species will benefit from the scheme.

As part of the project plans, land has been acquired so that wildlife can find a safe haven nearby. Labrador Bay, near Teignmouth, is now a dedicated wildlife management area run by the RSPB.

Cirl Buntings in particular will benefit from the nature reserve: a farmland bird found mainly in fields and hedges of South Devon, this species was once considered vulnerable, but has seen an increase in numbers in recent years. This protected habitat will ensure this continues, with the RSPB predicting a significant increase in breeding pairs as a result.

Bats are also important to the surroundings. New foraging land has been created near Edginswell to



support the seven different species of bats found locally. Wet grassland here is particularly important for these species and bat boxes and a bat house has been specially constructed to encourage bats to roost and breed in the area. Bats are reluctant to cross wide spaces, so in other areas, additional measures will be put in place, such as tree planting and culverts (specially designed tunnels) to ensure bats continue to use all of their territories.

Other measures include the creation of badger tunnels, other fences and new spawning pools for certain species of fish.

The action group will continue to monitor the work of the project team and provide advice as the scheme progresses. Please visit our website for updates and the latest news.



What's been happening?

To recap on progress – after public exhibitions last summer, both councils reviewed the plans for the road and decided that they would reinstate the original plans, putting back elements of the scheme that had been removed in the first bid to reduce costs, including the bridge link at Aller. Devon County Council and Torbay Council decided that they would underwrite these costs themselves after public feedback showed that these elements were very important to the communities alongside the scheme.

As a result, the Best and Final Bid was submitted in early September to the Department for Transport. The Department asked for views about the bid; it consulted organisations and opposition groups as well as the general public.

At the end of November, the Chancellor announced that the scheme was one of 20 projects to proceed as part of his package of measures to stimulate economic growth. On 1st December the Secretary of State for Transport Justine Greening announced her decision on the Scheme Orders.

As part of these announcements, the long awaited verdict for the Public Inquiry held in 2009 was also published. The Inspector recommended consent for the scheme, having heard from hundreds of representatives including the Kingskerswell Alliance. He stated in his report: "I consider that the concern of local people for the future of South Devon and in

particular Kingskerswell Alliance's concern for the well-being of Kingskerswell and its setting is commendable. Their participation in the inquiries has ensured that the Scheme and its implications have been exhaustively considered. I fully understand that my recommendations will be well received by some and that they will come as a disappointment to others. It is against this backdrop of strong local feelings, for and against the Scheme that I have arrived at my recommendations.

Overall, it is my view that the Scheme is very much in the public interest and should be allowed to proceed. I have had regard to all other matters raised, but they do not outweigh the conclusions I have reached and the recommendations that I make..."

The full version of his report can be found on our website: southdevonlinkroad.co.uk

These announcements completed all the procedural steps necessary, leaving just the final funding approval to be confirmed by Government. This final stamp of approval was given by the Department for Transport (DfT) on 8th May 2012, meaning the design and build construction contract could be awarded and work could begin.

The successful contractor is Galliford Try – they will build the new road, starting on site in autumn 2012, and main works will be completed by December 2015. Please look inside the newsletter for a more detailed schedule.

Last word

If there's something you'd like us to cover in future editions of the newsletter, let us know through the website www.southdevonlinkroad.co.uk or email sdlr@coastmarcoms.co.uk



Initial key milestones:

July - Oct 2012
Development of detailed construction programme in conjunction with ongoing design, traffic management planning and construction phasing.

Sept - Oct 2012
Series of public exhibitions to explain works programme and construction phasing.

Oct 2012
Commencement of site works.

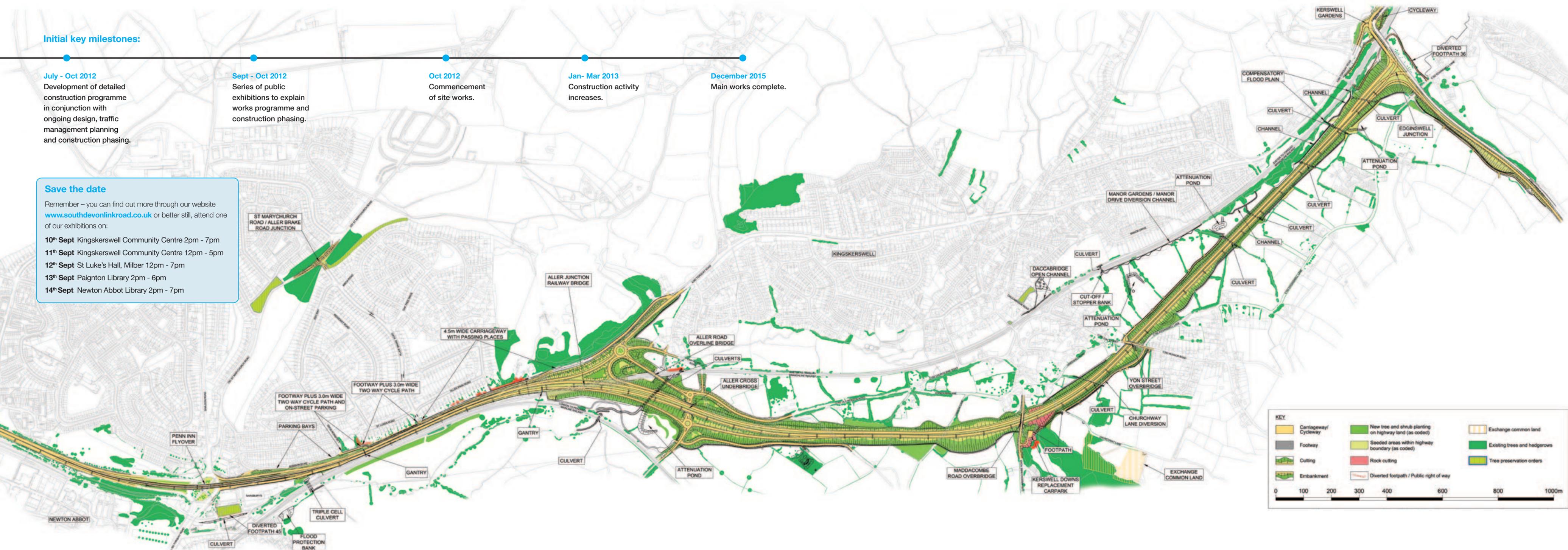
Jan- Mar 2013
Construction activity increases.

December 2015
Main works complete.

Save the date

Remember – you can find out more through our website www.southdevonlinkroad.co.uk or better still, attend one of our exhibitions on:

- 10th Sept** Kingskerswell Community Centre 2pm - 7pm
- 11th Sept** Kingskerswell Community Centre 12pm - 5pm
- 12th Sept** St Luke's Hall, Milber 12pm - 7pm
- 13th Sept** Paignton Library 2pm - 6pm
- 14th Sept** Newton Abbot Library 2pm - 7pm



KEY

Carriageway/ Cycleway	New tree and shrub planting on highway land (as coded)	Exchange common land
Footway	Seeded areas within highway boundary (as coded)	Existing trees and hedgerows
Cutting	Rock cutting	Tree preservation orders
Embankment	Diverted footpath / Public right of way	

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