

About you and your response:

The following questions will help us understand the range of people who have responded to this consultation and identify local issues. The information you provide will not be used for any other purpose other than assessing responses to this exercise:

1 Name (optional)

2 Postal address or post code (optional)

3 Email address (optional) – By providing your name and email address we will be able to update you with any news on the consultation

4 There are two options for this scheme option. Which option do you prefer

Option 1 - With Park Road link

Option 2 - Without Park Road link

Comments

We welcome your views to help us decide whether the link road should be included as part of our scheme.

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A120 Harwich Road Safety Improvement scheme

Better safer journeys on the A120

We want to hear from you

What are we asking you?

We want your views to help us decide whether the link road between Park Road and the proposed new roundabout should be retained as part of our scheme? Please could you confirm which option you would support and leave your comments in the box overleaf.

Background

We are developing a scheme to address safety issues on the A120 junctions at Harwich Road, Park Road and Pellens Corner to improve safety for local residents, road users and motorists using the A120. We plan to build a new roundabout at Harwich Road, which will enable central reserve gaps to be closed to improve road safety and prevent drivers making right-turn manoeuvres on the A120.

Our proposals for this consultation exercise include introducing a new link road from Park Road to the new roundabout to allow traffic using Park Road direct access to the A120. Recent feedback from local community representatives highlighted concerns about the risk of “rat-running” through local roads by drivers wishing to use the new Park Road link once the central reserve gaps at Pellens Corner are closed.

We will be looking into these concerns as part of our consultation and we want your views to help us decide whether to retain the proposed link road.

Why are we doing the consultation?

During the development of proposals to improve safety on the A120, community representatives asked us to include a link road from the new roundabout to Park Road. This was shown on proposals at the public information exhibition on 19 August 2015. Feedback from the community, at that time, was very positive. Recent feedback suggests community concerns about the potential for “rat-running” on local back roads once the central reserve gaps at Pellens Corner are closed and we were asked to remove the link road from our proposals. We want to hear your views to ensure the final solution we deliver is right for the community.

Who will benefit from the scheme

Drivers, business owners and local residents will benefit from this safety improvement. The scheme aims to reduce the number of incidents on the A120 between Harwich Road and Pellens Corner, both reducing collisions, and the injuries that can result from these, and traffic delays caused by collisions.

How long will the scheme take?

The works are due to start in summer 2017, subject to the completion of statutory processes and will take between 6 to 9 months to complete. If we remove the link road from the scheme, some redesign will be necessary and we have already started to develop and review options. We do not expect delay to the construction programme.

How do I find out more information?

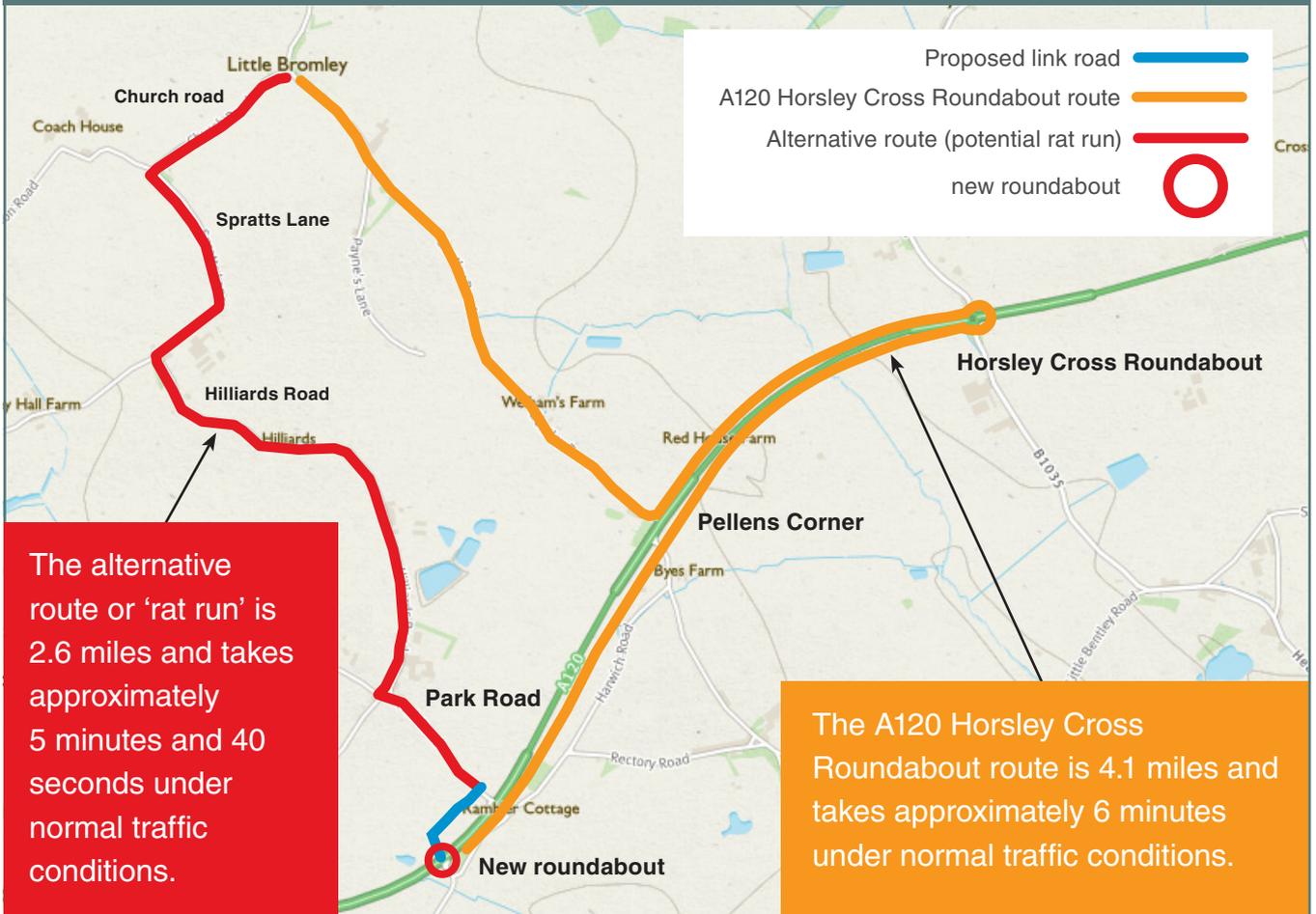
You can find out more information about the scheme on our website at: www.roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/a120-harwich-road-improvement.

You can subscribe to our scheme web page to be alerted when updates are made.

How long do I have to complete this?

The consultation period will run for three weeks from Friday 2 December to 5pm Friday 23 December 2016.

Option 1 - With the link road – alternative route and potential rat run



Concern in the community

- Following the closure of the central reserve gaps at Pellens Corner, drivers could use an alternative route through the back roads.
- This alternative route or 'rat run' will take drivers to the new roundabout via Church Road, Spratts Lane, Hilliards Road and Park Road.

Our response to concern

- Whilst the alternative "rat run" route (in red) is 1.5 miles shorter than the diversion via the Horsley Cross roundabout, (in orange), the time saved is only approximately 20 seconds. This is primarily due to the width and nature of the back roads taking longer to navigate than the A120 route.
- Based on surveys at the start of the scheme a traffic count showed 352 vehicles turned right from Bentley Road between 6.30am and 6.30pm.
- From the survey results we predict that approximately **one third** of traffic could potentially use the 'rat run'.

Advantages

Traffic using Park Road will have direct access to the new roundabout. Drivers are safely able to travel eastbound or westbound.

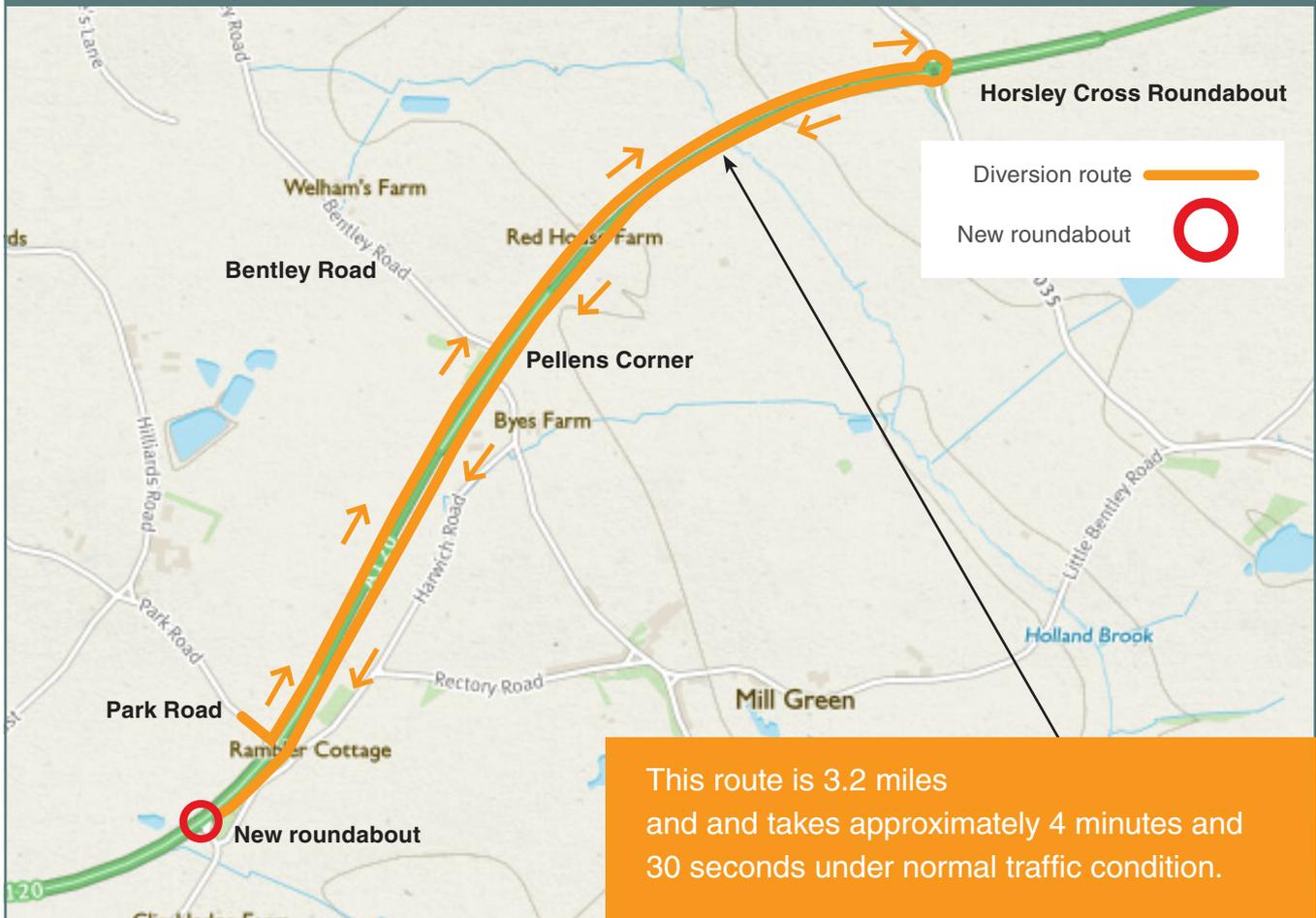
Journey times on the A120 will be more reliable than using the rat run.

Disadvantages

There is a potential for drivers, who would normally join the A120 at Pellens Corner, to rat run to the new roundabout via Park Road.

There is little benefit gained by using the rat run route through Church Road, Spratts Lane, Hilliards Road and Park Road which is approximately 1.5 miles shorter than diverting via the A120 and Horsley Cross Roundabout route however, it is only 20 seconds quicker.

Option 2 - Without the link road – drivers using Park Road will follow the arrows



Concern in the community

- Without the Park Road link, drivers wishing to travel west from Park Road towards Colchester will need to first travel eastbound and turn around at Horsley Cross Roundabout.

Our response to concern

- This diversion route (option 2) is 2.9 miles longer than the proposed link road (option 1). It would take an average of 4 minutes longer to reach the new roundabout.

Advantages

Potential for rat running between Bentley Road and Park Road unlikely.

Disadvantages

Traffic exiting Park Road wishing to travel westbound will be required to divert via Horsley Cross Roundabout. (Diversion length – 3.2 miles, approximately 4 minutes 30 seconds).

Long diversion leading to driver frustration and a risk of vehicles U-turning on the A120.