

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Town centre improvements dramatically reduce traffic queues

Bexleyheath's new roundabouts have resulted in a welcome reduction in traffic queues on the main road between the A2 and Barnehurst.

The improvement is evident from comparing before and after surveys carried out into waiting times at the junction of Gravel Hill and Albion Road, and Albion Road and Watling Street.

Councillor Peter Craske shared the good news with members of the Council's Places Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting last night (28 March).

He told the Committee: "This project has led to a dramatic reduction in traffic congestion through one of the Borough's main routes, with traffic congestion in the morning and evening reduced by a colossal 25% and 23%.

"This means reduced travel times and less pollution from standing traffic during the busiest periods.

"The look and feel of the area is now much more attractive. The old concrete jungle has been replaced by plants and trees which are starting to bloom and pedestrians demonstrably prefer the new crossings."

The key findings from comparing the results of surveys before and after the improvements were -

- Traffic queues at the Erith Road/Watling Street and Gravel Hill/Albion Road roundabouts have reduced by 25% in the morning peak period and 23% in the afternoon peak period. This is equivalent to a 55 metre and 49 metre reduction in the length of queuing traffic.
- Heading up Gravel Hill from the A2, queues have reduced by 7% in the morning peak and 14% in the afternoon peak.
- Average speeds along the length of Albion Road have reduced by 24%.
- The number of pedestrians crossing at the new roundabouts has increased by 19%, with 450 more people choosing to use the new crossings.

As well as the new roundabout and crossings, the last phase of the town centre improvements included new pavements, speed reduction measures and de-cluttering.

The improvements were designed in collaboration with Transport for London and funded by TfL.

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