

Your reference  
Our reference

**Woodlands Annex  
Manton Lane  
Bedford  
MK41 7NU**

To All:  
Bedfordshire County Councillors  
Bedford Borough Councillors  
Mid Bedfordshire District Councillors  
South Bedfordshire District Councillors  
Bedfordshire Town & Parish Councils

Switchboard 0845 365 6000  
Facsimile 0845 365 6001

20 August 2008

[www.amey.co.uk](http://www.amey.co.uk)  
[www.bedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk)

### **Bedfordshire Highways 5 Year Programme 2009 - 2014**

Dear Sir or Madam:

As you may be aware, Bedfordshire Highways maintains a 5 year programme of capital highway schemes which is rolled forward each year following consultation with Parish, Town, District and County Councillors. The purpose of this letter therefore is to commence the consultation process and to inform you of the process and timescales for producing the draft programme for 2009-2014.

Each part of the programme is priority led and is based on the County Council's targets and objectives (as set out in the Local Transport Plan and Local Area Agreements), the condition of the highway infrastructure and the views of local people. This year's programme will also reflect the strategies and budgets of the two new Unitary Authorities, who will be participating fully throughout the process.

At this stage of the process we want to make sure that we capture your thoughts on the schemes which you believe are important for your community. These will then be priced, prioritised (using appropriate criteria for the type of scheme) and provisionally programmed depending on the current indicative budgets available for each Unitary Authority. The prioritisation mechanisms and budgets will be explained as part of the second stage consultation and will also be open to comment and review.

Although I will ensure that your request is considered as part of the review process, I should point out, however, that with the local government arrangements for Bedfordshire due to change dramatically next year, I am unable to give any guarantees regarding the final shape and size of that programme, or the place of your request within it. The final decisions will be taken next spring by the new unitary Councils for Bedford and Central Bedfordshire, and these will be based on their emerging priorities and objectives.

Attached is an extract of last year's programme, showing all the schemes identified within your council division, district or parish. Also attached is a proforma for your use to suggest schemes for consideration and to identify any other requests that we are not aware of. These must be returned to me by **26 September 2008** so that they will be assessed by the relevant work group. Any forms arriving after this date will not be considered until after the second consultation period, ending in mid-January 2009, however these are unlikely to be included in Year 1 of the new programme unless they have significant merit and priority.

The key stages and elements of the development of the 5 year programme are as follows:

- Early consultation with key stakeholders Replies by 26 Sep 08
- 12 specialist Work Groups comprising Amey, BCC and District officers develop priority mechanisms and lists of schemes for each work category (e.g. Roads and Footways, Bridges, Public Transport etc) By 10 Oct 08
- Align programme with the BCC LTP objectives and provisional budget By 31 Oct 08
- Network Board and Unitary Authorities' approval of the draft programme By 14 Nov 08
- Second stage consultation with all key stakeholders including Area Road Shows, meetings with the Unitary Authorities and Councillor Open Days Dec 08 to mid Jan 09
- Network Board and Unitary Authorities' final approval of programme By 31 Mar 09
- Publish final programme Apr/May 09

You may submit forms for any type of Highways work, however the 5 Year Programme process will only review those with an estimated value of over £10,000 since this is deemed a Capital improvement. Any scheme of less value will be passed to the Area Teams so that they can be dealt with more locally, financed from their Area maintenance funds, outside of this programme. This also includes any Traffic Regulation Order schemes which should be suggested through the normal process.

Each of you will have an opportunity to review the first draft of the programme between December and January by means of a number of our Area Road Shows and Councillor Open Evenings. Alternatively you can email your comments on programme dates, sensitivities and risks to the address below.

Please return any forms for any suggested schemes you may have to me at the address above as soon possible. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Jon Shortland  
**Watchman-in-Chief**  
**Bedfordshire Highways**  
Direct line: 0845 3656000  
Email: [thewatchman.beds@amey.co.uk](mailto:thewatchman.beds@amey.co.uk)

**Enclosures:**

Extract of the current 5 Year Programme 2008-2013  
Scheme Suggestion Form.