

Chatham: the future takes shape

These three photographs show a year of dramatic progress in the regeneration of Chatham.

Demolition of the Sir John Hawkins Way Flyover, an eyesore that dominated the town for 20 years, cleared the way for a smart new ground-level route for buses, taxis and cyclists.

Now the second phase of the scheme - reinstatement of the High Street - is nearing completion. This will boost the retail environment and make the centre of Chatham a much more attractive place to visit.

Shoppers, taxi drivers and bus operators say the changes have transformed the feel of the area and improved traffic flow.

“We’re very pleased with the new route,” said Arriva business development manager Matthew Arnold. “It works well. Now we look forward to the completion of Chatham’s road improvements and the building of the new bus station.”



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Mike Smith (*left*), Chair of Medway Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (MLTDA), said: “The opening of Waterfront Way is a great first step.

In a year’s time, when the road improvements are finished and the bus station is up and running, Chatham will be a vastly improved place. It’ll mean a year of disruption but it’s worth it. It’s a bit like decorating a house. You can’t transform a place without making a bit of mess in the process.”



Ian Walton (*left*), Vice-chair of MLTDA, described the new route as “an important advance for public transport in Chatham”.

Completion of the current two-year programme of government investment in Chatham will mean:

- increased traffic capacity and easier journeys;
- smoother traffic flow;
- improved shopping environment;
- smarter streets;
- new high-quality open spaces;
- major private sector investment opportunities in Chatham centre and on the waterfront.

Jane Carter:

“With the flyover gone, it feels so much brighter and more open. And it feels safer too.”



Ray Keane:

It’s really opened the area up and created a lot of investment potential. Chatham felt quite run-down. Now it’s starting to feel like a place on the up.”



Chatham-based artists Matt Ashdown and Lucy Noakes:

“Chatham needed change. Now at last it’s happening. It’s clear to see how this will be a very different place in a few years time.”



Building the bus station

Morgan Sindall are on site and carrying out preparatory works ahead of the construction of the new bus station which will start later this year.

Globe Lane car park has been partially closed to accommodate the site compound and works. Access to the remaining spaces is from Medway Street only.

Parking spaces lost at Globe Lane have been fully compensated for by the re-opening of the 150-space Sir John Hawkins Way car park. There’s also alternative car parking nearby at Town Hall Gardens, the Brook and The Pentagon shopping centre.

The new landscaped bus station, operational in 2011, will replace the one at The Pentagon. GPS (Global Positioning Systems) will track the progress of



buses and give customers up-to-the-minute arrival and departure times on digital display boards.

For more information, visit the bus station webpage at www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture

Union Street

A fresh and open look is being created at this important entrance to Chatham centre.

Union Street will be widened and straightened to accommodate three lanes of traffic in both directions and there will be major improvements at its junctions with A2 New Road, Best Street, High Street and the Brook. Land to the west of Union Street will be landscaped. Work started in April and will finish in the autumn.



Chatham works update

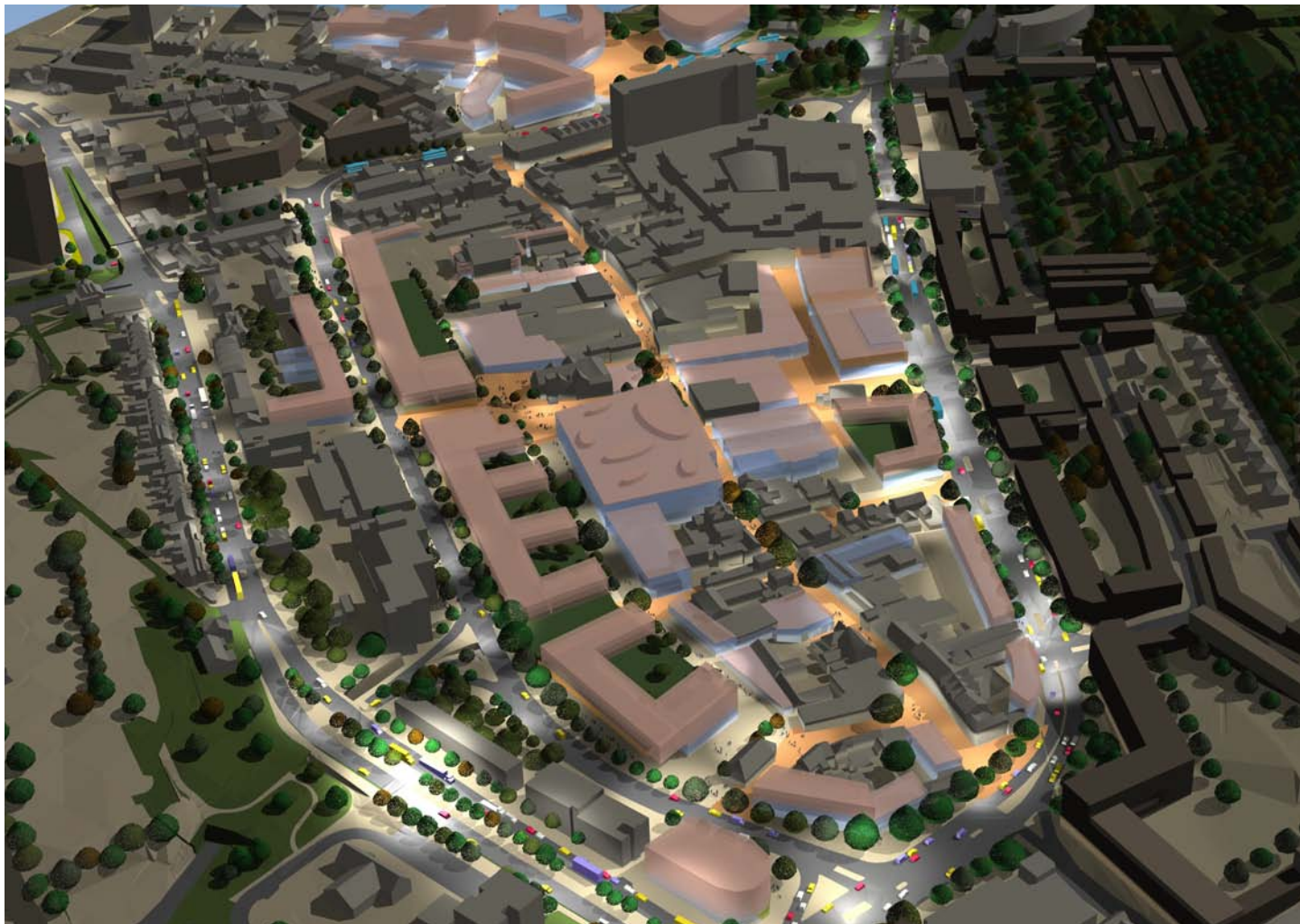
Latest information on the Chatham works is available online at www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture

This page is updated weekly

The screenshot shows the Medway Council website's 'Business' section. It features a 'Chatham Future' timeline with key milestones from 2009 to 2010. Below the timeline is a table titled 'What's happening this week?' which lists various works, their descriptions, and estimated completion dates.

Area affected	Description of work	Estimated date of completion
Waterfront Way area:		
Temporary bus route	Removed - car park now open	Complete
Waterfront Way	Route in use	Complete
Waterfront Way - east side	Landscaping	Complete
High Street	Public space refurbishment	Not yet known
High Street/Perings Building	Construction of turning head	Late June
Manor Road	Renewing kerb line and paving slabs	End of June
Union Street area:		
Union Street	Road and public space improvements	End of June
Junction New Road and Union Street	Construction of reinforced concrete retaining wall	Autumn 2010
Queen Street car park	Creation of alle compound	End of June
Union Street	Trial holes for drainage	From 1 June
Union Street	Offline drainage and offline filling works	End of June
Bus station:		
Junction of Globe Lane, Waterfront Way, Medway Street and Military Road	EDF service diversions	End of July
Military Road	BT service diversions	Complete
Bus services from Military Road	Relocating to Waterfront Way	Autumn 2010
Junction of Globe Lane and Dock Road off highway	Cable and Wireless service diversions	New stands now in use
Globe Lane car park	Closure of access from Globe Lane - please access from Medway Street or use one of the alternatives see here	Mid-June
Globe Lane car park	Construction of site compound	21 June
Globe Lane car park		End of June

Attention to retail



This computer-generated image is from the masterplan for the Best Street/High Street area of Chatham.

It shows the potential for new shops covering an area the size of three football pitches. The plan, approved for consultation by Medway Council's Cabinet, includes new:

- **30,000 sq m of retail development;**
- **quality open spaces;**
- **homes, businesses, hotels and arts and entertainment venues.**

The consultation ended on Monday, 19 July. All replies will be considered and the masterplan will be finalised before adoption as a supplementary planning document.

The adopted masterplan will guide development and investment in the High Street/ Best Street area.

You can keep up-to-date with progress, view planning documents and read previous newsletters at www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture

Customer First

Chatham's regeneration also has a dedicated hotline for enquiries. Please phone Customer First on 01634 334567 or email to: customer.first@medway.gov.uk