

March 2025

**Taylor Woodrow**

# **Celebration Mile 2025**

## **Celebration Mile progress update – March 2025**

Welcome to the second issue of Taylor Woodrow's newsletter for the Celebration Mile project on behalf of Somerset Council. This newsletter is published on the Somerset Council and Town Board websites and aims to be issued at the start of each quarter. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our scheme stakeholders, and the local community updated with our progress throughout the project.

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## About the project

Taylor Woodrow is the acting principal contractor for the Bridgwater Celebration Mile public realm project on behalf of our client Somerset Council. The project spans over Eastover, Clare Street and Angel Crescent, with works including underground utility maintenance (renewal and diversion), installation of new kerb lines, modernisation of paving, upgraded drainage systems and the installation of street furnishings and soft landscaping.

The project started in July 2024 in the Eastover area, our overall works are due to be completed between the next 12 -18 months, with estimated completion due in summer 2025.

# Progress to date

## February/ March

- Angel Crescent work commenced early September and began with trial pits and excavation. The team have re-tarmacked the central part of Angel Crescent and will be paving early 2025. The focus is now on completing the new pavements that will run along the business's entrances.
- The work in Angel Crescent is well under way and drainage throughout the area is now completed, work undertaken includes replacing the clay pipe with twin wall pipe.
- The progress of kerb installation is near completion with 75% of kerbs are now in place. This means the laying of new paving on site have already started to commence, focusing on work outside the Nutmeg Cafe.
- Unfortunately, due to some technical issues on the designs work was placed temporarily on hold whilst paving construction needed to be redesigned with planning, this has since been resolved, this work entailed re-breaking of concrete including lowering the depth of the ground from the threshold of the Nutmeg cafe outwards,
- Paving work outside the entrances of the shops in Angel Crescent has begun and paving the footpath the other side of Angel Crescent has commenced and currently in progress, following on in the due course the main section laid with sets completing this section. We have set up temporary access routes for businesses entrances whilst we undertake our improvements in Angel Crescent
- New Road work commenced, and we have installed new drainage, kerbs and pavements in the area, Work here required National Grid support, the electric line that runs under the road surface was too shallow and required a re-design, New Road paving commenced early March and then will switch to the other side of the road (shop side) works here due to be completed early summer 2025
- Delays in Eastover due to storm drainage conflicting with assisting utilities, lower part of Eastover has since been completed.
- Work continues on Eastover including investigations of testing the strength of the ground resistance and sections of kerbing, site clearance has begun in Eastover and careful consideration given to underground services, on commencing works a high voltage electricity cable source has been found from an old unexpected service, this has clashed with progression continuing, The voltage line is directly on the same route of the kerbs where the majority of work is uncovered in the road at present, in return this has created a

technical query for the design team to resolve a safe working way forwards for the team to proceed.

- The surface water channel leading into the gulleys will need to ensure that the water falls correctly at the right height, to find a solution a plainer machine has been brought in to start carefully removing levels the ground with care beginning to see if drains will need to come back even further in the road. The electric link box outside the shopping centre will be moved in due course, In addition the BT box in the vicinity of the indoor shopping centre will need to get replaced before paving and landscaping can begin with new street furniture and lighting.
- Upcoming traffic management discussions are currently being investigated for Salmon Parade to conclude after Eastover work is complete and the road has re-opened fully, dates to be confirmed.

# Traffic restrictions – what to expect

## Live traffic restrictions

- Full road closure on Eastover continues until end of June 2025. This is to allow our workforce to operate in a safe area whilst in the carriageway
- Clare Street parking restrictions in place.

## Coming up

- New Road to re-open summer 2025.

## **Community benefit**

### **Mercure drop-in event**

Taylor Woodrow and Somerset Council hosted a 'drop in session' for traders & businesses in the local area to come in and talk about any concerns and about the project at the Mercure Hotel in Bridgwater. This was a popular event and councillors and local press along with BBC were also present.

### **Chamber of commerce meeting**

Supporting National Apprenticeship week in February, Community Engagement officers from Taylor Woodrow were invited to present at Bridgwater and Taunton college to showcase the topic of the week 'Apprenticeships and T-Levels. We shared our successful experiences with both early career's routes for potential employers in the local area. We currently employ 3 placements filled with 2 x apprenticeships and 1 x T-level student employed through Celebration Mile project.

### **Bridgwater Carnival**

Taylor Woodrow and GAP sponsored a money cart for the Bridgwater Carnival 2024 to support the event. we worked closely with Carnival organisers and local authorities to ensure the carnival could proceed as normal around our works and we reduced our works area over the carnival weekend accommodate to pedestrians and minimise disruption. Taylor Woodrow also got a behind the scenes visit with the chairman to see the carts in the workshop and the local volunteers that work all year round.

We are pleased to announce we are sponsoring again this year along with our supplier GAP for Bridgwater Carnival 2025.

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### **The Blue School, Wells, career fair**

The Blue School in Wells invited the Community Engagement Officer from Taylor Woodrow along to attend in March to attend a secondary school careers fair talking to year 10 & 11 students and sixth form students. It was an enjoyable event speaking to all students about options, work experience and placements for future careers in the Civil engineering business.

### **Raising funds for childrens hospice**

This year Taylor Woodrow are supporting South West's children's hospices by raising money for the charity through grand national sweepstakes in Taylor Woodrow and asking staff to participate in one of their many fundraising initiatives.

## Contact us

If you have any queries throughout the lifecycle of the project the site team and our Community Engagement Officer can be contacted through the below email address and will be working with impacted stakeholders for the duration.

**CelebrationMile.Bridgwater@taylorwoodrow.com**