

Abington Area Active Travel Scheme – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**1. What is the scheme about?**

The Abington Active Travel Scheme, led by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is a project to improve walking and cycling infrastructure around Abington Park in Northampton, including the creation of new segregated cycleways on Abington Park Crescent and Bridgewater Drive, upgraded crossings, and enhanced pedestrian facilities at the Billing Road/Rushmere Road junction.

Phase 1 of the scheme included upgrades to the A5095 Park Avenue South, Billing Road, Rushmere Road junction. Construction was completed in December 2024.

Phase 2 includes walking and cycling enhancements along A5095 Park Avenue South and Bridgewater Drive. Construction will start in early 2026.

Phase 3 includes proposals along Abington Park Crescent from A5095 Park Avenue South / King Edward Road junction to Wellingborough Road.

The focus of this consultation is for Phase 3 only.

2. Why is this happening?

West Northamptonshire Council are committed to providing a safer and more accessible environment for pedestrians and cyclists, especially pupils travelling to and from school. The scheme also aims to help reduce congestion, improve air quality, and create healthier, more active communities.

3. Who is paying for it?

The scheme is funded by the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund (Tranches 2 and 5), UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and Central Government's grants to improve transport, particularly walking and cycling.

4. What has changed since the last consultation?

Since the first consultation during Spring 2023, West Northamptonshire Council have carefully considered the feedback received, which has been reflected in the design proposals and enabled Phase 1 (A5095 Park Avenue South / Billing Road / Rushmere Road) and Phase 2 (A5095 Park Avenue South and Bridgewater Drive) to progress.

Following the review of the outcome of the 2023 consultation, the key change is focussed on the junction of A5095 Park Avenue South / Abington Park Crescent / King Edward Road, and the route along Abington Park Crescent. We listened to the specific safety concerns raised by residents during the consultation, and we are asking for views on the proposed changes. The changes include the following key improvements.

- **Junction of the A5095 Park Avenue South / King Edward Road / Abington Park Crescent.**
 - Closure of the eastern end of King Edward Road at its junction with the A5095 Park Avenue South. This will remove the existing West to East link between King Edward Road and Abington Park Crescent to address existing safety concerns.
 - Change the junction layout into a one-way out westwards, starting from Landcross Drive to the junction with the A5095 Park Avenue South. This change would create more space to improve the pedestrians' and cyclists' movements.
 - Upgraded Toucan crossing on the A5095 Park Avenue South. This will allow both cyclists and pedestrians to safely cross the A5095 Park Avenue South at the same time. This will protect cyclists as they will be kept separate from vehicles.
- **Abington Park Crescent proposals.**
 - **Between the A5095 Park Avenue South and Bridgewater Drive** - Full segregation and enhanced facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. This means that a footway separate from the cycleway will be dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists.
 - **Between the A5095 Park Avenue South and Landcross Drive** - The road may be slightly narrowed and parking next to Abington Park will be formalised, making it clearer and better managed. This will allow active travel improvements to be introduced while keeping parking by Abington Park. We may then avoid encroaching into Abington Park.
 - **Between Landcross Drive and Bridgewater Drive** - The scheme will extend slightly into Abington Park to add a cycle lane in each direction, any appropriate street furniture e.g. signs highlighting the Abington Park's importance, and extra cycle parking.
 - **From Bridgewater Drive to Wellingborough Road** - Abington Park Crescent carriageway may be slightly narrowed to ensure safe space between cyclists' handlebars and the historic railings inside Abington Park while improving the shared footway and cycleway.

5. What impact will this proposed one-way on Abington Park Crescent have on the surrounding road network?

To improve safety and make space for new walking and cycling facilities, we are proposing to make the section of Abington Park Crescent between Landcross Drive and the A5095 Park Avenue South / Abington Park Crescent junction one-way for motor vehicles.

- **How traffic will flow:** Vehicles will only be able to travel westbound from Landcross Drive towards A5095 Park Avenue South along this stretch.
- **Access to homes and local facilities:** All properties along Abington Park Crescent will still be accessible by car. Drivers approaching from the A5095 Park Avenue South direction will need to use nearby routes such as Billing Road East and Landcross Drive, or Bridgewater Drive or other connecting roads to reach their destination.

- **Impact on wider traffic:** Through-traffic that currently uses Abington Park Crescent in both directions will be redistributed onto the main road network, reducing conflict between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists in this residential area.

This change is designed to create a safer, calmer environment around Abington Park, while still maintaining access for residents, visitors, and service vehicles.

6. What impact will the proposed junction change at King Edward Road have on the surrounding road network?

Removal of the West to East link to Abington Park Crescent and any turning movements in and out of the eastern side of King Edward Road Access between King Edward Road (east) and Abington Park Crescent (west) will be removed under these proposals. Vehicles will have to move using the other routes above. This has been a considered change in response to the safety concerns strongly voiced during the original consultation during Spring 2023.

7. Will any bus routes be affected by the one-way section on Abington Park Crescent?

The bus service 5 Southfields - Town Centre will remain unaffected.

The 80P peak hour commuter service towards Mawsley will be rerouted around Abington Park. A new stop will be introduced on A5095 Park Avenue South replacing the existing one on Abington Park Crescent. The routing towards Northampton will remain unchanged.

8. Will there be road closures during the construction phase?

Yes, some temporary closures and diversions will be needed to safely enable the works take place. We will give advance notice, put up clear signs, and do our best to keep disruption to a minimum. However residents will have access at all times and be assisted by traffic marshals.

9. Will the works programmed by Cadent Gas in the area have an impact?

West Northamptonshire Council are working closely with Cadent Gas to minimise disruption for residents and the travelling public during 2026.

10. What about parking spaces?

We know parking is important and have tried to keep changes to a minimum.

Parking across the scheme will be formalised with dedicated marked bays. This will discourage any unlawful parking.

The opportunity for kerbside parking will be reduced in some locations as we improve junction safety and movement for those using the new cycle lanes and safer junctions.

Details of the specific changes are shown on the scheme plans.

11. How will this help people with disabilities or mobility issues?

Footpaths surfaces will be improved, with crossings upgraded and new dropped kerbs, tactile paving, and wider paths all introduced.

12. How does it link to other routes?

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) have set clear ambitions to increase walking, wheeling, and cycling as part of its transition toward a more sustainable transport network. Through its adopted Local Transport Plan 2025–2045, the Council aims to make active travel the natural first choice for short journeys, improve safety and accessibility, and create well-connected, inclusive neighbourhoods.

To support this vision, WNC have developed a comprehensive Northampton Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (NLCWIP). Consultation has recently taken place and adoption expected in March 2026. The NLCWIP establishes a coordinated network of high-quality walking and cycling routes across Northampton and surrounding areas.

A key component of the NLCWIP is the Abington active travel scheme, which aims to provide an essential connection between Northampton and Weston Favell, supporting the delivery of an integrated, continuous corridor for active travel movements. Collectively, these initiatives reflect WNC's wider commitment to improving public health, reducing car dependency, and delivering a safer, more coherent active travel network across the authority area.

13. When will the works happen?

Works to deliver Phase 2 on A5095 Park Avenue South and Bridgewater Drive will start early 2026 and are being coordinated with the planned Cadent Gas work in the area.

Phase 3, along Abington Park Crescent from A5095 Park Avenue South / King Edward Road to A4500 Wellingborough is planned to commence later in 2026. This is subject to the outcomes of this consultation and approvals.

14. How do I provide my comments on the scheme?

The consultation is will close on 18 January 2026. You can provide your feedback using the Council's [Have your say consultation hub](#).

Additionally, Council officers will be available in person at the Abington Park Museum, Park Avenue South, Northampton. NN1 5LW, on Thursday 11 December between 2pm and 8pm to answer any questions regarding the scheme.

An email inbox has also been set up for any additional queries:
activetravelconsult@westnorthants.gov.uk