As you will be aware, the tram works in the Lower Road/Fletcher Road area are now approaching completion and soon we will be moving into the testing phase for the new system in your area. This leaflet provides an update on works progress, information about the forthcoming testing phase and general information requested by residents. Also, there is some information about working safely near the tram lines.

Works progress

Lower Road and Fletcher Road reopened to traffic shortly before Christmas, allowing residents to park in the newly created lay-bys and to travel along the roads. The University Boulevard tram stop is also substantially complete.

The poles and wires for the overhead tram power line along Lower Road and Fletcher Road have been installed and the works to boundary walls at a number of properties are now substantially complete.

The major areas of current activity are at the Queen’s Road/University Boulevard junction and the Humber Road/Fletcher Road junction, which is currently closed to traffic. At both of these locations, surfacing and pavement finishing works are under way and the new signalised junctions are being installed. These are expected to come into use towards the end of March.

The other main areas of works in the area to be completed in the near future include:

- Completion of works to boundaries and reinstatement of gardens with planting of soft landscaping, which is planned to commence in the first week of March
- Surfacing of pavements, which is planned to commence in mid-March
- Road and traffic signage
- Reinstate a small section of the track slab where the concrete has cracked.

These works are anticipated to be complete before Easter. It is likely that some of the minor finishing activities, including works to ‘snag’, or make good, any construction issues, will continue to take place alongside the tram testing. On all construction projects regardless of size, some snagging works are expected as a normal part of the build process.

Landscaping

The triangle of land at the end of Lower Road will be landscaped with a mixture of ornamental trees (Sweet Gum), planting beds, shrubs and grass. As mentioned above, the reinstatement of gardens, at a number of properties, with planting of soft landscaping, has commenced.
Tram testing and driver training

The tramway has to pass a series of rigorous safety tests and, of course, we need to ensure the overall system is working effectively and efficiently. The first tram tests, in your area, will be undertaken overnight to allow trams to travel at low speeds in a controlled environment. Daytime testing will then start when we are satisfied that the infrastructure is working smoothly and that we, and the public, are ready for trams to run in traffic in the area.

The testing programme is being rolled out progressively from Nottingham Station along the two routes. Daytime testing to the Silverdale area on the Clifton line is under way and night-time testing is taking place on the Chilwell line to the ng2 Business Park. Testing and driver training along Lower Road and Fletcher Road is expected to start around Easter. A leaflet will be sent to residents along Lower Road and Fletcher Road shortly before testing is due to start.

The pool of tram drivers has been increased in readiness for the two new lines. The existing and new members of staff will need to undergo training and route familiarisation over the coming months.

Parking and restriction of access between Lower and Fletcher Roads

On-street parking bays have been provided on Lower Road and Fletcher Road. Where a parking bay is provided through which residents access their private drives, road markings are used to alert people to the presence of a driveway and deter people from parking in a way which would prevent access. Vehicles will be required to park fully within the bays and be parallel to the kerb to ensure that they do not obstruct the passage of trams and it is safe for people to access parked vehicles.

The existing residents’ parking schemes on Lower Road and Albert Road will continue. Details on how to obtain/renew permits can be found via the following link http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/parking/residentsparking/ or by calling 01623 434519. Parking on Fletcher Road will be unrestricted.

Direct access between Lower Road and Fletcher Road for traffic other than trams and cyclists will be prohibited and enforced by number plate recognition cameras. Access to Lower Road will be via Albert Road with exit via Albert Road or Queen’s Road East.

Safe working near the tram

If you occupy a property near the tramway and are planning to carry out work at height - such as using a ladder or scaffolding - you may need authorisation to ensure safe working near to the overhead power lines. Residents will be receiving information about living/working along tram lines, in the next week or so. You can also find safety information on our website.

Contacts

If you have any further specific queries please call the number below and we will be happy to assist. The next information session is also being arranged for residents of Lower Road and Fletcher Road and details of a date and time/location will be notified shortly.