



News *update from*



Norfolk County Council

29 June 2017

INVITATION TO MEDIA: launch of Westlegate/All Saints Street

Time: 10.30am

Date: Wednesday 5 July 2017

Location: top of Westlegate, Norwich

Celebrating new city space: photo/filming opportunity

Members of the media are invited to an event celebrating the recent completion of the Transport for Norwich changes in the city centre.

Following a brief ceremony to unveil a plaque that commemorates the heritage of the area, representatives from Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council, funding partners and stakeholders will be available for photos and interview.

The project as a whole, which started in January 2016, has seen traffic removed from Westlegate to improve pedestrian and cycle connections with the rest of the city centre.

In the most recent phase of work, All Saints Green has been restored as an attractive traffic-free open space, with landscaping, paving, planters and seating, creating a new public space designed to increase footfall and cycling, and boost trade to local businesses.

Access for vehicles has been simplified by making Golden Ball Street two-way, which has also given motorists easier access to car parks.

The official launch comes just ahead of this year's Lord Mayor's Celebration on Saturday 8 July, which will make the most of the new space on Westlegate for some river-inspired activities, marking the history of the area and its network of underground waterways.

Norwich BID will also be using it as a location for their popular Head Out Not Home series of evening events over the summer.

Notes to editors

For any queries relating to the launch and to register your interest in attending, please call Charlotte Stratta on 07920 286630 or email charlotte.stratta@norfolk.gov.uk.

This project is part of the Norwich Area Transportation Strategy (NATS), known as Transport for Norwich. The principles of the project were agreed following consultation as part of the NATS Implementation Plan, which was adopted in 2010 and updated in 2013.

Please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/tfn for more details.

Facts and figures

- Norwich has the region's largest economy and is its highest ranking retail centre.
- Last year, footfall in Norwich was up 2.7 per cent while the national average for other cities fell by 1.1 per cent.
- More than 50,000 people travel into Norwich to work every day.

Westlegate

- The paving along Westlegate has been designed to pay tribute to the heritage of this part of the city and the fact that a network of streams that used to run through the area.
- These streams included at least two 'cockeys' ('cockey' is a colloquialism for stream). The recycled blue glass blocks used create a notional course for the Great Cockey, which used to flow down Westlegate. It still exists but is artificially channelled underground, as are a number of streams that flow through the city centre. The outfall of the stream is near Norwich Playhouse on St Georges Street where it goes into the River Wensum.
- The glass setts (the blue bricks/tiles) create a meandering line designed to draw pedestrians up Westlegate to the new public space on All Saints Green.

Walking and cycling

- To date £12M of funding has been invested in Norwich since 2013 with an aim to encourage more people to cycle throughout the city, make cycling enjoyable for all and improve the infrastructure to benefit all kinds of cycling from commuter to leisure. We are already seeing a significant increase in cycling in Norwich (around 40% since 2013). The Norwich area is one of eight urban areas across the country that secured funding from the Department for Transport to improve the quality of cycling infrastructure across the Norwich cycle network.
- Switching more journeys to 'active travel' such as walking and cycling aims to improve people's health, quality of life and the environment. Physical inactivity directly contributes to 1 in 6 deaths in the UK and costs £7.4 billion a year to business and wider society.
- Cycling and improving cycling infrastructure is a key part of Transport for Norwich, which is delivering improvements to the Norwich cycle network.

**For further information please contact:
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Attachments

- INVITATION TO MEDIA: launch of Westgate/All Sai [INVITATION TO MEDIA: launch of Westgate/All Sai](#)