

Westside WEEKLY

ISSUE 41 29 MAR - 4 APR 2019

Welcome

'Westside Weekly' is a newsletter designed to keep those working and living in the area up-to-date on the progress of the Birmingham Westside Metro extension.

Phase One
progress
64%

Track
installation
progress
10%



Getting Around

We appreciate that everyone will have a different journey; the following is to assist you to plan ahead:

Paradise Circus is closed in both directions to facilitate the Metro construction from Victoria Square to Centenary Square. The A38 underpass remains open in both directions. Centenary Square is also closed to vehicles, while buses are diverting via Sheepcote Street and Bath Row. Traffic on Brunel Street will flow in the opposite direction for the duration of the closure.

The lower section of Pinfold Street is only open to vehicles accessing Victoria Square House car park whilst work is completed to connect the existing Metro line with the track of the new extension.

Ongoing works to futureproof the utility infrastructure are taking place outside of the Reflex nightclub.

Two of four lanes are closed outside of O'Neil's Bar on Broad Street. One lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction.

There are three-way traffic signals on Saint Martin's Street and Broad Street to facilitate gas works.

Traffic is flowing in the opposite direction between Sheepcote Street and Bishopsgate Street.

We recommend that you plan ahead, consider using public transport, walking or cycling if possible. If you do have to travel by car, allow more time for your journey and consider travelling off-peak if possible. For travel advice, visit: www.networkwestmidlands.com/keepmoving

Metro extension work this week

Stephenson Street

This week, excavation works have continued for the base of the track.

Pinfold Street

Drilling has been carried out on the track to allow for ducting to be installed into the track form.

Victoria Square

Backfilling works have continued in Victoria Square and bases for the benches, bins and information totems at the Victoria Square stop are set to be prepared in the coming weeks.

Paradise Street

Waterproofing works to the structural element of the subway has taken place while metal plates have been applied ready for vibration matting to be laid.

Broad Street

Paving works in Centenary Square have made good progress due to favourable weather conditions.



Project overview at AGM

Midland Metro Alliance attended Westside BID's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 26 March.

During the event, we provided members with an update on the progress of the project including utility diversions currently taking place in Broad Street as well as the key features and local benefits the route will bring to the area. Members also got the chance to test out their tram driving skills on the simulator.

Residents and businesses can also find out more about the project during our weekly drop-in sessions. The next one will be held on Thursday 4 April between 10:00 and 15:00 outside Morrisons in Edgbaston.



Apprenticeship puts local careers on the right track

We are excited to announce the development of an innovative apprenticeship scheme in tramway construction.

Twelve people in the West Midlands will be the first to achieve the level two apprenticeship which has been designed by employers from the UK's Light Rail industry.

Among the first cohorts will be Kellyjoe Jones, who is currently working as a General Operative on the Westside extension. Her studies will include light rail construction skills, traffic management, civil engineering and customer service, among other key learning areas.

This comprehensive training programme will grow our own skilled talent bank to ensure our local workforce meets predicted future skills shortages.

In the spotlight: Gin Vaults

With the Broad Street Canal Tunnel reopened following strengthening works now is as good a time as any to sample some of the specialties the Gin Vaults has to offer.

Situated in the heart of Birmingham's historic canal area, the bar has over 400 gins to choose from, including the famous 'Slingsby Rhubarb Gin'.

To find out more about the Gin Vaults, watch our video, here: <https://vimeo.com/327235551>



How can I get further information?

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