

Your Ref: Alexander Stadium Redevelopment – Athletes’ Route (southern section)

Date: 12 November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Redevelopment of Alexander Stadium, Perry Barr – Athletes’ Route (southern section)

As you will be aware, construction work on the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment started in May 2020 and is now well underway. Alongside this, we have been developing proposals for the Athletes’ Route component of the project.

I am therefore writing to notify you of the updated design for the southern section of the Athletes’ Route, to provide advanced notice of the intention to submit an associated reserved matters planning application, and to invite your feedback on the proposals.

What is the Athletes’ Route?

The Athletes’ Route is an access route which will facilitate the drop-off and departure of competing athletes during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (via accredited vehicles and buses). It will also facilitate construction of the additional temporary features required to deliver the Games (known as ‘Games overlay’ works), and accommodate associated construction traffic. The Athletes’ Route will also provide a second means of access to the transport mall required as part of the temporary Games overlay works.

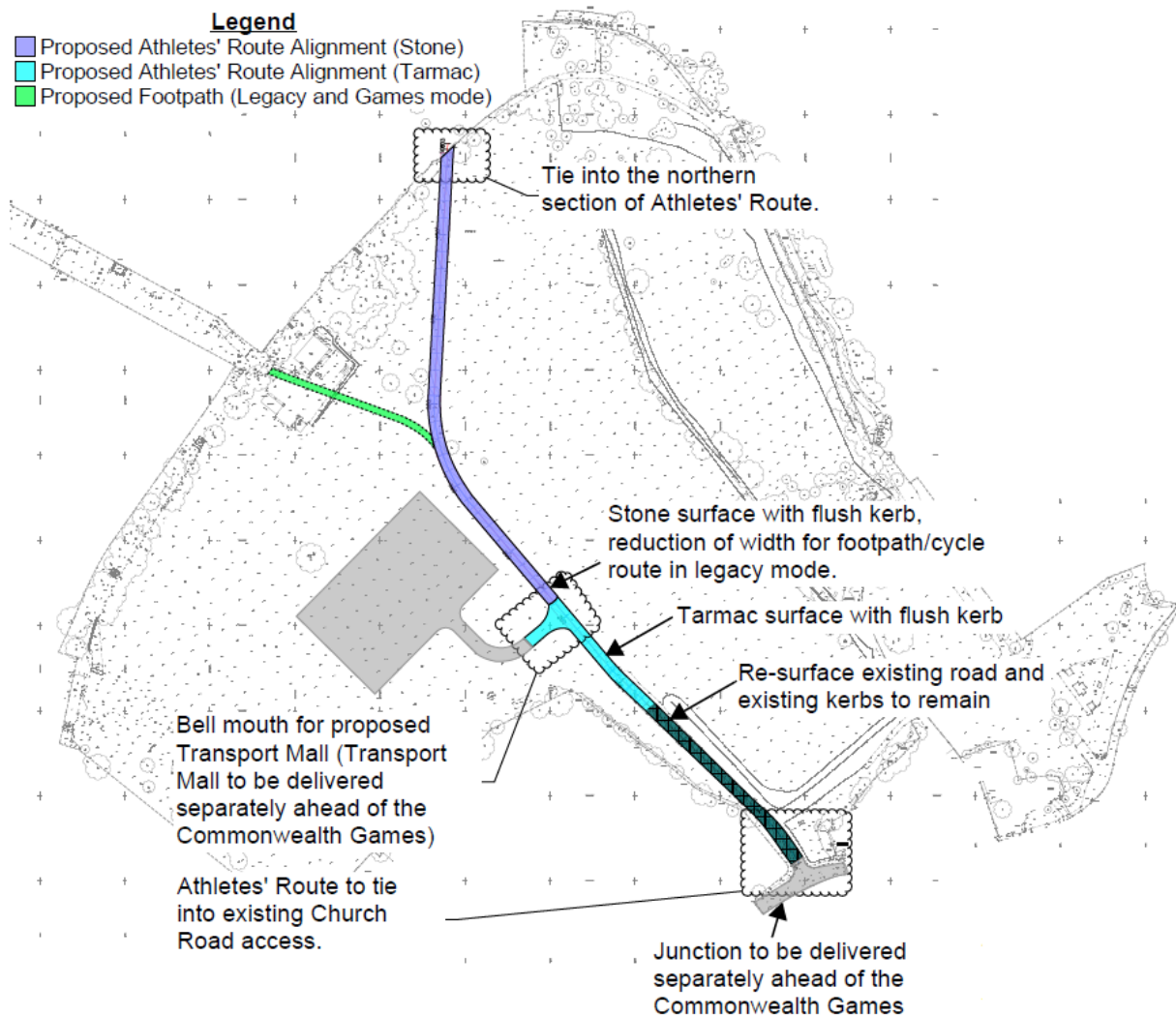
How has the design of the Athletes’ Route developed?

The hybrid planning application for the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment (reference: 2019/07968/PA) included a proposed alignment for the Athletes’ Route, but noted that the form and alignment was unconfirmed at that stage. The proposed alignment followed an existing tarmac surfaced route from the A453 Aldridge Road (*southern section of Athletes’ Route*), and continued to the rear of the East Stand and up to the proposed warm up track (*northern section of Athletes’ Route*). However, this element of the design was submitted in ‘outline’ because at this stage the requirements for the route were still being considered and more time was required to carry out the necessary surveys and design work to inform a preferred design.

The alignment of the northern section of Athletes’ Route will not be affected, and will remain as per that presented in the landscape drawings within the original planning application (drawing numbers 264876-ARP-ZZ-XX-DR-L-0001 and 264876-ARP-ZZ-XX-DR-L-0022). The northern section of Athletes’ Route is currently under construction, with the base course level (lower level) expected to be completed in December 2020. As such, the focus of this engagement is the southern section of Athletes’ Route, which will be the subject of the reserved matters planning application.

On more detailed investigation of the original proposed alignment for the southern section of the Athletes' Route, several issues were discovered related to the existing trees and their proximity to the vehicles likely to use the route. This scenario would negatively impact several trees and therefore make use of the existing route unsuitable.

As such, we have undertaken an option selection process to develop a preferred alignment for the southern section of Athletes' Route. The preferred alignment will utilise an existing access from Church Road (adjacent to Aston Manor Cricket Club) and pass through Perry Park to join the northern section of Athletes' Route shown in the landscape masterplans submitted as part of the original planning application. A plan showing the preferred alignment for the southern section of Athletes' Route can be found below.



The proposal includes a footpath which ties in with the existing Stadium access road to provide an alternate pedestrian access to the Stadium. It also accommodates a 'bell mouth' junction for the proposed transport mall which will form part of the Games overlay works. The transport mall and the junction with Church Road will be delivered separately ahead of the Games. As such, these elements will not be included within the scope of the Athletes' Route reserved matters planning application.

In legacy mode, the southern section of Athletes' Route through Perry Park (north of the junction with the transport mall) will be converted into a pedestrian and cycle route, which will involve a reduction in the width of the route and changes to the materials. The northern section of Athletes' Route will be retained as a restricted access route for similar event use, and for emergency and maintenance access.

The preferred alignment for the southern section of Athletes' Route presents a number of benefits in that it offers a shorter route, optimises use of the existing access point on Church Road, minimises impacts to trees, avoids the Perry Park flood zone and follows the existing site contours as far as practicable to minimise required earthworks and level changes. It will also create an accessible pedestrian and cycle route from Church Road through Perry Park to the Stadium, which will tie into Birmingham City Council's broader proposals for the future enhancement of Perry Park. The preferred design is also sympathetic to the parkland setting and adopts a 'flush' surface (i.e. no standard road kerbs) and comprises a stone surface rather than tarmac (north of the junction with the transport mall).

More information

You can find more information on the proposal for the southern section of the Athletes' Route on the Alexander Stadium development section of the Perry Barr Regeneration webpage: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/perry-barr-regen>.

We will also be presenting the proposal during our Community Meeting on **25 November 2020 at 5:30pm to 6:45pm**. The meeting will be an opportunity to raise any questions with the project team and provide your feedback. To register your attendance please email Jade.Tilley@arup.com. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting will take place on Microsoft Teams and participants will be sent a link via email to access the meeting.

Next steps

Your views are important to us, and we encourage you to share any comments on the proposal for the southern section of Athletes' Route by contacting Jade.Tilley@arup.com. Feedback will be considered as we continue to develop the design ahead of submission of the reserved matters planning application in January 2021. The deadline for submitting feedback is **5pm on Friday 27 November 2020**. Whilst this isn't a formal consultation process, you will also have an opportunity to comment formally on the planning application once it is submitted in January 2021.

Please pass on this information to friends, colleagues and neighbours who might be interested in hearing about the proposals. Should you have any questions please contact Jade.Tilley@arup.com.

Yours faithfully,



Dave Wagg

Project and Client Manager, Strategic Sport, Birmingham City Council