

Opening of the MidKent College construction facility

The official opening of the MidKent College Construction facility at Gas House Road was held on 6 July. Leader of Medway Council, Cllr Rodney Chambers cut the ribbon.

During the summer the facility was used to provide training for the unemployed. Courses in confidence building, letter writing, CV writing and ICT were held at the centre.

Since, MidKent College's Building and Civil Engineering Department are running programmes for technician/professional students. Courses include higher education courses (HNCs and Degrees) in

building surveying, quantity surveying, architecture, construction management etc.

Further information on courses can be found on the MidKent College website at www.midkent.ac.uk.



■ Medway Council Leader Cllr Rodney Chambers cutting the ribbon.

■ Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth Cllr Jane Chitty with Dennis Turner MBE, Chair of Governors at Mid Kent College

Contact information

If you have any queries about Rochester Riverside, please use the following contacts during normal office hours:

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More information is available at www.medway.gov.uk/medwayrenaissance or www.medwayrenaissance.com

Please note: Castle View Business Centre and Acorn Shipyard are open for business as usual throughout these works

Rochester Riverside Newsletter

This newsletter brings you up-to-date with progress on the flagship regeneration site – Rochester Riverside.



Medway's ministerial visit

Thames Gateway Minister Shahid Malik MP paid a visit to Medway in September.

Mr Malik viewed various regeneration sites in Medway, including Gillingham Station; Medway Park; the Universities at Medway Campus, the Historic Dockyard Chatham; central Chatham and finally Rochester.

Here Mr Malik, and officers from Medway Council, visited Rochester Riverside, Medway's flagship regeneration site which has been cleared, flood-defended and is now ready for development after major government investment.

■ *Brian Weddell (right), Head of Medway Renaissance explains the plans for Rochester Riverside to Shahid Malik MP (left) and Robin Cooper (centre), Medway Council's Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture.*



Corporation Street improvements

Corporation Street has an important position in Rochester and subsequently will play a significant role in the future success of the Rochester Riverside development.

Medway Council has aspirations for Corporation Street to be an elegant tree-lined street backed by fine new architecture, which forms an attractive and efficient route between key areas of Medway and to become a valued and attractive area in its own right rather than just a transport corridor.

As part of these plans, work will begin early in 2010 on the Quality Public Transport Corridor initiative. This is to primarily reduce congestion across Medway and to improve air quality through improvements to local bus services. Along Corporation Street this will involve the provision of bus priority measures at key locations to help the reliability of bus services, the creation of high quality bus stop waiting facilities and real time travel information.

Further information on these proposals can be found at www.medway.gov.uk/corporationstreet



■ Corporation Street showing the junction at Northgate



■ A computer generated image of the same view following improvements

Chatham road improvements

Work has begun in Chatham to improve road systems and junctions, freeing up key sites for redevelopment. This will contribute to making the centre of Chatham a much more attractive place.

The aim is to open up central Chatham and the waterfront to include new shops and homes over the next 15 years as part of Medway's regeneration programme.

The demolition of the Sir John Hawkins Way Flyover is complete and a temporary bus, taxi and cycle route is in operation (see map below), which means Medway Street is inaccessible from Globe Lane.

Routes from Rochester around Chatham without the flyover are detailed below:

■ Rochester to Chatham Maritime:

There are two options for this route both with similar journey times. From Rochester go over the bridge to Strood, turn right into Station Road,

follow the signs to Medway City Estate and go through the Medway Tunnel.

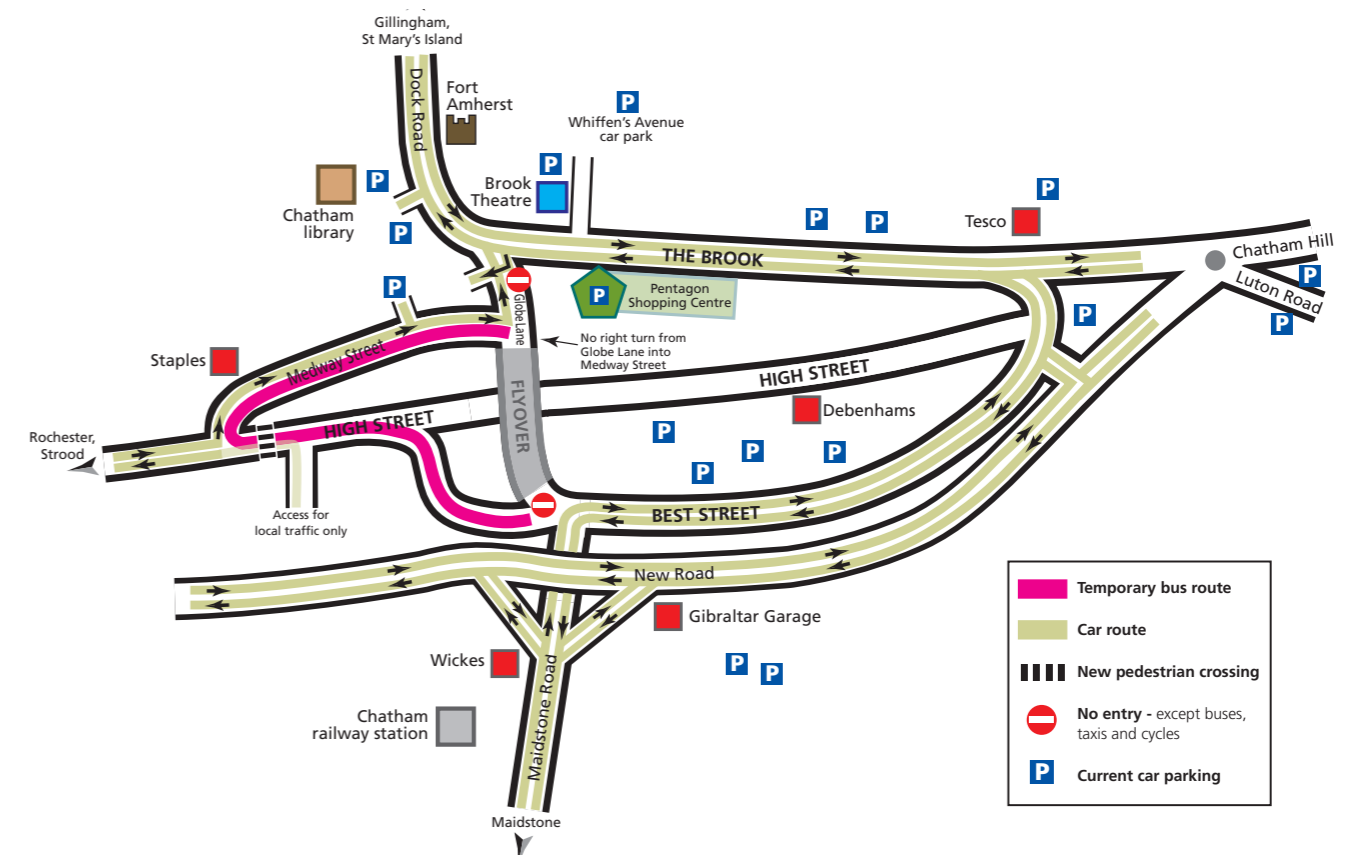
The alternative route is to take the A2 New Road and turn left at Union Street (towards Tesco), then follow The Brook into Dock Road.

■ Rochester to Gillingham:

If your journey is to Medway Maritime Hospital the best route is to follow the A2 up Chatham Hill.

If your destination is Brompton or Lower Gillingham the Medway Tunnel is one option or alternatively the A2 New Road and onto The Brook and Dock Road.

Further information can be found on at www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture



Rochester Riverside update



The economic recession continues to have an impact on the development programme for Rochester Riverside. The economic downturn has slowed progress primarily due to the risk averse nature of developers and of the financial institutions they rely on to fund their development activity.

However, Medway Council is being pro-active and is continuing to work with developer Crest Nicholson on a

range of options that would enable development to start on site, which includes pursuing funding options through government initiatives.

Rochester Riverside remains a major, high-profile regeneration scheme in the Thames Gateway and Medway Council will continue to work to ensure that Rochester Riverside is developed to its full potential.