

*Expiry: The content and quotes in this media release must not be used after one week from date of issue.*

22 December 2011

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Route de la Tourelle Junction Improvements**

Arrangements have now been finalised in order that work can begin to realign the existing Route de La Tourelle / Plaisance Road Junction early in the New Year.

The junction is to be revised as one of the first elements of work for the Airport Pavements Project. As well as improving the junction for existing road and footpath users, it will better facilitate traffic that will be displaced when La Mare Road is closed in 2012 to enable the essential safety improvements to the Runway End Safety Areas.

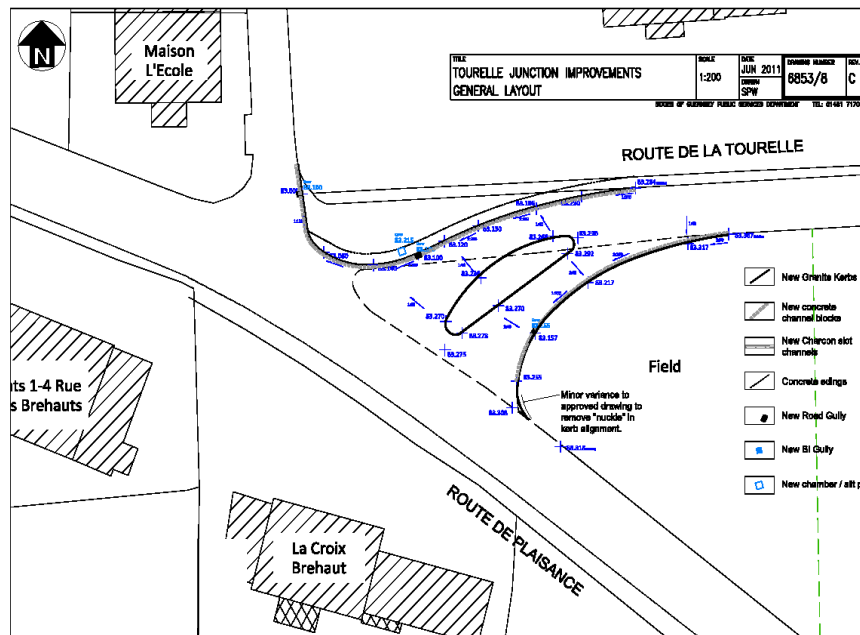
The new junction layout will operate in a similar way to the existing junction at the bottom of Les Ruettes Brayes/Colborne Road, with a small one way section forcing cars travelling west along Route de la Tourelle to turn left before entering Plaisance Road. Traffic travelling from the west into Route de la Tourelle will be forced to take a slightly wider line into the road, improving the visibility for traffic exiting from Rue des Messuriers.

The roadworks are scheduled to commence on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012 with the project being undertaken by Ronez Ltd. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month.

The Floral St Peter's Group will be landscaping the revised junction with the support of the Floral Guernsey Legacy Project to provide a scheme in keeping with the parish's rural environment . The Group will be responsible for the upkeep of the planting on the central island.

The Department is pleased that this proposed junction will enhance the area as well as providing improved traffic control at a difficult road junction.

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ENDS

**Notes to editors:-**

- Guernsey Airport opened in 1939, and today provides a gateway to the island for nearly one million business or leisure travellers each year.
- In 2009, the States approved a major programme of essential maintenance and improvements, aimed at equipping the current airport to serve the island for the next 30 years.
- The existing runway was last resurfaced in 1974, and would normally be expected to last between 15 and 30 years. Other areas of the airport are of similar age - in some cases older - and also in need of replacement. These include the concrete apron areas where the aircraft park; the airfield ground lighting, which is now obsolete; and the entire drainage system. The taxiways leading from the aprons to the runway also require overlaying, levelling, and realignment.
- Public Services has selected Lagan Construction, one of the UK's leading airfield construction specialists as its preferred bidder, for the project. The company, which has completed more 35 airfield projects worldwide in the past 10 years, was one of four firms invited to tender for the contract.

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