

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISIONS made by the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor M Lock, on 10 October 2005 at County Hall, Lewes.

Councillor Bentley spoke on items 4 and 7 (see minutes 31 and 34 below)
Councillor Scott spoke on item 5 (see minute 32 below)
Councillor Thomas spoke on items 4 and 7 (see minutes 31 and 34 below)

29. MINUTES

29.1 Councillor Lock approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2005.

30. REPORTS

30.1 Copies of the reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

31. PETITION REQUESTING ROAD SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS ON PART OF THE A269

31.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. Mr Simmons addressed the Lead Member on behalf of the petitioners and displayed photographs of the road surface conditions in Ninfield.

DECISION

31.2 To advise the petitioners that :

(1) a section of the A269 has been included in the 2005/06 resurfacing programme;

(2) the remaining length of the A269 does not satisfy the condition criteria for treatment, and this will be reassessed as part of the priority ranking process for 2006/07 principal road structural maintenance schemes; and

(3) the Director of Transport and Environment has been requested to circulate the priority list of road resurfacing schemes assessed in 2005/2006 to the local Members, Mr Simmons and the Parish Council and to keep them informed of progress on the reassessment of the schemes in 2006/2007.

Reasons

31.3 Maintenance schemes on the principal road network are prioritised on the basis of need taking into account the skidding resistance, visual condition and structural strength of the road.

31.4 The section of road between Crouch Lane and the B2095 has been included in the 2005/06 programme on the basis of need. However, the remaining length of the A269 does not meet the condition criteria for resurfacing within the funds available. This later section of road will be reassessed within the priority ranking process for 2006/07 principal road schemes.

32. PETITION REQUESTING PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS ON CROWHURST ROAD, HASTINGS

32.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

32.2 Councillor Lock was advised that the concerns expressed by the petitioners about the need for a pedestrian refuge island on Crowhurst Road also extended to the traffic speeds in this area. He noted that a review of speed limits across the County would be undertaken, following the publication of Government guidelines expected later in the year, and a new County Council Speed Management Policy drawn up. Councillor Lock pointed out that when the Bexhill Link Road plans were brought forward for consultation, then the possible impacts on traffic in this area would also need to be taken into account at that stage.

DECISION

32.3 To advise the petitioners that this location meets the County Council's criterion for further investigation and that the priority for the provision of pedestrian facilities will be considered by the Lead Member at the April 2006 meeting.

Reason

32.4 The site meets the initial qualification criterion for the provision of a pedestrian facility and, therefore, further detailed investigations will be required to determine the relative priority of this request when compared to others in East Sussex.

33. DELEGATION OF LOCAL NATURE RESERVE DECLARATION POWERS

33.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISION

33.2 To delegate to Crowborough Town Council the power to declare a local nature reserve.

Reason

33.3 The power under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to declare as local nature reserve land at Crowborough Country Park should be delegated to Crowborough Town Council because this will assist the Town Council in achieving its objectives for the land without creating a resource commitment for the County Council.

34. VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS - PROPOSED REVISED POLICY PS 4/29

34.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. A revised Appendix 1 was circulated.

34.2 Councillor Lock pointed out the importance of maintaining a financial priority list and consistent criteria across the County for the site selection of vehicle activated signs (VAS), but he noted concerns expressed by Members that (a) the operation of VAS was not readily understandable to members of the public; and (b) the levels of speed at which VAS were activated appeared to lack consistency and the flexibility to be tailored to local circumstances.

DECISION

34.3 To (1) note the outcome of the review undertaken and approve revised policy PS 4/29;

(2) request the Director of Transport and Environment to take on board the concerns raised when reviewing the speed limits across the County following the expected publication of Government guidelines later in the year; and

(3) request the Scrutiny Committee for Transport and Environment to consider the issues raised and report back to the Lead Member with their views.

Reason

34.4 The proposed revisions to policy summary PS4/29 will ensure that the implementation of Vehicle Activated Signs is channelled towards those sites demonstrating the greatest need, ie a quantifiable road safety concern combined with inappropriate speed for the conditions. In addition, the simplified assessment process should help to provide a clearer and more transparent approach to their placement that the general public will find easier to understand.