

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 19 September 2016

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Proposed pedestrian crossing outside Sandown Primary School, The Ridge, Hastings – consultation results and update for petitioners

Purpose: To consider the results of the local consultation, to update petitioners on the current design status and intended construction timescales, and determine whether the introduction of the facility should proceed to detailed design and implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Note the results of the local consultation relating to the proposed pedestrian crossing, and provide an update to petitioners on the scheme's progress; and**
 - (2) Agree that the proposal should be taken forward to detailed design and construction as part of the 2017/18 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements.**
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1 Background Information

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 10 May 2016, Councillor Wincott presented a petition to the Chairman requesting: *'This petition is for the instalment of a new Pelican crossing outside Sandown School, the Ridge Hastings. Previous attempts for the instalment have been made over 6 years to no avail. Last year we were promised the new crossing but the Council budget was not able to carry out the work. The neighbours received a letter from the area council news stating it would be carried out in 2016. Assessments have been carried out and neighbours informed but as yet no work dates set. This is a dangerous road and the parents, children and local public need to feel safe on this crossing'*.

1.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members Room. Standing Orders provide that, where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners be invited to address the Committee or Lead Member. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

1.3 This follows a previous petition to the County Council calling on the pedestrian crossing upgrade which was considered by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment at his decision making meeting in December 2014. At the time, the Lead Member resolved to advise the petitioners that their proposals have been considered as part of the 'Ridge Movement and Access Study'; that the study had recommended that the zebra crossing be upgraded to a puffin crossing and that the scheme be taken forward in a forthcoming year's capital programme for local transport improvements.

1.4 The 'Ridge Movement and Access Study' was commissioned in 2013/14 to consider the wider issues along The Ridge, aside from those arising from the Bexhill Hastings Link Road, resultant from development and the existing local concerns about the impact of additional traffic on all users including pedestrians, cyclists, bus passengers, drivers and traffic flow/congestion. The outcome of the study was to identify measures that could be introduced to address these issues.

1.5 Following the Lead Member's resolution in December 2014, as part of the 2015/16 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements, design work was undertaken on the upgrade of the existing zebra pedestrian crossing.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 The location plan and design proposal for the crossing upgrade is presented in Appendix 1. As there is a driveway in close proximity to the existing crossing, it would not be appropriate to upgrade the crossing in its current location. Equally, relocating the pedestrian crossing on this section of The Ridge is challenging given the constraints of other existing driveways as there would be a safety risk to pedestrians if vehicles were to exit onto The Ridge from a driveway and turn immediately onto a

new crossing facility. Consideration has also been given to ensuring that the new crossing is located as close to Sandown Primary School as possible where pupils and parents are most likely to use it. Therefore the proposal is to provide a controlled pedestrian crossing to the west of the existing entrance into Sandown Primary School where there are fewer driveways that would be affected by it. To achieve this, the school vehicular access and associated school fencing would need to be altered.

2.2 The proposal has the support from the County and local Borough Councillors as well as Sandown Primary School. The proposal has also been presented to the lead petitioner, Mr Woodcock, who also welcomes the proposed scheme. The emergency services have been consulted and all are supportive of the proposal.

2.3 A local consultation of householders by letter drop was carried out between 27 June and 15 July 2016. The letter is found in Appendix 2. In total two responses and no objections have been received. One comment was made relating to the position of the proposed pedestrian guard railing which has been addressed. Another comment received related to children crossing the repositioned vehicular access to get to the school entrance gate. The safety auditor for the scheme has confirmed that crossing the access presents minimal risk as there are a relatively low number of vehicular movements being made into/out of school, when compared to that of The Ridge. Drivers using the vehicular access are generally associated with the school and are likely to make the necessary observations for pedestrians when undertaking a turning manoeuvre. In addition, a proportion of children already cross the current access walking along the northern footway to/from the west and do so without any reported issues. As visibility is sufficient around the revised access there was no justification for amending the design.

2.4 Subject to the Lead Member's approval, the detailed design will now be progressed. Discussion and consideration has been given to the most suitable construction period for the crossing and associated changes to the school access with the local County Councillor, the Head teacher at Sandown Primary School, and the lead petitioner Mr. Woodcock. All have agreed that it would be preferable for the works to be carried out during the 2017 school holidays when there will be reduced risk to those accessing the school as well as to minimise disruption to parents and staff.

2.5 The road markings around the existing zebra crossing have been identified as worn. As the construction date for the proposed crossing is a year away, the road markings have been refreshed in the interim to ensure that they are fully visible to all road users. These road markings will then be removed as part of the construction works for the new permanent pedestrian crossing.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The upgrade of the existing zebra crossing to a "puffin" crossing, was one of the recommendations arising from the 'Ridge Movement and Access Study' and funding has been allocated from the County Council's 2016/17 capital programme for local transport improvements to carry out design work on the scheme. The results of the recent local consultation and receipt of the petition demonstrate that there is considerable local support for the upgrade to the existing crossing facility.

3.2 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to agree that the scheme should be taken forward to detailed design and construction as part of the 2017/18 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements, subject to any minor modifications which are identified during the detailed design stage.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Wincott

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None