

Report to: Lead Member for Community Services

Date of meeting: 23 November 2016

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme - Temporary relocation of bus stops in Cornfield Road

Purpose: To consider the results of a formal notice procedure regarding the relocation of the bus stops on the northern footway of Terminus Road to Cornfield Road on a temporary basis during the construction of the Arndale Centre and Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Note the representations received from the formal notice procedure undertaken in September 2016 for the temporary relocation of the bus stops from the northern footway of Terminus Road to Cornfield Road in Eastbourne;
- (2) Approve the placement of temporary bus stops in Cornfield Road to facilitate the construction of the Arndale shopping centre extension and the Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme.

1. Background

1.1 The Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme (ETCIS) proposals have been developed in conjunction with Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) to complement the proposed extension of the Arndale shopping centre. The proposals will enhance the attractiveness and quality of the pedestrian environment in Terminus Road and Cornfield Road, making it more accessible and welcoming, along with addressing the needs of bus operators, the train station and the provision for access to cycles. A summary of the proposals is set out at Appendix 1.

1.2 The principle for the ETCIS is underpinned by the Eastbourne Town Centre Local Plan, the East Sussex Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011 – 2026 and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's (SELEP) Strategic Economic Plan. Construction of the ETCIS is expected to start in summer 2017 and take approximately 12 months to complete.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The ETCIS is programmed to be delivered in coordination with the extension of the Arndale shopping centre. These are both large construction schemes taking place adjacent to each other and parts of the construction sites will overlap around the Terminus Road area. To ensure a safe construction zone the Arndale development will be erecting a hoarding line in January 2017 which will mean that pedestrians will not be able to access the northern footway of Terminus Road. However, we need to also ensure that this part of the town centre remains accessible during the construction and that disruption is kept to the minimum for residents, businesses and visitors.

2.2 To ensure that bus services continue into the centre of Eastbourne during the construction works around Terminus Road, it is proposed that the eastbound bus stops currently situated adjacent to the northern footway of Terminus Road are temporarily relocated to Cornfield Road, as shown in Appendix 2. These temporary stops would be in place from January 2017 for a period of up to 14 months. The temporary location of these stops has been identified in liaison with bus operators serving the Eastbourne area - Stagecoach, Brighton & Hove Buses, Cuckmere Buses and Compass Travel – in order to minimise the impact on their passengers, the existing bus service timetable and highway network.

2.3 On 29 September 2016 notices were placed in Cornfield Road at the location of the proposed temporary stops. The notices showed the location of the proposed temporary bus stops in Cornfield Road and provided the opportunity for representations to be made. Letters were also distributed to adjacent businesses and residents.

2.4 Five representations have been received by the County Council in relation to the proposals which are summarised at Appendix 3; copies of the representations are available in the Members Room. In accordance with Council's procedures, these representations are being reported to the Lead Member for Community Services to enable consideration on whether the bus stops should be temporarily relocated from the northern footway of Terminus Road to Cornfield Road.

2.5 The representations raised issues about pedestrian congestion, noise, unsuitability of road surface, and the impact on business. In addition, a number of disability access issues were raised by Eastbourne Disability Involvement Group and a range of measures will be undertaken to address their concerns.

2.6 Having considered all the issues raised against the necessity to relocate the eastbound bus stops in Terminus Road and ensure that any relocation is as near as possible to the current bus stops, on balance the placement of stops in Cornfield Road will best facilitate the requirements of the bus operators and their passengers whilst the Arndale and Terminus Road improvement works are under construction. A response to each of the representations received is included in Appendix 3.

3 Conclusion and Recommendations

3.1 The Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme on Terminus Road and Cornfield Road will complement the extension to the Arndale shopping centre. During the construction works on Terminus Road, it is necessary to temporarily relocate the existing bus stops on the northern footway which serve eastbound bus services. In order to minimise disruption for bus passengers and maintain the existing bus service timetable, it is recommended to relocate these stops to Cornfield Road from January 2017 for a period of up to 14 months.

3.2 Following publication of notices on site in September 2016, a number of representations have been received not in favour of the proposed temporary relocation of these bus stops into Cornfield Road. Having considered the issues raised in these representations, Lead member is recommended to not uphold these representations on the basis that the temporary bus stops are necessary to facilitate both the construction of the Arndale shopping centre and the ETCIS.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillors Rodohan, Taylor, and Wallis

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None

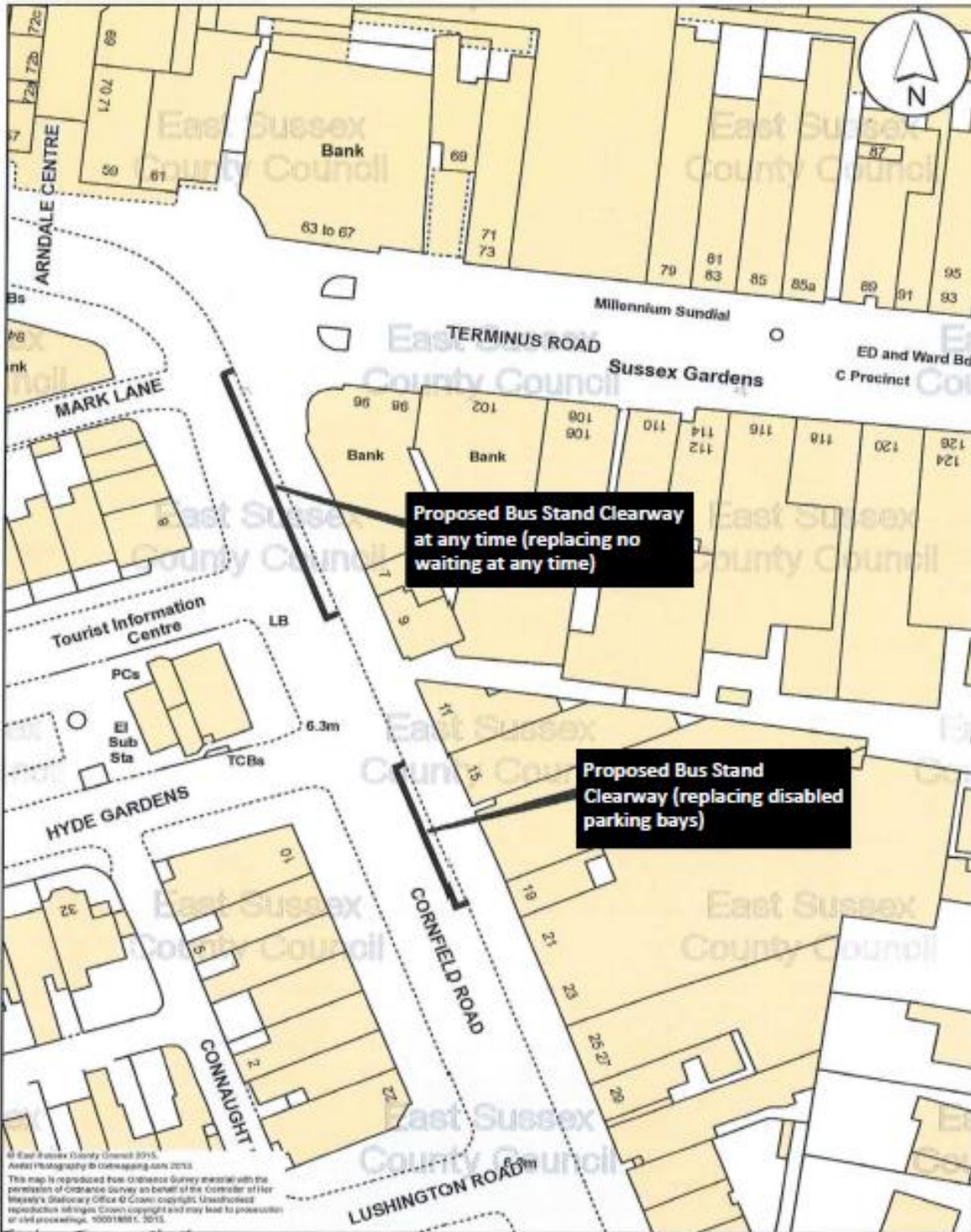
1. Current Situation

- 1.1 The section of Terminus Road between the Ashford Road/Gildredge Road junction and Cornfield Road is a two-way Bus Lane which is also the location for the main bus stops within the Town Centre. It is currently laid out as a conventional carriageway with footways and a number of bus stops and shelters on either side of the road.
- 1.2 This layout was not altered when the street was originally converted into a bus lane which has resulted in relatively narrow footways for a town centre location, especially adjacent to the bus shelters. At busy times this can lead to pedestrian congestion on the footways.
- 1.3 In addition, the area does not provide a quality public realm environment and as such does not help create a vibrant and high quality town centre that will encourage more footfall.


2. Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme proposals

- 2.1 The Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme (ETCIS) is centred on Terminus Road and Cornfield Road and aims to enhance the attractiveness and quality of the pedestrian environment, to make it more accessible and welcoming, along with improving the interaction and efficiency of public transport providers. The ETCIS incorporates the following changes:
 - The permanent relocation of bus stops from Terminus Road into Cornfield Road
 - Creation of a one lane bus only carriageway along Terminus Road
 - An approximate doubling of pedestrian footway width along Terminus Road
 - Introduction of new street lighting and decorative lighting
 - New street furniture-bus shelters/benches/stools/bicycle stands/bins/bollards
 - Introduction of a range of soft landscaping features including trees, flowers and shrubs.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the ETCIS and the extension to the Arndale shopping centre will provide a positive impact to the local economy by kick starting the re-development of the wider town centre and beyond, and will be a flagship scheme, that will provide design elements and infrastructure that can be delivered at other key locations within the town centre to provide an consistent public realm.
- 2.3 The strategic objectives of the scheme are summarised in the table below:
 - To support local economic growth by providing a step change in the quality of the environment for local residents and visitors to Eastbourne town centre.
 - Improve the physical environment of the town centre by reducing the impact of the buses.
 - Support accessibility, health and improve road safety by increasing pedestrian priority in the town centre.
 - To enable safe and sustainable access within the town centre, through provision for cycling.
 - To support the economic vitality of the town by complementing the proposed works to coincide with the opening of the Arndale extension.
- 2.4 The ETCIS will contribute towards the objectives of the following plans or policy documents:
 - East Sussex County Council- Council Plan 2015/16 – Priority: Driving Economic Growth
 - East Sussex Growth Strategy (2014-2020)

- East Sussex Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026
- East Sussex County Council's Health & Well Being Strategy 2013-16
- East Sussex Cultural Strategy 2013-2023
- Eastbourne Borough Council- Local Plan & Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Eastbourne Town Centre Local Plan
- Eastbourne Cycle Strategy
- South East Local Enterprise Partnership's (SELEP) Strategic Economic Plan



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Map Title: Proposed Bus Stop Clearways – Cornfield Road,		East Sussex County Council County Hall St Annes Crescent Lewes	
Date: 20/09/2016	Map No:		
Scale: 1:750	Author:		

**Temporary relocation of bus stops from northern footway of Terminus Road to Cornfield Road -
Summary of representations and proposed response**

Appendix 3

Issue Raised	Response
<p>Concern that the carriageway at the location of the proposed bus stops, is unsuitable and will subside, as is the case with the existing temporary stop in Cornfield Road.</p>	<p>The carriageway at the location of the proposed stops has been assessed, and identified as not being strong enough to act as a bus stop. Therefore it is proposed that carriageway construction work will take place to reinforce the carriageway before the temporary bus stops are put in place.</p>
<p>That the placement of a temporary bus stop near the respondent's business will result in a large number of bus passengers immediately outside his business, which will deter clients.</p>	<p>The respondent's business is located in towards the southern end of Cornfield Road, adjacent to the northern extent of the proposed bus stand clearway.</p> <p>The footway width along Cornfield Road is 6.3 metres which means there is sufficient room for bus passenger to wait without obstructing other pedestrians. This is wider than the existing footway on Terminus Road which is 5.1 metres. The bus stop's operation is based on the premise that buses will move to the most southern point of the clearway that's available. Therefore if the bus clearway is empty as a bus is pulling in, any following buses will pull in behind it. Based on this operating model the bus shelter for this stop will be placed as near to the southern most point of the stop as is practicable. These factors will encourage passengers to wait towards to the southern end of the bus clearway.</p>
<p>Bus passengers are likely to shelter in the entrance to his business and recline against his windows.</p>	<p>A temporary bus shelter will be provided to enable passengers to take shelter. Bus shelters are in place throughout Terminus Road, complaints have not been received regarding bus passengers leaning against shop windows in other locations.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p>That no consideration will be given to his objection and that he will not be given the opportunity to explain the basis for his objections.</p>	<p>A discussion has been held by CH2M's project manager for the ETCIS with the respondent who was provided the opportunity to clarify their representations and in turn received an explanation regarding the decision making process within which their objections would be considered..</p>
<p>A bus stop appears to be located in the same place as the proposed temporary bus stop. Is this bus stop the proposed temporary bus stop you are consulting on?</p>	<p>Yes. We are proposing that we extend this existing stop to enable more services to utilise it.</p>
<p>The proposed bus stop (that already seems to be in place) will result in buses blocking a dropped kerb which is something that already appears to be happening. Although mobility scooter and wheelchair users may be able to squeeze past, this presents a significant hazard to anyone when crossing the road as visibility is reduced until stepping directly into the path of oncoming traffic. It should be noted the dropped kerb is already on a sharp bend making it a challenge to see traffic coming from both directions.</p>	<p>It is proposed that as part of the extension of the existing stop that the dropped kerb will either be relocated, further behind the end of the bus stop enabling suitable visibility or if not possible due to safety concerns, removed. As part of the ETCIS this area will be redesigned with suitable pedestrian crossing provision made.</p>
<p>The kerb along the east side of Cornfield Road is subsiding. Users of the number 99 bus stand, where the temporary bus stands seems to be proposed, have reported difficulty gaining access to and from the bus due to the angle of the subsiding kerb - . one partially sighted person was personally helped by the driver because they could not negotiate their way off the bus and onto the pavement. We request that should ESCC implement the temporary bus stand, they must first make good the subsiding kerb.</p>	<p>If this stop is extended the carriageway will be fully repaired and reinforced. Before the other proposed bus stand clearway is put in place work will be undertaken to reinforce carriageway at this location to ensure that the current situation at the existing stop is not repeated.</p>
<p>We hope the temporary bus stand does not pass over the dropped kerb, level with the Tourist Information Centre. If the bus stand does pass over the dropped kerb it will be rendered inaccessible due to the obvious barrier of buses parking over it. Even if the bus stand does not directly</p>	<p>The temporary bus stand will not pass over this dropped kerb. The footway width along Cornfield Road is 6.3 metres which means there is sufficient room for bus passenger to wait without obstructing other pedestrians. This is wider than the footway on</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p>pass over the dropped kerb another barrier to it will be created by the queues of people waiting for the bus. This will also reduce visibility for those crossing and using the dropped kerb.</p>	<p>Terminus Road which is 5.1 metres. The bus stop's operation is based on the premise that buses will move to the most southern point of the clearway that's available. Therefore if the bus clearway is empty as a bus is pulling in, any following buses will pull in behind it. Based on this operating model the bus shelter for this stop will be placed as near to the southern most point of the stop as is practicable. These factors will encourage passengers to wait towards to the southern end of the bus clearway.</p>
<p>The temporary bus stops from 11- 19 Cornfield Road is an area that directly covers the disabled parking bays. In contrast, you do not plan to put any part of the temporary bus stop across existing pay and display parking bays and loading bays which run from 19 to 39 Cornfield Road (a much longer space than the disabled bay area). Is it possible for the temporary bus stop to be sited over some parts of the pay and display parking and loading bays rather than removing all of the much needed accessible parking bays?</p>	<p>Careful consideration was given to the placement of the bus clearway in an alternative location. Unfortunately if we were to place the clearway further south where the display parking bays are we would need to put in place a taper to allow the buses to manoeuvre into the bus clearway. The provision of a taper would either result in the loss of the disabled bays or alternatively the bus clearway being located much nearer the bottom of Cornfield Road and a much larger amount of on street parking being removed, which of course disabled individuals as well as able bodied drivers can currently access. Bus passengers and bus operators are keen to ensure that buses stop as close as possible to the main shopping precinct. Bus operators have made it clear to us that their passengers with disabilities consider this a priority.</p>
<p>The disabled parking bays, which will be lost due to the proposed temporary bus stand, are long, undefined, bays allowing rear access and egress from adapted vehicles. The suggestion that Eastbourne Borough Council could allocate alternative disabled bays nearby in the current Hyde Gardens parking provision is unlikely to result in like for like provision as the bays in Hyde Gardens are standard size and do not facilitate doors to be opened wide and wheelchair and mobility users to safely disembark from the rear of adapted vehicles.</p>	<p>We are currently liaising with Eastbourne Borough Council regarding the possibility of utilising some bays in Hyde Gardens. During this process there may be an opportunity to review how the issues can be addressed, for example by utilising end bays.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p>The temporary footpath along the north side of Terminus Road must be wide enough for large mobility scooters and wheelchairs to pass through easily.</p>	<p>The temporary footpath which is being organised by the contractor delivering the Arndale extension will be required to meet DDA requirements. ESCC officers will liaise with the appointed contractor to ensure that national standards are met.</p>
<p>In the consultation letter it says the temporary footpath will be 'within the road'. If the footpath runs from the pavement into the road there will be a change in level. We assume there will be adequate and safe temporary slopes put in place where the level changes. We request that these slopes are not constructed out of tarmac, which is all too often used; commonly these lumps are too steep for wheelchair and mobility scooter users to safely navigate, and their surface is often uneven making it a white knuckle ride.</p>	<p>The ramps utilised will meet national DDA standards.</p>
<p>Due to the temporary footpath running along parts of Terminus Road, the road width will narrow. Will this mean temporary traffic signals will be put in place allowing one directional flow of traffic at any one time?</p>	<p>Temporary traffic signals will not be required. As there will not be buses pulling in to the vacant stops, there will be sufficient room to ensure the footpath can be placed in the road without affecting two way traffic flow.</p>