

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety

Date of meeting: 27 September 2017

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Petition for a One way system and 20mph speed limit – Ashgate Road, Eastbourne

Purpose: To consider the need for a one way system, 20mph speed limit and additional parking places in Ashgate Road, Eastbourne

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that:

- (1) A one way system on Ashgate Road is not a priority for the County Council at the present time;
 - (2) The implementation of a 20mph speed limit is not a priority for the County Council at the present time; and
 - (3) Additional parking places in the area specified cannot be provided by the County Council as the area in question is not public highway.
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1 Background Information

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 11 July 2017 Councillor Tutt presented a petition to the Chairman from a group of residents from the Ashgate Road area of Eastbourne. The group believe that the traffic situation around Ashgate Road requires urgent review with a view to:

- *Implement a one way system*
- *Reduce the current 30mph speed limit to 20mph and*
- *Provide additional residents parking by removing a grassed verge area*

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 a spokesperson for the petitioners is invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Communities and Safety.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 Ashgate Road, Marsden Road, Etchingham Road and other roads in the area are covered by a 30mph speed limit as indicated by the system of street lighting in these roads. National legislation sets out how speed limits should be signed, and this legislation does not permit the use of 30mph repeater signs when a system of street lighting is in place by virtue of street lighting.

2.2 Langney Primary School is located within this area and accessed from Etchingham Road. Those attending the school could use a number of routes to get to the school, which includes those over which residents have raised their concerns.

2.3 The roads within this area are highly populated with a mixture of houses and flats, but with limited off-street parking places. Due to relatively narrow road widths and parking taking place on both sides of the road (particularly through Ashgate Road and Marsden Road), some vehicles park partly on the footway.

2.4 The latest three year crash data supplied by Sussex Police for the period up to 30 June 2017 shows that there have been two slight personal injury crashes in this area – one on Etchingham Road and one at the junction of Marsden Road and Langney Rise. The crashes were attributed to driver error and pedestrian error. The locations are marked on the plans at Appendix 1, shown in red circles. This does not include the cluster at the junction of Langney Rise and Pembury Road.

2.5 Concerns have previously been received by the County Council regarding vehicles parking on the footways and verges on the roads around the school. Proposals for additional parking restrictions and a footway and verge parking ban for Marsden Road, Redford Close and Etchingam Road were formally consulted on from 27 January 2017 as part of a parking review of Eastbourne. The proposals were approved at Planning Committee in June and it is hoped that all approved changes will be implemented on street by the end of September. The proposals do not extend into Ashgate Road as concerns specifically related to the area around the school. Once the restrictions are in place, Civil Enforcement Officers will be able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to any vehicle parking in contravention of the restriction.

2.6 The County Council has a limited amount of funding to develop local transport improvements and we need to ensure that we target our resources to those schemes which will be of greatest benefit to our local communities. To help us prioritise the numerous requests for improvements we developed a process to determine which schemes should be funded through our Integrated Transport programme. The request for a one-way system, 20mph speed restriction and associated traffic calming measures has been assessed to determine if it might be a priority for future consideration. The proposal did not meet the benchmark score to enable it to be taken forward at this time.

2.7 The grassed area outside of Nos. 15-25 Ashgate Road is not designated as public highway and the County Council as Highway Authority does not have jurisdiction over the area. It is assumed that this is under the control of Eastbourne Borough Council and residents are advised to contact them with their request for this area to be converted into parking spaces for residents. Location plans and photographs can be found at Appendix 2.

2.8 In relation to concerns about dangerous driving, residents are advised to contact Sussex Police via their Operation Crackdown scheme.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 For the reasons contained within this report, it is therefore recommended that the Lead Member for Communities and Safety agrees that a one way system on Ashgate Road and the implementation of a 20mph speed limit is not a priority for the County Council at the present time and additional parking places in the area specified cannot be provided by the County Council as the area in question is not public highway.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: Victoria Bartholomew
Tel. No. 01424 724284
Email: victoria.bartholomew@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Tutt

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None