

Report to	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	18 December 2017
Report By	Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Title of Report	Rescinding of highway scheme at Broad Oak, Brede
Purpose of Report	To rescind the highway scheme approved for the A28/B2089 junction in Broad Oak, Brede

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended:

- (1) To rescind the highway scheme approved for the A28/B2089 junction in Broad Oak, Brede as shown at Appendix 1;**
 - (2) To remove the scheme from the County Council's highway terrier; and**
 - (3) To endorse officers continuing to engage with the Parish Council to identify appropriate measures to improve the safety of the junction.**
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1 Background Information

1.1 In April 1978 the then Highways and Transportation committee approved a scheme to improve the existing junction of the A28 and B2089 at Broad Oak, Brede. The proposal involved a change in priorities for the A28 and B2089 such that the B2089 would become the through road with the A28 giving way to it and approaching on a new line resulting in a staggered crossroads. Plans are attached at Appendix 1.

1.2 The plans included provision of a short length of new carriageway across the land belonging to the Rainbow Trout public house on Chitcombe Road and also the north east corner of land to the rear of the public house. The old A28 approach south of the junction would remain a cul-de-sac to serve a garage business which existed at the time.

1.3 Some land was acquired by the County Council but not all that would be necessary for the scheme and as a consequence the scheme has never been progressed. It was reviewed in 1980 when the County Engineer at the time was minded to rescind. The reasons given then were that the estimated cost of the scheme had increased; there had been cuts to the Capital Programme; other schemes were seen as a higher priority; Crossways Cottage had been bought and demolished thereby improving visibility on the north east (NE) corner of the junction, and the number of reported incidents had reduced. Since then it has never met the criteria for inclusion in a Capital Programme for funding and implementation.

1.4 Approved highway schemes are recorded on the highway terrier and must be declared on local land charge searches where appropriate and when interested parties request information. If schemes remain as approved schemes, costs will be incurred in maintaining the terrier and in declaring information on searches, letters and over the telephone. There is also the possibility that the County Council might be served a blight notice by an affected property owner. If proved valid, the council would incur costs. There is no financial cost in rescinding the scheme.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 On 4 September 2017 letters were sent out to Brede Parish Council, the local Rother District Councillor and the local County Councillor for the area to advise them that the County Council would be consulting with landowners affected by the scheme and residents of the village of Broad Oak, recommending that the scheme is formally rescinded and seeking their comments.

2.2 On 22 September 2017, a letter (attached at Appendix 2) was delivered to over 350 households in Broad Oak and sent to 10 landowners who own property in the vicinity, advising them of the intention to present a report to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment recommending that the scheme approved for the junction of the A28/B2089 in Broad Oak should be rescinded and seeking their comments on the proposed rescission.

2.3 Ten responses were received and a summary of their comments with proposed responses is attached at Appendix 3. Four of the responses support rescinding the scheme. Four, including that of the Parish Council, are opposed to the rescinding and two responses did not express an opinion on the rescinding issue but all call for action to make the junction safer.

2.4 Our Road Safety team are in regular contact with Brede Parish Council on highway issues including the safety of this junction. The crossroads was identified as a local safety site last year and to address these issues vegetation has been cut back to improve visibility at the junction and some minor signing improvements are included in East Sussex Highways' maintenance schedule for implementation. We have previously received requests to remove the remaining STOP sign on the Udimore Road arm of the junction but this was not considered acceptable from a road safety perspective. There have also recently been concerns raised about parking in the vicinity of the village shop and, as a consequence, this location has been added to the waiting list for possible introduction of double yellow lines in the future. However, the scheme as currently designed is not a solution to address the issues that have been raised with the junction.

2.5 The number of personal injury crashes varies from year to year but there has been one serious crash in each of the last three years. County Council officers from the Road Safety and Transport Monitoring Teams met with representatives of Brede Parish Council and the local member on 14 December to discuss local transport issues, the outcome of which can be discussed at the Lead Member meeting.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 Given the historic nature of the scheme and the need to compulsorily purchase land, it is unlikely that the scheme would be implemented by the County Council, given its stated priorities in the Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026. Therefore, it is recommended that the approved scheme for the A28/B2089 junction in Broad Oak Brede scheme is rescinded, the scheme is removed from the County Council's highway terrier and that the County Council continues to engage with the Parish Council to identify appropriate measures to improve the safety of the junction.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: Penelope Bentley
Tel. No. 01273 482248
Email: penelope.bentley@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Maynard.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

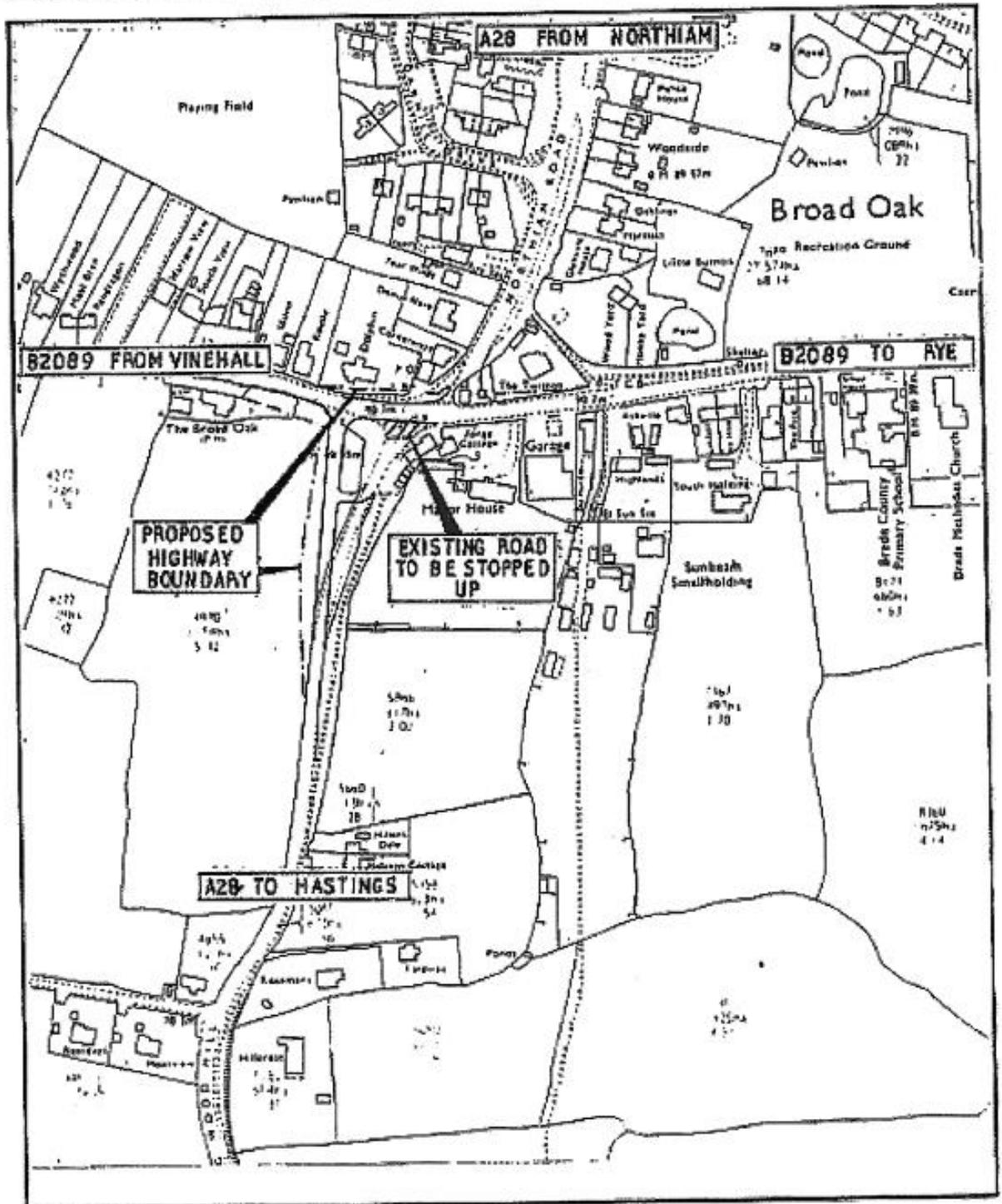
Appendix 1 Plans

Scale 1:2500

PLAN No. 8 ITEM No. 9



JUNCTION OF A28 WITH B2089
BROAD OAK CROSSROADS, BREDE



Appendix 2 Consultation letter

To the OWNER / OCCUPIER

25 September 2017

Penelope Bentley
01273 482248
penelope.bentley@eastsussex.gov.uk

Dear Owner / Occupier

REVIEW OF APPROVED HIGHWAY SCHEMES – Junction A28 and B2089 Broad Oak, Brede

East Sussex County Council is currently reviewing its list of approved highway schemes in the county.

In April of 1978 the then Highways and Transportation Committee approved a scheme for the improvement of the junction of the A28 and B2089 in Broad Oak, Brede. The proposal involved a change in priorities for the A28 and B2089 such that the B2089 would become the through road with the A28 giving way to it. The alignment of the A28 on the southern approach to the junction would be changed resulting in a staggered crossroads. The proposal included plans for the provision of a short length of new carriageway across the northeast corner of the land to the rear of the Rainbow Trout public house on Chitcombe Road as well as through part of the public house property. The old A28 approach south of the junction would remain as a cul-de-sac to serve a commercial garage business which existed at the time.

The scheme was to be included in the County Council's Capital Programme in the early 1980s. Brede Parish Council was consulted at the time and had given its general approval to the scheme.

The scheme involved the demolition of one property which the owner had agreed to sell to East Sussex County Council, subject to an agreement of terms. Some land to the east of the A28 south of the junction and a small section on the south west side of the junction was also purchased by ESCC but further purchases were not made and construction was never carried out.

As part of the ongoing review of approved highway schemes, it has been concluded that the scheme as approved in 1978 will not be progressed by the County Council. However, it continues to be declared as an approved highway scheme on land searches when affected land and properties are bought and sold. It would therefore be beneficial for those affected land and property owners if the scheme was formally rescinded.

Accordingly, I am writing to advise you that the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport will be taking a report to the County Council's Lead Member for Transport and Environment on 18 December 2017, recommending that the scheme is rescinded and the intention to build the scheme formally withdrawn.

If you have any comments on the proposed rescinding of this scheme please contact Penelope Bentley by email, letter or phone (details above) by Friday 27 October 2017. Comments received will be included in the report to Lead Member in November.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Wheeler'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'W'.

Jon Wheeler
Team Manager Strategic Economic Infrastructure
Communities, Economy & Transport

Appendix 3

Respondents in support of rescinding the Broad Oak A28/B2089 junction Scheme

Response received from:	Comments - summary	Proposed response
Resident	Decision to rescind old scheme is correct but something needs to be done to make junction safer. Lists factors making junction dangerous; growth in use of this route by large lorries, wear and tear to road surface, speed, unsafe driving to avoid overhanging vegetation and potholes, danger to pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. Would like improved signage and width restriction.	Noted and comments passed on the Road Safety team.
Resident	Agree that scheme should be rescinded. Making B2089 the through road would increase speeding and staggering the junction could lead to potentially dangerous manoeuvres for traffic on A28.	Noted and comments passed on the Road Safety team.
Resident	Not against rescinding the old scheme as would be very disruptive. However does think that something needs to be done to slow down traffic speed and make junction safer.	Noted and comments passed on the Road Safety team.
Resident	Pleased that the scheme is being withdrawn as corner shop would have been affected and layby on Chitcombe Road lost.	Noted.

Respondents opposed to rescinding the Broad Oak A28/B2089 junction Scheme

Response received from:	Comments - summary	Proposed response
Brede Parish Council	The 1978 scheme should not be rescinded. The population of Broad Oak has increased as have traffic flows and HGV usage. The junction is still dangerous with frequent accidents. They would like something to be done to make the junction safer bearing in mind that the completion of the Queensway Gateway Road means the junction will be even	The junction was identified as a local safety site last year and to address these issues vegetation has been cut back to improve visibility at the junction and some minor signing improvements are included in East Sussex Highways' maintenance schedule for implementation.

Response received from:	Comments - summary	Proposed response
	busier. Department for Transport Accident Report 2005-13 and ESCC 2017 priority list of Identified Crash Sites report attached.	The scheme was approved in 1978. However given the time that has lapsed since, the need to compulsorily purchase land and that it is unlikely that the approved scheme would be implemented by the County Council, it has therefore been proposed that the approved scheme is rescinded.
Resident	Scheme should be kept 'on the books' until implemented or superseded by better scheme. Feels crossroads is dangerous and becoming more so as traffic and HGV use continues to grow.	
Resident	Scheme should not be rescinded but implemented immediately. Traffic and HGV use has grown and junction is dangerous.	
Resident	Object to rescinding unless another scheme is brought forward to sort out dangerous junction.	

Respondents to proposal to rescind the Broad Oak A28/B2089 junction scheme without expressing opinion on the issue.

Response received from:	Comments - summary	Proposed response
Resident	Suggests better markings could solve major hazard for pedestrians.	The junction was identified as a local safety site last year and to address these issues vegetation has been cut back to improve visibility at the junction and some minor signing improvements are included in East Sussex Highways' maintenance schedule for implementation. There has been a request to remove the STOP sign at the Udimore Road arm of the junction which was not considered acceptable from a road safety perspective.
Resident	Appalled that scheme was never implemented. Feels junction is extremely dangerous and would like to see ESCC take action.	It is unclear why the scheme was not implemented since its approval in 1978. The junction was identified as a local safety site last year and to address these issues

		vegetation has been cut back to improve visibility at the junction and some minor signing improvements are included in East Sussex Highways' maintenance schedule for implementation.
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