

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 26 February 2018

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: York Gardens, Hastings, Petition

Purpose: To consider the response to the Petition calling for replacement of the roadway, pavement and kerbs as well as enhancement to street lighting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member is recommended:

- 1) To advise the Petitioners that East Sussex County Council (ESCC) adopts an asset management approach to its highway maintenance and its programmes of maintenance are compiled on a county-wide priority basis; and
 - 2) That ESCC has future plans to carry out resurfacing works along York Gardens, including the repairs to the footways, kerbing and the street lighting as part of the future capital works programme..
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1 Background

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 5 December 2017, Councillor Daniel presented a Petition to the Chairman calling for the replacement of the roadway, pavement and kerbs as well as enhancements to the street lighting.

1.2 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 in support of the petition. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment. A copy of the petition is available in the Members Room.

1.3 The County Council's highway maintenance programmes are determined on a county-wide basis, based on need and priority. In compiling maintenance programmes, the County Council's Highways Asset Management team consider a wealth of condition data from annual surveys, Highway Steward inspections and reports from members of the public. This information, along with information about the nature and importance of the road is used to determine the maintenance needs and relative priority across the county.

1.4 Since May 2016 (the start of the current highways maintenance contract) there have been eight safety inspections of York Gardens, carried out by the local Highway Steward as part of his routine walked inspections programme and seven reports have been received from members of the public about the condition of this particular road and footway.

1.5 In this same time period there have been eleven safety defects raised (six carriageway potholes and five footway trips/potholes) and these have been addressed as appropriate.

2 Supporting information

2.1 Following the presentation of the Petition, a further site visit was conducted on 11 January 2018 and a number of photographs of the condition of the road append this report in Appendix 1.

2.2 York Gardens supports a relatively high footfall being close to the town centre, with pedestrians moving between Queens Road and Wellington Place. The volume of vehicle traffic is relatively low with ad hoc delivery vehicles and access to a small number of parking spaces for businesses.

2.3 There are a number of large refuse and recycling wheeled bins stored on the footway that obstruct the footway and the footway itself at the eastern end of York Gardens is very narrow. This is further narrowed by the location of large heavy duty 'protection' bollards. As a consequence, pedestrians generally walk in the carriageway along much of its length.

2.4 The carriageway is in reasonable structural condition with no obvious signs of significant failure such as deformation or large scale crazing and there are no outstanding safety defects. However, the road surface itself is well worn, uneven in places and is nearing the end of its serviceable life.

2.5 The footways are also in reasonable structural condition with no safety defects observed that required immediate attention. However, the surface is uneven in places mainly due to the movement, loss or replacement of adjacent kerbing that is probably due to vehicle overrun. The kerbing along this road consists of a mixture of modern concrete kerbs and narrow and wide granite kerb stones with a number having been replaced with a tarmac fillet at some time in the past.

2.6 There are currently four older-style high pressure sodium floodlights in York Gardens mounted on adjacent buildings, which contrasts with the majority of street lighting in Hastings which has been converted to modern LED type which provides a whiter ('brighter') light and consumes less energy.

2.7 In maintaining the highway network East Sussex County Council uses an asset management based approach to identify and prioritise maintenance requirements. This process involves regular visual surveys of our roads and footways to enable comparison of condition, consideration of the levels of safety defects reported from customer reports and routine safety inspections and the location and usage are also important considerations. This helps us to prioritise roads and footways for maintenance works.

2.8 A total of eleven safety defects have been dealt with since May 2016: six small carriageway potholes and five footway trips requiring the removal and filling or resetting of damaged or moved granite kerbs.

2.9 From our records and inspections, both the carriageway and footways in York Gardens are categorised as being in poor condition.

3 Conclusion and recommendations

3.1 The overall condition of road, footway and kerbing in this road, whilst generally poor, is currently functional and does not require any immediate action.

3.2 Work to resurface the road and footways and replace the older granite kerbing with a more consistent modern kerbing would reduce future maintenance liabilities and, combined with an upgrade of the street lighting to modern LED lighting, would provide an improved route for pedestrians.

3.3 Consideration needs to be given to the use of the carriageway as a footway which makes it a higher priority (a higher risk) when compared to just considering the condition of the carriageway as just for vehicular use.

3.4 As a consequence, improvement works are to be included in the future capital maintenance programmes, subject to all other priorities and the available budget.

3.5 Lead Member is recommended to advise the Petitioner that we are aware of the condition of York Gardens and do have plans to resurface the carriageway, footways, replace the kerbing where appropriate and upgrade the street lighting as part of the future capital works programme.

RUPERT CLUBB

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Godfrey Daniel

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Petition

Appendix 1



