

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 16 July 2018

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Petition requesting the introduction of a pedestrian crossing on Battle Hill, Battle, in the vicinity of Tesco Express.

Purpose: To consider the petition calling on East Sussex County Council to provide a pedestrian crossing facility along Battle Hill.

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

- (1) The request for a pedestrian crossing was previously assessed using the scheme prioritisation process for local transport improvements; and
 - (2) Due to a recent crash involving a pedestrian within the vicinity, the County Council have commissioned a feasibility study through the 2018/19 capital programme for local transport improvements to ascertain whether a pedestrian crossing facility should be delivered along Battle Hill.
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1 Background Information

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 15 May 2018, Councillor Field presented a petition with approximately 2300 signatories to the Chairman on behalf of residents of Battle stating:

“We, the undersigned, call on East Sussex County Council to install a pedestrian crossing on Battle Hill”

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 is invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 The County Council has previously received requests for a pedestrian crossing facility in the vicinity of the ESSO Petrol Station/Tesco Express along Battle Hill - a location plan is in Appendix 1. The requests were assessed at that time using the scheme prioritisation process for local transport improvements to determine whether they should be considered for possible funding and inclusion in the capital programme for local transport improvements. The request for a pedestrian crossing at Battle Hill was ranked 32nd out of the 67 detailed scheme appraisals that were assessed and therefore initially did not rank sufficiently high enough for inclusion in the 2018/19 programme as the available funding meant we were able to only include the 23 highest ranked schemes.

2.2 However, in March 2018 there was a serious pedestrian-related crash on Battle Hill and after liaising with Sussex Police, the County Council has agreed to commission East Sussex Highways to conduct a feasibility study in 2018/19 to determine whether some form of pedestrian crossing facility should be introduced. To inform the study, we will be conducting pedestrian surveys at various points within the vicinity of Tesco Express to determine the desire lines as well as reviewing the crash data along this section of road over the last three-year period.

2.3 In addition the study will also consider other general concerns about vehicle speeds in this area that have been raised on several occasions by residents, as well as other potential speed-reducing options.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The requests for a pedestrian crossing facility on Battle Hill in the vicinity of Tesco Express have been previously assessed using the County Council's scheme prioritisation process for local transport improvements and were not ranked sufficiently high for inclusion onto the capital programme for local transport improvements. However, due to the severity of a recent pedestrian-related crash, the County Council has commissioned a feasibility study to be carried out to ascertain whether a pedestrian crossing facility and any other speed reducing measures should be delivered. The study will be funded through the 2018/19 capital programme of local transport improvements.

3.2 It is therefore recommended that the petitioners be informed that the County Council will progress with the study and will be advised of the outcome of the study once it has been completed.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: Andrew Keer
Tel. No. 01273 336682
Email: andrew.keer@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Field

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None