

Report to: Lead Member for Transport & Environment

Date of meeting: 16 July 2018

Report By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Pedestrian Crossing, Belgrave Road, Seaford

Purpose: To consider the results of the local consultation on the proposed pedestrian crossing in Belgrave Road, Seaford and to recommend how the scheme will be taken forward.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Note the comments from the local consultation; and**
 - (2) Approve the proposal for the pedestrian crossing in Belgrave Road as set out in this report to be taken forward to construction as part of the 2018/19 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements**
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1. Background Information

1.1. There have been numerous historical requests made to the County Council for the provision of a pedestrian crossing facility on Belgrave Road, Seaford. As a result, these requests have been considered using the County Council's scheme prioritisation process. The scheme scored sufficiently highly for inclusion in the 2016/17 capital programme for local transport improvements with funding initially allocated to undertake a feasibility study to develop a proposal for consultation.

1.2. Belgrave Road is used by many pedestrians from the local residential area to access the nearby Seaford Primary School, the local Church and the town centre. It is also used by drivers as a cut through from the A259 to access the northern side of Seaford.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 A feasibility study was carried out by East Sussex Highways in 2017 to identify an appropriate location to introduce a pedestrian crossing facility along Belgrave Road, between Carlton Road and Blatchington Hill. To inform the study, surveys were carried out to determine vehicle flows and average vehicle speeds. Pedestrian surveys were also conducted to establish pedestrian flows and observe pedestrian "desire lines", in order to determine the most appropriate location for the crossing that would benefit most pedestrians. Consideration was also given to the crash data in the wider extent of Belgrave Road over the last 3 year period.

2.2 The proposed location of the crossing was also determined by existing site constraints (such as boundary walls which obscure visibility and existing footway and carriageway widths) as well as utilising design guidance provided by the Department for Transport (DfT). The study identified that the most appropriate location for the proposed pedestrian crossing facility – a zebra crossing - would be between Kingsmead and Wilkinson Way. The proposed location is shown in Appendix 1.

2.3 As there is currently no footway on the northern side of Belgrave Road, to the east of the junction with Kingsmead, it is proposed that an area of the grass verge will be converted into a

footway to enable pedestrians to access the crossing and then join the existing footway on the southern side of Belgrave Road. The remainder of the grass verge on the northern side will remain unchanged.

2.4 A statutory consultation on the proposals was undertaken in August 2017, with Sussex Police, South East Coast Ambulance Service, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, the Freight Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association. No objections or representations were received. On 22 August 2017, a site meeting was held with representatives from the local bus company to clarify aspects of the scheme design, after which they confirmed they had no objections to the proposals.

2.5 A local consultation was carried out between 8 and 29 August 2017, by means of a letter-drop and accompanying plan delivered to properties in roads within the vicinity of the proposed crossing. A copy of the consultation letter, plan and a map showing the extent of the consultation, is shown at Appendix 2. Details of the consultation were also sent to Seaford Town Council and to the local County Councillor. Councillor Lambert has confirmed her support for the scheme. A summary of the responses to the local consultation is provided at Appendix 3.

2.6 The consultation process included Seaford Primary School as well as local transport group 'Think School Travel' to obtain their views to the proposal. Both confirmed their support for such a facility, and have canvassed for such a facility for many years.

2.7 A number of issues were raised by Seaford and Blatchington Lawn Tennis Club through the consultation process and officers from East Sussex Highways and the County Council attended a meeting at the Tennis Club on 22 August 2017 to discuss their concerns. Their principal concern was the loss of available space to park along Belgrave Road, adjacent to the Tennis Club as the zebra crossing will require zig zag markings to be introduced to ensure the safety of pedestrians using the facility. The length of zig-zags is the equivalent to seven vehicle 'spaces' which will result in some Tennis Club members having to park a little further away rather than immediately outside the Tennis Club. The County Council acknowledges the impact that the zig-zag markings will have and we always try to limit the amount of parking restrictions associated with new highway infrastructure, however the zig-zag markings are legally required and it is considered that access to multiple alternative on-street parking spaces are available within a short walking distance.

2.8. The Tennis Club requested that consideration be given to locating the proposed crossing elsewhere along Belgrave Road, between the junction with Wilkinson Way and St Peter's. However from a review of the pedestrian surveys undertaken, it is not considered this would provide the most benefit for pedestrians accessing the town centre or Seaford Primary School from the residential areas including Kingsmead.

2.9 The County Council has also explored the possibility of locating the crossing to the west of the junction with Kingsmead. However to achieve the absolute minimum distance of 65 metres intervisibility between drivers and pedestrians waiting to use the crossing, it would be necessary to locate the crossing much closer to Kedale Road, meaning that pedestrians wishing to access the Primary School would be much less likely to use the facility or would have negotiate the much narrower 1.2m section of footway around the flint wall by the Tennis Club. The proposed location for the zebra crossing offers access to a greater footway width in comparison, which is of particular importance for users of mobility vehicles or wheelchairs, or those using pushchairs.

2.10 Two other objections were raised by residents with concerns aligned to those of the Tennis Club and requesting the crossing is sited between Kedale Road and Kingsmead. However for the reasons outlined in section 2.9 above, the proposed crossing cannot be located between these junctions.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 There are currently no dedicated pedestrian crossing facilities in Belgrave Road. The County Council has received requests for a facility to be introduced and these have been considered through the County Council's scheme prioritisation process. The requests scored sufficiently for a scheme to be included in the capital programme for local transport improvements. Subsequent survey and design work has identified the most appropriate location for a zebra crossing to be introduced on Belgrave Road is between the junctions of Kingsmead and Wilkinson Way. The local consultation exercise identified both support for the scheme and a number of objections.

3.2 Whilst it is acknowledged that the loss of seven parking spaces through the introduction of the crossing will have some impact locally, it is considered that these are outweighed by the road safety and accessibility improvements that the proposed crossing will bring to the local community. The Lead Member is recommended to approve the construction of a pedestrian crossing in Belgrave Road as set out in this report, as part of the 2018/19 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Carolyn Lambert

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

