

Report to: Lead Member for Transport & Environment

Date of meeting: 18 March 2019

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Victoria Drive, Eastbourne upgrade to existing pedestrian crossings

Purpose: To consider the results of the local consultation on the proposed upgrades to two pedestrian crossings in Victoria Drive, Eastbourne 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 to upgrade the pedestrian crossings in Victoria Drive as set out in this report as part of the 2019/20 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements.

1. Background Information

1.1. There have been numerous historical requests made to the County Council for a review of the existing pedestrian crossings at the junctions of Victoria Drive / Green Street and Victoria Drive / Eldon Road in Eastbourne. These requests have been considered using the County Council's local transport scheme prioritisation process and scored sufficiently highly for inclusion in the 2017/18 capital programme for local transport improvements with funding initially allocated for the development of proposals.

1.2. Victoria Drive is in Eastbourne and the junctions considered in this report are located approximately two miles from Eastbourne Town Centre. The two junctions are situated in a mainly residential area, serving local shops and schools and are utilised by many pedestrians and a large number of vehicles accessing the Ratton, Willingdon and Old Town areas of Eastbourne. A location plan for the junctions is shown in Appendix 1.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 A study of pedestrian crossing provision at the Victoria Drive / Green Street junction and the junction of Victoria Drive /Eldon Road was carried out by East Sussex Highways (ESH) in 2017. This study considered the most appropriate facilities to aid safe pedestrian movement at these two junctions. To inform the study, surveys were 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. Surveys were also carried out to determine vehicle flows and average vehicle speeds. Consideration was also given to the crash data in the wider extent of Victoria Drive over the last 3 year period.

2.2. Eight pedestrian crossing solutions were identified and reviewed for the junction of Victoria Drive / Green Street, with careful consideration to pedestrian and vehicle movements as well as the requirements of bus operators and local businesses. A report detailing these options is attached in Appendix 2. The report concluded that the current location of the zebra crossing provides a suitable crossing facility at a highly desirable location. Enhancing the visibility of the existing zebra pedestrian crossing will further improve the safety of this facility. Retaining the zebra crossing is proposed as the location of 'controlled' crossings (known as 'Puffin crossings) within 20 metres of a side road is not permitted.

2.3 With regard to the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Eldon Road and Victoria Drive, crash data provides no indication that the existing zebra pedestrian crossing is poorly located or ineffective. In addition the pedestrian surveys indicate the crossing is in the appropriate location. However, the existing zebra crossing is showing early signs of deterioration and would benefit from enhancement, reflecting the similar enhancement of the zebra crossing at Victoria Drive/Green Street.

2.4 These enhancements will consist of re-marking existing road markings at the zebra crossings and on the approaches, introducing new belisha beacons, the application of red coloured high-friction surfacing on both approaches to both zebra crossings and installing new or revitalising existing

advanced signage. These changes will encourage drivers to give greater consideration to the crossings and adjust their speed and expectations as they approach the junction.

2.5 A statutory consultation on the proposals was undertaken in September 2018, 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.

2.6 A local consultation was carried out between 12 October and 5 November 2018. A table summarising the results of the consultation, responses to objections and presented solutions as well as a copy of the consultation letter, plan and a map showing the extent of the consultation, are shown in Appendix 3. Details of the consultation were also sent to the local County Councillor who has confirmed his support for the scheme.

2.7 110 responses were received to the consultation. Out of this, 97 respondents either 'strongly support' or 'support' the proposals, with sixteen respondents indicating that they either 'opposed' or 'strongly opposed' proposals for either or both pedestrian crossing improvements. Many of these respondents provided a short explanation for their objection or preferred alternative solution.

2.8 In most of the objections that were received, alternative solutions were requested including: the introduction of a 20mph speed limit; that the zebra crossings should incorporate pedestrian islands; alterations should be made to the entrance/exit to the Sainsburys Local opposite the junction with Green Street; redirecting traffic flow would be more effective; or that relocating the zebra crossing by the junction of Green Street further north would be more effective. The options report referred to in Appendix 2 considers such solutions and explains the reasons why they have been discounted as part of the design process. Appendix 3 provides further information on the objections/presented solutions and provides a succinct assessment for each of them.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The County Council has received requests to improve the existing provision of pedestrian crossing facilities on Victoria Drive near the junctions with Green Street and Eldon Road. These have been considered through the County Council's local transport scheme prioritisation process and the scheme scored sufficiently for funding to be initially allocated in the 2017/18 capital programme for local transport improvements to develop design proposals.

3.2 Subsequent survey and design work has identified that the most appropriate improvements are to maintain the current location of the existing two zebra crossings in the vicinity but undertake works to improve the visibility at and on the approaches of both crossings.

3.3 From the local consultation exercise, the majority of those who responded were in support of the proposed scheme. A number of objections to the scheme were received; these were broad without a clear overarching concern and Appendix 3 provides responses to the comments and objections received. It is considered that the road safety and accessibility improvements that the enhanced zebra crossings will bring to the local community, and the majority support for the proposals, outweigh the objections that were received.

3.4 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to approve the proposed improvement to the existing zebra crossings at the junctions of Green Street/Victoria Drive and Eldon Road/Victoria Drive as set out in this report, and these will be delivered using Local Growth Fund monies secured through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership as part of the 2019/20 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officers: Matthew Reid and Tracy Vaks

Tel. No: Matthew Reid 07753 102 539 / Tracy Vaks 01273 482123

Email: matthew.reid@eastsussexhighways.com / Tracy.Vaks@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor John Ungar

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None