

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety

Date of meeting: 30 January 2020

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Petition for pedestrian crossing – Little Ridge Avenue, St Leonards on Sea

Purpose: To consider the need for a pedestrian crossing in Little Ridge Avenue, St Leonards on Sea

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

- (1) A potential pedestrian crossing for Little Ridge Avenue has been assessed through our approved High Level Sift process and is not a priority for the County Council at the present time; and**
 - (2) Petitioners may wish to consider taking a potential scheme forward through Community Match. A Feasibility Study (at a cost of £500 plus VAT) and a speed survey (at a cost of £410 per site) would be required prior to a Community Match application**
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1 Background Information

1.1. On 1 August 2019, a petition was received by the County Council from a group of parents and carers of children who attend Ark Little Ridge Primary Academy in Little Ridge Avenue, St Leonards on Sea. The group believe that the traffic situation around Little Ridge Avenue requires urgent review with a view to:

- Implement a formal pedestrian crossing to enable children to cross to and from the school safely

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. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Communities and Safety.

2 Supporting Information

2.1. The area of Little Ridge Avenue in the vicinity of Ark Little Ridge Primary Academy is subject to a 20mph speed limit and is part of a School Safety Zone supported by traffic calming features including speed humps, build outs and a raised table. A location plan and site photographs can be found at Appendix A.

2.2. The crash data for this section of Little Ridge Avenue, supplied by Sussex Police for the three year period 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2019, shows that there has been one slight personal injury crash at the junction of Little Ridge Avenue and Highlea Close. This was attributed to junction manoeuvres and did not involve pedestrians or children. It was also outside of the School Safety Zone and would be beyond any potential impact that a crossing facility could provide. This is shown at Appendix B.

2.3. Little Ridge Avenue is an authorised School Crossing Patrol site, funded by East Sussex County Council, however the post has been vacant since the beginning of 2019. Ark Little Ridge Academy has been advertising the post, but there have been no applicants to date.

2.4. If a formal pedestrian crossing were to be installed, the site may no longer qualify for a funded School Crossing Patrol.

2.5. The County Council has a limited amount of funding to develop local transport improvements and we need to ensure that we target our resources to those schemes which will be of greatest benefit to our local communities. To help us prioritise the numerous requests received for improvements, we developed a process to determine which schemes should be funded through our Integrated Transport Programme. The request for a pedestrian crossing did not meet the benchmark score to enable it to be taken forward.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. It is recommended that the Lead Member for Communities and Safety informs the petitioners that the installation of a pedestrian crossing is not presently a priority for funding from the County Council's budget. However, appropriate improvements could be considered should an alternative source of income become available or if an application through Community Match was successful.

3.2. In order to determine what measures could be suitable in Little Ridge Avenue prior to a Community Match application, it is suggested that the group concerned contact Hastings Borough Council to ascertain whether they would be interested in supporting a scheme to influence traffic conditions in this road. They would then need to commission a Feasibility Study at a cost of £500 plus VAT and speed data at a cost of £410 per site. This will help to identify possible improvements for further discussions and provide the group and Hastings Borough Council with an estimate of what they might cost to assist in their budget considerations.

RUPERT CLUBB

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Pragnell

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None