

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 – St Helen’s Park Road, Hastings

Purpose: To consider the need for a pedestrian crossing in St Helen’s Park Road, Hastings

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

- (1) A potential pedestrian crossing scheme achieved the benchmark score to be put forward for detailed appraisal to ascertain if it could be included within the 2020/21 Capital Programme for Transport Improvements. The Lead Member for Transport and Environment will consider this programme in March 2020.**
 - (2) Depending on the outcome of the Lead Member for Transport and Environment meeting in March 2020 they may wish to consider taking a potential scheme forward through Community Match.**
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1 Background Information

1.1. At the County Council meeting on 9 July 2019, Councillors Clarke and Daniel presented a petition to the Chairman from a group of residents and parents/carers from the ARK Blacklands Primary Academy area of Hastings. The group believe that the traffic situation around St Helen’s Park Road, where it merges with Downs Road, requires urgent review with a view to:

- Providing either a Zebra or Pelican Crossing scheme to improve road safety for pedestrians

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. St Helen’s Park Road and the surrounding road network are covered by a 30mph speed limit, as indicated by the system of street lighting. It is a residential road and a bus route. Pupils attending ARK Blacklands Primary Academy, located in Osborne Close, may need to cross the road as part of their home to school route. Location plan and images can be found at Appendix A.

2.2. Crash data supplied by Sussex Police for the three year period 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2019 indicates that there has been one slight personal injury crash in the area where St Helen’s Park Road merges with Downs Road. This was attributed to a rear-end shunt and did not involve pedestrians or children. This is shown at Appendix B.

2.3. There is an authorised School Crossing Patrol site, funded by East Sussex County Council, operating on St Helen’s Park Road just to the south of this location. However, the post has been vacant since February 2019. ARK Blacklands Primary Academy has been advertising the post but there have been no applications to date. If a formal pedestrian crossing were to be installed, the site may no longer qualify for a funded School Crossing Patrol.

2.4. Speed data was collected from the site between 6 and 14 September 2019. This indicated that the average speed of traffic was recorded at 23mph (85th percentile speed of 29mph) for southbound traffic and 26mph (85th percentile speed of 33mph) for northbound traffic.

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 considered for funding through our Capital Programme for Transport Improvements. The request for a pedestrian crossing was previously assessed to determine if it might be a priority for further consideration and did not meet the benchmark score. Following receipt of the petition, the proposal was reassessed by the Strategic Economic Infrastructure Team. The proposal has now met the benchmark score due to the potential impact that a crossing facility could have to the indicated crash record and has been put forward for Detailed Appraisal.

2.6. Detailed appraisals are currently being undertaken on the 76 sites that have met the benchmark score for possible inclusion within a future Capital Programme for Transport Improvements. Following completion of these appraisals the scheme will be ranked by their relative priority to identify which should be progressed through design to implementation. The draft Capital Programme for Transport Improvements for 2020/2021 will be considered for approval at the Lead Member for Transport and Environment meeting in March 2020.

2.7. Should the request for a pedestrian crossing not be included in the Capital Programme for Transport Improvements it could be considered in the event that external funding becomes available for example through a successful application made to the Community Match initiative.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. It is recommended that the Lead Member for Communities and Safety advises petitioners that the request for a pedestrian crossing has been put through to the detailed appraisal stage of the Capital Programme for Transport Improvements. The draft Programme for 2020/21 will be considered for approval at the Lead Member for Transport and Environment meeting in March 2020.

3.2. Depending on the outcome of the Lead Member for Transport and Environment meeting in March 2020 the petitioners may wish to consider taking a potential scheme forward through Community Match. In order to determine what measures could be suitable at St Helen's Park Road prior to a full Community Match application they would need to commission a Feasibility Study at a cost of £500 plus VAT. It is suggested that the residents contact Hastings Borough Council (HBC) to ascertain whether they would be interested in supporting a scheme to try and influence traffic conditions in this road. A feasibility study would help to identify possible improvements and provide an estimate of what they might cost.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Clarke
Councillor Daniel.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None