

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of Meeting: 28 September 2020

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Alexandra Park shared pedestrian and cycle route, Hastings

Purpose: To consider responses received to the advertisement of the Notice to convert existing footways on Dordrecht Way to shared use associated with the scheme

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Note the responses received to the Notice to convert existing footways on Dordrecht Way to shared use as part of the Alexandra Park shared pedestrian and cycle scheme; and**
 - (2) Agree that the shared pedestrian and cycle route within Alexandra Park and on Dordrecht Way, as set out in the Notice, should be taken forward to construction as part of the 2020/21 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements subject to any delivery risks and delays arising from the current COVID-19 pandemic**
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1. Background Information

1.1 East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is promoting a shared pedestrian and cycle route within Alexandra Park. The facility will form one of the principal routes identified in the Hastings Walking and Cycling Strategy approved by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment on 15 September 2014. The Strategy focuses on identifying a borough-wide network of cycle routes which will be developed and delivered using funding from various sources including Local Growth Fund monies secured through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SE LEP), the County Council's capital programme for local transport improvements and development contributions.

1.2 At the Lead Member decision-making meetings on 20 March 2017 and 18 June 2018 (to review an alternative alignment along St. Helens Road) officers presented reports setting out a proposed route alignment to run through both the Upper and Lower sections of Alexandra Park. The Lead Member approved the recommendation for the scheme to progress through to detailed design and construction as part of a future Capital Programme of Transport Improvements.

1.3 In October 2019 the County Council declared a Climate Emergency and set a target of achieving carbon neutrality from its activities as soon as possible and in any event by 2050, in line with the target agreed by Central Government in 2019. The Alexandra Park proposal will help to contribute towards achieving such targets by promoting sustainable modes of travel to access local services and amenities.

1.4 The route also contributes to the County Council's core priority of 'delivering sustainable economic growth' through the delivery of sustainable transport measures.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Following the Lead Member's approval in March 2017, the scheme was progressed to detailed design and construction, and a Stage 2 Road Safety Audit was conducted on the final design to consider the safety of all users.

2.2 In order to implement the route the existing footways along Dordrecht Way, which will become part of the proposed shared route, required a Notice to be advertised. Once works are complete, an Order will be advertised to convert the public footpaths at the western end of the upper park to cycle track to enable the entire route to be introduced through the park. Plans showing the extent of the sections of footway and footpath proposed to be converted is at Appendix 1.

2.3 The Notice to convert existing footways on Dordrecht Way to shared use (in accordance with The Highways Act 1980 - Section 65 and 66) was advertised on Friday 28 February 2020. It was advertised via Notices and Plans displayed on site with copies of these placed on deposit in ESCC Reception, County Hall and Hastings Library, Claremont Road, Hastings. The documentation was also available to view on East Sussex Highways website. County Councillors Godfrey Daniel and Martin Clarke, as well as the Borough Councillors for Silverhill and St Helens wards were advised of this Notice. A copy of the Notice is in Appendix 2.

2.4 Six comments were received in response to the advertisement of the Notice, two of which were objections to the proposal. A summary of the comments received, and a proposed response is set out in Appendix 3. The comments primarily related to conflict between cyclists and pedestrians and the safety of all users crossing Dordrecht Way close to the junction with St Helens Road. As part of the design process, a Stage 2 Safety Audit was conducted which did not identify any concerns in relation to this issue, and all comments made within the audit have been reflected in the final design. Should Lead Member agree with suggested recommendation, the scheme will also be subject to a post-implementation safety audit and Hastings Borough Council have agreed to monitor the use of the route using their existing park rangers.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 Following the Lead Member's decisions in March 2017 and June 2018 that the proposed shared pedestrian and cycle facility in Alexandra Park be progressed to detailed design and construction, following local consultation and a review of alternative alignment options along St. Helens Road the associated Orders have been advertised for the conversion of existing footways to a shared pedestrian and cycle facility. Whilst two objections have been submitted on safety grounds, the scheme has been subject to a thorough detailed safety audit to ensure all users are safe to use the facility and, in addition, the route will be monitored and enforced by Hastings Borough Council post-implementation.

3.2 The Lead Member for Transport and Environment is therefore recommended, for the reasons set out in this report, not to uphold the objections to the Notice to convert the existing footway along Dordrecht Way to a shared route as advertised, and to agree that the scheme progresses as advertised and is constructed as part of the Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements subject to any delivery risks and delays arising from the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Godfrey Daniel and Councillor Martin Clarke

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

[LMTE 20 March 2017](#)

[LMTE 18 June 2018](#)