

Report to: **Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**

Date of meeting: **19 October 2015**

By: **Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Title: **Petition for Safe and Accessible Pavements in Ashford Road, Hastings**

Purpose: **To consider a petition presented by Councillor Andrew Batsford for the resurfacing of pavements in Ashford Road, Hastings.**

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Advise the petitioners that their request for the full resurfacing of the pavements in the Ashford Road area has been assessed by the local Highway Steward and maintenance engineers;**
 - (2) Advise the petitioners that the condition of the pavements in Ashford Road does not warrant whole scale replacement at this time; and**
 - (3) Reassure the petitioners that the area concerned will continue to be inspected by the local Highway Steward and that all defects will continue to be repaired in accordance with the existing County Council highway maintenance policy.**
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1. Background Information

1.1 In March 2014 the Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered a proposal to alter the footway intervention levels within the Highways Maintenance Policy to reduce the likelihood of trips and falls in certain areas of the County. This debate was triggered by a request for pavements in the Ashford Road / Ashford Way area to be replaced in recognition of the predominantly elderly population who live in and around Ashford Road. The Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the matter, but was resolved not to recommend a change to the existing policy due to the following:

- the County Council maintenance policy ensures a consistent approach to maintenance is applied to all users and to all parts of the County;
- there was insufficient substantive evidence that a change of policy would be significantly beneficial;
- it was recognised that trips and falls are treated very seriously by the County Council, however they form a very small percentage of the overall identified footway defects; and
- that, (given the discretion afforded to the Highway Stewards in monitoring and giving effect to the existing policy) and the significant additional costs, the Committee was not minded to recommend any policy change.

1.2 In June 2015 Councillor Hodges, Councillor Batsford and several local residents accompanied the local Highway Steward on an inspection of Ashford Road. During this

inspection, four minor defects were identified in accordance with the existing County Council maintenance policy, and were subsequently repaired.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 The Highway Steward and highway maintenance engineers have noted that the pavements along Ashford Road are in a serviceable condition and do not require whole scale replacement at this time.

2.2 The pavements in question will continue to be monitored closely by the Highway Steward and any defects which are considered to be a danger to the public, based on the location and anticipated deterioration rate, will be escalated for further intervention in accordance with the maintenance policy.

2.3 The highways Asset Management team have carried out a preliminary condition survey across the pavement network of East Sussex and identified those in need of repair. Work is underway to determine the level of investment required to bring pavements across the county up to an appropriate standard and to establish a long term, prioritised programme of maintenance, applied consistently and objectively across the County. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in early 2016.

2.4 The current budget for pavement repairs across East Sussex in 2015/16 is £600,000. By comparison, approximately £257,000 was spent on pavement maintenance works within the Borough of Hastings in 2014/15. This maintenance ranged from minor repairs to the removal of paving slabs and pavement resurfacing works. **See appendix 1.**

2.5 An assessment of the area concerned has been carried out by the local Highway Steward and maintenance engineers, and the cost of carrying out full resurfacing of the pavements from the top of Ashford Road to the junction with St Helens, is approximately £92,275. This equates to over 15% of the total annual footway maintenance budget.

2.6 There have been no recorded claims along Ashford Road in Hastings in relation to trips and falls within the last three years.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The request for the full resurfacing of pavements along Ashford Road in Hastings has been assessed by highway maintenance engineers, and the pavements are found to be in a serviceable condition and therefore do not warrant whole scale replacement at this time.

3.2 There has been significant investment in the maintenance of pavements throughout the Borough of Hastings, and where defects are identified, maintenance will continue to be carried out; the County Council maintenance policy ensures a consistent approach to maintenance is applied to all users and to all parts of the County.

3.3 It is therefore recommended that the Lead Member informs the petitioners that the request for the full resurfacing of pavements along Ashford Road will not be taken forward at this time, but that priorities for this road will be understood once the Asset Management footway plan has been completed.

3.4 In the meantime the local Highway Steward will continue to monitor the condition of the pavements in Ashford Road, and any defects that meet with the County Council policy will be repaired.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None