

Committee	<b>Regulatory Planning Committee</b>
Date	<b>10 February 2016</b>
Report by	<b>Director of Communities, Economy and Transport</b>
Title of Report	<b>Traffic Regulation Order – Prohibition on stopping, school keep clear sign and motor vehicles - B2100 Wadhurst Road, Mark Cross</b>
Purpose	<b>To consider the objections received from one objector in response to the consultation on the draft Traffic Regulation Order that would introduce stopping, waiting, loading and unloading restrictions, and a prohibition of motor vehicles, as part of the proposed local safety improvement scheme in Wadhurst Road, Mark Cross</b>
Contact Officer:	<b>Andrew Keer – 01273 336682</b>
Local Member:	<b>Councillor Whetstone</b>

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Planning Committee is recommended to:**

- 1. Not uphold the objections set out in Appendix 2 to this Report that were received from one objector concerning the draft Traffic Regulation Order to introduce stopping, waiting, loading and unloading restrictions and a prohibition of motor vehicles; and**
  - 2. Recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the Order be made as advertised.**
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## **CONSIDERATION BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Rotherfield Parish Council is concerned about the existing arrangements of the northern junction of the A267/B2100 (Wadhurst Road) in Mark Cross, which incorporates a slip road for southbound vehicles leaving the A267. The Parish Council feels that these arrangements encourage drivers to leave the A267 at speed and enter Wadhurst Road, in the vicinity of Mark Cross Primary School, without slowing down. Whilst modification of the junction configuration was not of sufficient priority to be funded by the County Council through its capital programme, the Parish Council applied to the County Council's Community Match Initiative programme in June 2014, seeking match funding for a revised junction layout to be designed and constructed by the County Council. At his decision-making meeting on 10 November 2014, the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment resolved to allocate £10,000 of match funding to this community led transport improvement. This scheme, which includes the closure of the slip-road to motor vehicles, requires a prohibition of motor vehicles and other restrictions to be introduced.

1.2 On Friday 27 November 2015, ESCC gave notice under the relevant sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (as amended), that it was proposing to make a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce waiting, loading and unloading restrictions, and a prohibition of motor vehicles in the B2100 Wadhurst Road slip road. At the request of the County Council's Traffic & Safety Section, a School Keep Clear – No Stopping or Waiting restriction was also included in the draft Traffic Regulation Order to make the school keep clear zig zag markings outside Mark Cross Primary School legally enforceable (in line with policy at other East Sussex schools). A copy of the draft

Traffic Regulation Order, a plan showing the location of the new restrictions and a copy of the Statement of Reasons are included in Appendix 1.

1.3 Prior to the advertisement of the draft Traffic Regulation Order, ESCC consulted with its statutory consultees. No objections to the proposals were received during this consultation.

1.4 The public consultation on the draft Traffic Regulation Order closed on Friday 18 December 2015. One response was received. A summary of the objections and officer comments are set out in Appendix 2. A full copy of the representation is available in the Members' Room.

## **2. COMMENTS AND APPRAISAL**

2.1 The respondent to the draft Traffic Regulation Order objects to the proposed No Waiting or Loading and Unloading "At Any Time" restriction around the widened entrance at the A267/B2100 junction on the grounds that this will cause parking difficulties for parents attending Mark Cross Primary School and Brandywell Nursery. The purpose of the proposed double yellow lines at this location is to improve road safety by ensuring that clear visibility is maintained at all times for drivers using this junction and to ensure that the Brandywell Nursery entrance is kept clear at all times. The introduction of restrictions will not have an impact on parent parking. It is not proposed therefore to uphold this objection.

2.2 The respondent objects to the proposed "No Stopping and Waiting" restrictions for the School Keep Clear markings on the grounds that these will cause parking difficulties for parents and delivery drivers at Mark Cross Primary School and Brandywell Nursery. The current School Keep Clear road markings on the B2100 outside Mark Cross Primary School are placed there to advise motorists not to wait or park there for the safety of children. The Order will make parking on the markings a specific and endorsable offence, thereby discouraging parking outside the school entrance. Whilst those parents who currently choose to stop on the School Keep Clear markings may now need to park further away from the school, it is considered that the proposed restrictions are necessary on road safety grounds. The impact on delivery vehicles was considered during the design stage, however the benefits of the Order to road and pedestrian safety were considered to outweigh the potential inconvenience caused to delivery drivers. It is not proposed therefore to uphold this objection.

2.3 The respondent further objects to the proposed "Prohibition of Motor Vehicles" that will enable the slip road to be closed at its northern extent, on the grounds that this will cause issues for vehicles (and in particular, large vehicles) making the turn into the northern junction of the A267/B2100. The purpose of closing the slip road is to reduce the speeds of southbound vehicles exiting the A267 onto the B2100. By directing vehicles to use the existing junction located just south of the slip road, vehicle speeds will be reduced with an associated reduction in risk to school, nursery children, and, other pedestrians. Two advance warning signs will be installed to advise drivers of heavy goods vehicles that this turning would be unsuitable for their vehicles. It is not proposed therefore to uphold this objection.

2.4 The respondent also asked for clarification as to why August is the only time when the School Keep Clear restrictions will not apply. The respondent has been advised that this is the only complete month when there is no school attendance and that it would not be possible to include specific school holiday dates within the Order as these dates vary each year and that there would be insufficient space on the upright road sign adjacent to the road markings to accommodate the text.

## **3. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR APPROVAL**

3.1 This local safety improvement scheme, which has been developed through the Community Match Initiative at the request of Rotherfield Parish Council, aims to improve road safety in Wadhurst Road, in particular outside Mark Cross Primary School. The proposed restrictions around the redesigned junction are necessary to ensure that drivers exiting the A267 are able to do so in safety and to ensure that access is maintained to Brandywell Nursery at all times. The proposed introduction of restrictions to enable the enforcement of the School Keep Clear markings is required for the safety of children and brings this location in line with other schools in East Sussex.

3.2 The Planning Committee is therefore recommended, for the reasons set out in this report, not to uphold the objections (set out in Appendix 2) to the proposed draft Traffic Regulation Order and to recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the Order be made as advertised.

RUPERT CLUBB  
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport  
02 February 2016

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

**The East Sussex (B2100 Wadhurst Road, Mark Cross)  
(Prohibition of Stopping and Waiting on School Keep Clear Markings,  
Prohibition of Waiting and  
Loading and Prohibition of Motor Vehicles) Order 201\***

**STATEMENT OF REASONS**

The County Council's reasons for proposing the above named Order is;

1) For the Prohibition of Stopping and Waiting on School Keep Clear Markings, Waiting and Loading because proposals are currently being prepared to make improvements to the junction A267 Tunbridge Wells Road with the B2100 in Mark Cross. Among the improvements the introduction of parking/stopping/loading restrictions are being promoted, in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, for the purposes of:

(i) Providing good visibility for drivers and pedestrians directly outside the primary school by installing a legally enforceable 'keep clear' parking restriction. The existing 'keep clear' zig-zag roadmarking does not meet the criteria set out in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (2002) publication, nor is there an accompanying sign erected nearby setting out the times that the parking restrictions are in place. These two factors currently make this an implied parking restriction rather than an enforceable one. It is the Parish Council's wish to make this enforceable.

(ii) Providing good visibility for drivers and pedestrians, and maintaining driveway access for residents by implementing parking restrictions on and around the junction.

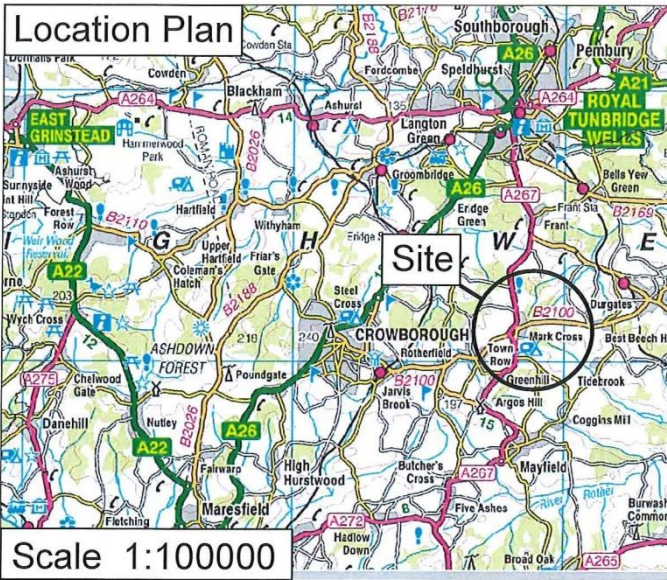
2) For the Prohibition of Motor Vehicles the improvement works to the junction A267 Tunbridge Wells Road with the B2100 in Mark Cross are programmed to commence in January 2016, subject to no objections being upheld. The duration of the works is to be 3 weeks. Proposals are currently being prepared to make improvements to the junction A267 Tunbridge Wells Road with the B2100 in Mark Cross. Among the improvements the blocking off of the existing slip road is being promoted, in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, for the purposes of:

(i) Improving road safety in front of the primary school. At present some southbound traffic on the A267 using the slip road to turn into the B2100 approach the area in front of the school at a higher speed than that which is considered appropriate. Matters are made somewhat worse by the fact that both this section of the A267 and the slip road are on downhill gradients.

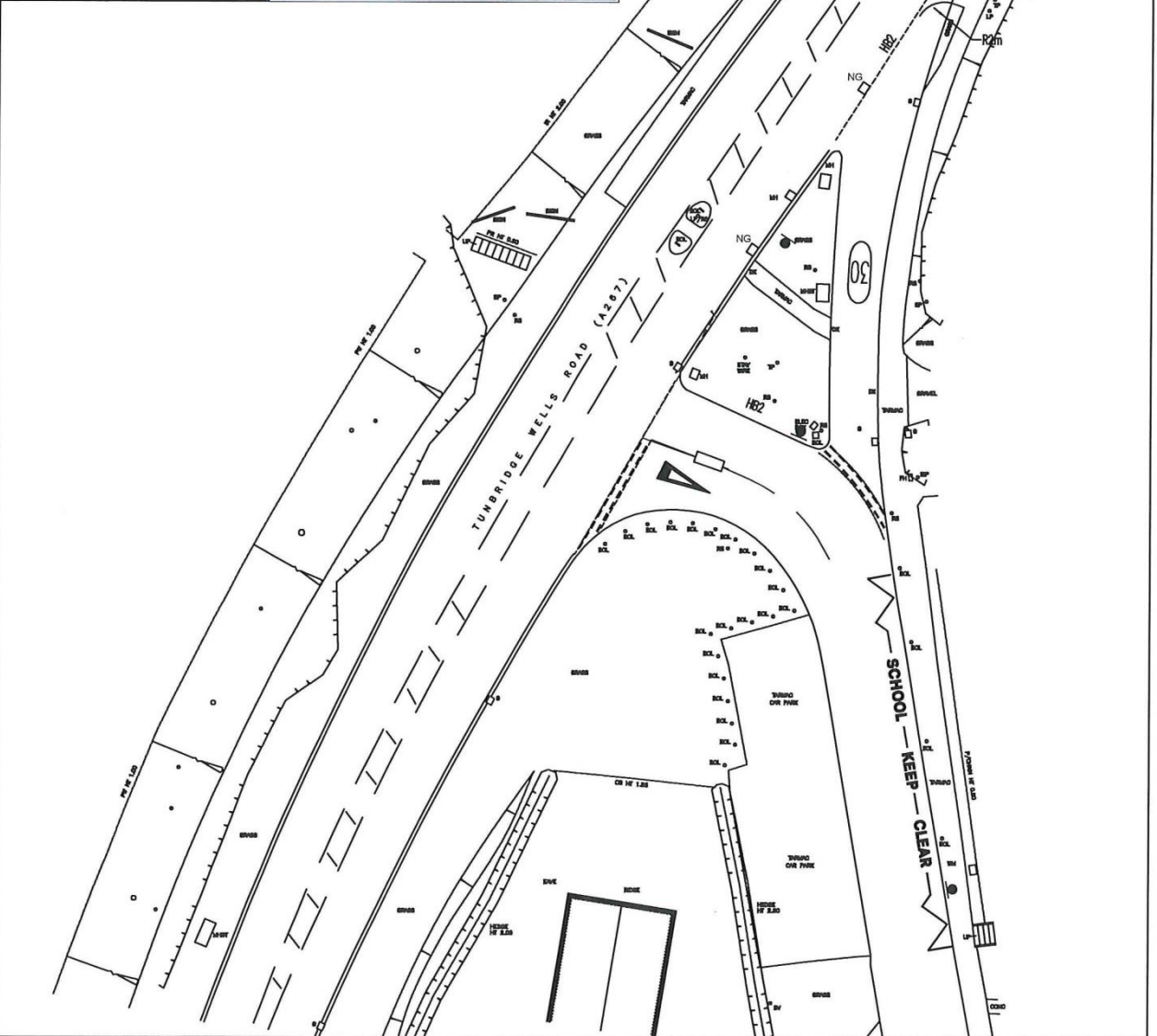
The improvement works to the junction A267 Tunbridge Wells Road with the B2100 in Mark Cross are programmed to commence in February 2016, subject to no objections being upheld. The duration of the works is to be 3 weeks.

**Philip Baker, Assistant Chief Executive,  
Governance Services Department, County Hall, Lewes,  
East Sussex BN7 1UE**

**Location Plan**



Scale 1:100000



Scale 1:500

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 Director of Communities,  
 Transport and Environment  
 East Sussex County Council

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 East Sussex County Council, 100019601, 2015

## **Appendix 2: Summary of Objections**

<b>OBJECTION</b>	<b>OFFICER COMMENTS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
<p>The proposed No Waiting or Loading and Unloading “At Any Time” restriction around the widened entrance at the A267/B2100 junction will cause parking difficulties for parents attending Mark Cross Primary School and Brandywell Nursery.</p>	<p>The purpose of the proposed double yellow lines at this location is to improve road safety by ensuring that clear visibility is maintained at all times for drivers using this junction and, in particular, to ensure drivers exiting the A267 are not impeded by parked cars. The proposed double yellow lines extend around the access point to Brandywell Nursery in order to ensure that this entrance is kept clear at all times. The current arrangement of the slip road in this area means that vehicles tend not to wait here as they would be causing an obstruction and therefore the introduction of restrictions will not have an impact on parent parking.</p>	<p>To implement the Order as advertised</p>
<p>The proposed “No Stopping and Waiting” restrictions for the School Keep Clear markings will cause parking difficulties for parents attending Mark Cross Primary School and Brandywell Nursery.</p>	<p>The current School Keep Clear road markings on the B2100 outside Mark Cross Primary School are placed there to advise motorists not to wait or park there for the safety of children. Waiting or parking on these markings is not a specific offence (although Sussex Police have always been able to issue tickets on the grounds of causing an obstruction to either motorists or pedestrians) and some parents are currently choosing to park on them whilst dropping off or collecting children. The purpose of introducing the proposed No Stopping and Waiting order for the School Keep Clear markings is to bring this location in line with other schools in East Sussex by making parking on the markings a specific and endorsable offence, thereby discouraging parking outside the school entrance. Whilst those parents who currently choose to stop on the School Keep Clear markings may now need to park further away from the school, it is</p>	<p>To implement the Order as advertised</p>

	<p>considered that the proposed restrictions are necessary on road safety grounds. The impact on delivery vehicles was considered during the design stage, however the benefits of the Order to road and pedestrian safety were considered to outweigh the potential inconvenience caused to delivery drivers.</p>	
<p>The proposed “Prohibition of Motor Vehicles” that will enable the slip road to be closed at its northern extent, on the grounds that this will cause issues for vehicles (and in particular, large vehicles) making the turn into the northern junction of the A267/B2100.</p>	<p>The purpose of closing the slip road is to reduce the speeds of southbound vehicles exiting the A267 onto the B2100. Currently, drivers are able to leave the A267 at speed in the vicinity of Brandywell Nursery and Mark Cross Primary. By directing vehicles to use the existing junction located just south of the slip road, vehicle speeds will be reduced with an associated reduction in risk to school and nursery children and other pedestrians. The proposed turn in radius at this junction will be altered to assist southbound vehicles exiting the A267 to turn onto the B2100 safely. Two advance warning signs will be installed to advise drivers of heavy goods vehicles that this turning would be unsuitable for their vehicles.</p>	<p>To implement the Order as advertised</p>