

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 11TH MARCH 2008

PETITION REQUESTING TO INVESTIGATE VARIOUS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN SEAL HOLLOW ROAD, SEVENOAKS

Report of the: West Kent Divisional Manager

Status: For Consideration

Chairman Cllr James London

Head of Service Head of Transportation & Planning – Mr Ray Dines

Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that:

- (a) Members note the progress made on the investigation; and
- (b) the proposed strategy for taking the project forward.

Background

- 1 A petition has been received from the local residents who are concerned about the general safety of vehicles and pedestrians movements on Seal Hollow Road.

Introduction

- 2 In accordance with protocols on the receipt of petitions, the Board is informed that a petition has been received from the residents of The Paddocks, Hillside Road and Seal Hollow Road. The petition has 19 signatures.
- 3 The petition will be available to the Board for inspection and concerns the increase in vehicle traffic and the speed at which it travels through particularly the narrow section of Seal Hollow Road at Knole Park. At this point the width of the carriageway is constrained by the stone walls on either side. The petition also requests for a formal pedestrian crossing at the junction of Bayham Road.

Discussion

- 4 KHS undertook an informal site check to address the issues raised by the residents in the petition and the observations are as follows:

There is sufficient existing signing and road marking to give information to drivers to warn of the narrow section of Seal Hollow Road and to slow vehicle speed. KHS is aware that Seal Hollow Road is used by the locals and workers travelling to and from work in the Town Centre to avoid queues at the Bat & Ball junction.

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Also an informal site check of 21st February 2008 confirms that the request for a formal crossing at the junction of Bayham Road as it has been suggested in the petition does not meet the design criteria. It is not possible to provide sufficient visibility for a safe crossing to be constructed within the existing extents of the highway. The criteria to introduce a formal crossing (such as Zebra) ensure a driver approaching the crossing has a clear view of it and any pedestrians.

During a period of an hour on site after 9 O'clock in the morning, there were two pedestrians seen to cross Seal Hollow Road near the junction of Bayham Road.

A detailed examination of the crash history reveals that there have been a total of seven injury related crashes in Seal Hollow Road in the three years up to 30th November 2007. All crashes are classified as 'slight' but only one is reported as 'serious'. Two crashes involved pedestrians in which a school boy was pushed on the carriageway whilst playing along with other children on his way to the local school and in the other instance a pedestrian stepped on the carriageway in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

Only one crash was attributed to excessive speed and the rest of the crashes were due to driver error.

The existing speed limit on Seal Hollow Road is 30 mph due to the presence of a street lighting system. The crash record allows a mobile camera to be deployed in this road; it became operational in July 2006. The extent of the mobile camera site is between the junctions with The Paddocks and the A25, Seal Road.

Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 5 Any action or works arising from the proposed investigations would need to be evaluated and prioritised in the context of other schemes and funded from the Local Transport Plan.

Legal Implications

- 6 The matters raised in the petition are matters to be dealt with by local highway authority.

Sources of Information: Petition from the residents of the side roads of Seal Hollow Road, Local Transport Note 2/ 95 – The design of pedestrian crossings

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