

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 7 OCTOBER 2008

**PETITION REQUESTING TO INVESTIGATE VARIOUS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
IN SEAL HOLLOW ROAD**

Report of the: Local Transport & Development Manager
 (Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells)

Status: For Consideration

Chairman Mr David Brazier

Head of Service Head of Transportation & Planning – Mr David Hall

Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that Members note:

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

Background

- 1 A report was presented to the Board on 11th March 2008. This resulted from a petition from local residents about the general highway safety resulting from pedestrian and vehicular movement on Seal Hollow Road.
- 2 At that meeting, Members requested that officers investigate possible remedial measures to improve the safety of pedestrians and vehicles travelling along Seal Hollow Road and in due course, report back to the Board. There were also concerns related to the apparent high number HGVs using Seal Hollow Road.
- 3 However Members were updated by officers at the last meeting and continued to express their concerns again and suggested various measures to improve the traffic flow especially at the 'hole in the wall'. At the meeting Cllr. Purves presented her evidence that included estimate times for pedestrian movement in relation to vehicle speeds. She suggested that a speed indicator device should slow down the speed of vehicles. From the Chair it was suggested that improved signing and lining may have the desired impact.

Progress

- 4 The site does not meet the criteria for an interactive speed camera according to the current guidance in justifying the crashes and the speed data.
- 5 There is a speed indicator device (SID) scheme going live shortly involving six signs being used on a monthly rotational basis at 24 sites in the County. Seal Hollow Road is not one of these. A second series of 24 sites is being

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considered for funding next year but as with the first 24 sites, crash records and speeds are considered as these signs are intended as crash reduction measures. KHS have requested the Kent & Medway Camera Partnership to investigate a possibility of a SID on Seal Hollow Road. This is only a temporary measure and not the answer to the problem.

- 6 If there is a clear evidence of speeding outside the camera zone or the area where the camera can safely operate then it is a matter for the local Police Commander to enforce the speed limit on Seal Hollow Road.
- 7 As a result it is proposed that KHS will improve the signing and road marking at approaches of the 'hole in the wall'. The new signs will be of the same description as the existing but on a grey backing board. The signs will be relocated to most suitable locations in order to make it visible to the drivers and highlighting the nature of the road ahead. Additional "SLOW" markings on the carriage way will also be part of the improvements and refreshing of existing road markings where necessary. There will also be new signs saying "Unsuitable for HGVs" at the top of Seal Hollow Road where it meets the High Street and Dartford Road.

Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 8 Any action or works arising from the proposed investigations will be carried out by the end of the current calendar year.

Sources of Information: Jacobs and KCC Road Safety Team

Contact Officer(s): Mr Aziz Jiwaji – 08458 247 800

DIRECTOR OF KENT HIGHWAY SERVICES Geoff Mee