

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 14 DECEMBER 2010

UPDATE HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD – ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Report of the: Director of Kent Highway Services

Status: For Consideration

Executive Summary: This report describes the outcome of the second consultation on road safety improvements in the vicinity of Anthony Roper School, Eynsford. Members are asked to consider whether to support the recommendations.

This report supports the Key Aim of Reducing speed, encouraging safer driving and tackling known speeding crash hotspots. Also improving pedestrian safety, including measures to improve access for people with disabilities as indicated in the Sevenoaks Community Plan.

Chairman Mr David Brazier

Head of Service KHS – Head of Transport & Development – Behdad Haratbar

Recommendations:

- 1) That Members endorse the scheme illustrated in Appendix B of Item 5 on the agenda.

Background and Discussion

- 1 Following consultation with the Parish Council, School, and the Local County Member the Scheme was redesigned as illustrated in Appendix B of Item 5 on the agenda. The proposal now focuses on a zebra crossing between the school entrances, instead of outside Alton Cottages.
- 2 Officers informally consulted on the new proposal in November 2010. The closing date for comments was December 8. Approximately 170 informal consultation letters were delivered to residents in the immediate vicinity and a total of 27 responses were received (16% return).
- 3 Funding for the scheme is included in the 2010/11 Integrated Transport Programme.

Results of the Residents Consultation

- 4 When residents were asked if they were in favour of the general principal of the proposal 12 residents clearly stated they were in support, 6 residents stated they would not support the proposal in any form, and 9 made no comment either way.
- 5 When residents were asked if they felt the crossing was located in the best position 12 residents clearly stated it was, 2 residents stated it was not and 13 made no comment either way.
- 6 When residents were asked if they agreed with the extent of yellow lining 19 clearly stated they were not, 3 stated they were and 5 made no comment either way.
- 7 The comments received in regards the proposal outlined in Appendix B of Item 5 on the Agenda are summarised as follows:
 - Crossing will slow traffic down on both approaches.
 - Crossing will provide better access for those approaching from both directions.
 - Zebra crossing will have a minimal detrimental effect on residents.
 - Restricted parking will encourage more people to walk to school.
 - Residents will be able to walk along the pavement on the Fernbank side of the road without being blocked by parked vehicles.
 - Concerns over the displacement of parking particularly to Old Mill Close, Priory Lane and further south of the zebra crossing. A particular concern was raised in regards to vehicles parking on both sides of the road south of the crossing where there are no restrictions.
 - Vehicles parking on the pavement in front of Alton Cottages will block the pavement and force pedestrians approaching from Farningham and Mill Close to walk in the road. The pavement on the Fernbank side of the road is wider as there is a grass verge behind.
 - Residents of Fernbank are at a higher level and would not see vehicles parked in front of property.
 - Residents of Fernbank currently park in front of property while those living in Alton cottages do not.
 - Waiting restriction in front of Fernbank would leave little need for a crossing.
 - Restrictions in front of Fernbank would cause vehicles to park on the grass verge behind the restrictions.

- Already limited parking for residents and visitors.
- Concerns that parked vehicles will prevent larger vehicles (particularly emergency services) entering Priory Lane, Mill Close and passing through the High Street south of the crossing.
- Concerns over vehicles driving along the pavement in order to allow traffic to flow freely.
- Parking already acts as effective traffic calming measure.
- Concerns regarding vehicles parking on the narrowest part of Priory Lane.
- Vehicles parking on the pavement will block the pavement and force pedestrians to walk in the road.
- Pedestrians approaching from Farningham will already be on the correct side of the road and those approaching from Eynsford are able to use the existing school crossing patrol.
- Concerns regarding the enforcement of parking restrictions.

8 Alternative suggestions by residents:

- Consider extending yellow lines on one side of the road south of the zebra crossing.
- Consider implementing the single yellow lines in front of Alton Cottages or alternatively on both sides of the road.
- Single yellow lines to the north of the crossing should be implemented on both sides of the road.
- School re-open car park and additional car parking be provided on school land.
- Locate the zebra crossing outside the Five Bells public house.
- Consider a 20mph speed limit on both approaches to the school accompanied by speed cameras.
- Use internally lit columns instead of additional street lights.

Conclusions

- 9 The revised crossing location is supported by the Parish Council, Local County Member and the school Head Teacher. Of those residents that responded to the second consultation the majority either supported the proposed crossing location or offered no adverse comment.

- 10 Most of the adverse comments related to the associated waiting restrictions that will be subject to a formal consultation as part of the Traffic Regulation procedure.
- 11 Any formal objections received as part of this process would be considered at the next meeting of the JTB and the scope of these restrictions could be reduced without prejudicing the implementation of the crossing.
- 12 In light of the above Members are asked to agree the recommendations.

Sources of Information: None

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