

North Mid Sussex County Local Committee	Ref No: NMS02 (19/20)
A22 Lewes Road, East Grinstead Pedestrian Crossing	Key Decision: No
25 June 2019	Part I
Report by Director of Highways, Transport and Planning	Electoral Division: East Grinstead South & Ashurst Wood

Summary

The scheme was identified by Sackville School as there has been significant concern from the school community, as part of the journey to school for many children, involves crossing the A22. The school community is supported by the Local Member who has secured funding for the proposed implementation of a formalised crossing on Lewes Road in East Grinstead.

Following a public consultation a number of objections were received from members of the public. These have been summarised, with related officer comments, in Appendix B to this report. During the formal consultation there were also over 60 letters of support received

Recommendation

That the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee, having considered that the resulting benefits to the community outweigh the objections raised, authorises the Director of Law and Assurance to make the order as advertised and install the pedestrian crossing and associated new cycleway.

Proposal

1. Background and Context

- 1.1. The scheme was identified by Sackville School as there has been significant concern from the school community, as part of the journey to school for many children, involves crossing the A22, a main road in and out of East Grinstead. The school have identified that although there is an underpass school children feel vulnerable using the facility and prefer to cross the A22 at the current centre refuge. In addition the subway does not meet the requirements to facilitate cycling and thus there is a requirement to provide a facility for cyclists to cross the A22. The school community is supported by the Local Member who has secured funding for the proposed implementation of a formalised crossing on Lewes Road in East Grinstead.

- 1.2. The proposed pedestrian crossing location will be sited 30m to the east of the junction with Bourge-De-Peage Avenue, and approximately 60m to the west of Herontye Drive, which is on the desire line for the majority of pedestrians and cyclists. The crossing will replace the current centre refuge which is the current preferred crossing location. The proposed scheme will significantly improve the journey to and from school by improving safety and access for sustainable travel.
- 1.3. The current footway between the proposed crossing, the school entrance and Herontye Drive will be upgraded to a shared use path and the crossing will be installed as a Toucan crossing, which allows cyclist and pedestrians to use the facility.
- 1.4. This location will provide a formalised clear crossing place primarily for access to the school but will also offer wider community benefits in a busy road environment. Lewes Road is a key access road into the town.
- 1.5. The proposed improvement will be funded from S106 monies.
- 1.6. The crossing will be 4.0 meters wide and will incorporate dropped kerbs and tactile paving. There will be six poles used with beeper units that will be active during the hours of 7AM and 10PM. Kerb side detection would prevent vehicles being stopped if the pedestrian crosses or changes their mind prior to obtaining a green man signal, to cross. When operated, tactile cones would activate to indicate to pedestrians with visual impairment that all traffic has been signalled to stop.
- 1.7. A scheme overview is provided as Appendix A.
- 1.8. Following a public consultation a number of objections were received from members of the public. These have been summarised, with related officer comments, in Appendix B to this report.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed to install a controlled Toucan Crossing and a new stretch of shared use path at the location identified in section 1.2 in Lewes Road as designed.
- 2.2 The proposal will address concerns raised by the community regarding difficulties in crossing Lewes Road.
- 2.3 The proposal will give pedestrians and cyclists wishing to cross the road at this location a safer method to do so.

3. Resources

- 3.1 The scheme is in the Highways and Transport Integrated Forward Works and Annual Delivery Programmes 2019/20 ref HI03(19/20) approved by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure April 2019 with an allocated budget of £125,000.

- 3.2 The annual maintenance cost is estimated at £1,500 per year. This is currently unfunded and implementing this scheme may impact upon the Council's ability to deliver other revenue funded works.
- 3.3 The scheme's implementation will address community concerns identified in section 1.1 of this report.
- 3.4 The works will be undertaken by the County Council's term contractor to achieve best value for money.

Factors taken into account

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Formal consultation was undertaken between 25 February 2019 and 8 March 2019 by way of Site Notices on the County Council website and also erected on the proposed location and letters in envelopes marked "Consultation Document" hand delivered to all frontages and affected properties/residences.
- 4.2 Local Member Jacquie Russell was consulted and gave permission to advertise the scheme.
- 4.3 Mid-Sussex District Council, East Grinstead Town Council, local bus operators, and the emergency services were consulted and raised no objections.
- 4.4 Public notices were issued on site, and an advertisement made in East Grinstead Library. Online consultation was also undertaken on the County Council website. Forty four objections were received raising concerns over the crossing location with particular reference to the proximity of an underpass. These are detailed with responses in Appendix B.

5. Risk Management Implications

- 5.1 Should the proposed scheme be undertaken, then the risk to the County Council is limited; conversely if it is not made it is likely to have negative consequences in terms of the continuation of road safety concerns by residents of East Grinstead.
- 5.2 The scheme is likely to achieve a safe crossing point for pedestrians and have a positive influence on driver behaviours in this section of Lewes Road.
- 5.3 The revenue maintenance costs of the scheme are unfunded and maintaining this installation may result in other revenue activities being under funded.

6. Other Options Considered

- 6.1 There is an existing dropped kerb and centre refuge uncontrolled crossing point in Lewes Road at the proposed location, however due to its width and the volume of traffic, it is not suitable to remain as an uncontrolled crossing.

- 6.2 There is an underpass approximately 100m to the west of the proposed location; however people are not permitted to cycle through it. Additionally concerns were raised regarding safety of children and the distance away from the current desire line.
- 6.3 Due to the reluctance of pedestrians, especially school children, to utilise the underpass and the desire line it was decided that the proposed location is the only suitable and safe location for the crossing to be installed.

7. Equality Duty

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 bans unfair treatment and seeks equal opportunities in the workplace and in wider society. It also imposes a Public Sector Equality Duty. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2 The protected characteristics have been duly considered and assessed in the course of the consideration of this proposal. No relevant or disproportionate impact upon any of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 has been identified in the consideration of the proposals detailed in this report.

8. Social Value

- 8.1 The proposals will address concerns from the community as detailed in 1.1, giving a social benefit to those living there.

Matt Davey
Director of Highways,
Transport and Planning

Contact: Adam Norris, Project Manager, 033 022 26379

Appendices

- Appendix A – Scheme Overview Plan
- Appendix B – Consultation response summary
- Appendix C – Location Map including Subway location