

To: Tonbridge & Malling Joint Transportation Board

By: Tim Read, Head of Transportation

Date: 17th March 2014

Subject: B245 London Road Junction with Dry Hill Park Road – Pedestrian Crossing Improvements

Classification: For decision

Summary: This report seeks to finalise options to install improved pedestrian crossing facilities at the junction of the B245 London Road with Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge.

1 B245 LONDON ROAD JUNCTION WITH DRY HILL PARK ROAD – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

1.1 Progress to Date

- 1.1.1 A number of different proposals have been considered for this site, these have been previously reported to this board.
- 1.1.2 An options report was commissioned. This was intended to review all previous options with the exception of the full signalisation scheme. The review was due, largely to on-going requests for pedestrian crossing improvements from Tonbridge School and also in light of recent changes to the guidance for setting local speed limits as of January 2013.
- 1.1.3 The options report identified four options
- Do nothing – the current safety record does not indicate a pedestrian concern, there are already pedestrian facilities in the vicinity, though these are slightly off of the desire line. Pedestrians make the decision on when it is safe to cross.
 - Zebra crossing with banned left turn – This may be unpopular with local residents, is not supported by Kent Police and removes some responsibility from the pedestrians.
 - Pedestrian refuge with banned left turn – This would be unpopular with users of the sports facility. Large vehicles would not be able to turn left when leaving the sports grounds and would have to travel into Tonbridge to turn around, again Kent police did not support the banned left turn out of Dry Hill Park Road.

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- Variable speed limit – It is anticipated this would have little effect in addressing the excess approach speeds in the longer term.

1.2.4 The four options were discussed at the last meeting of the board and members resolved that officers would continue to work on solution based on a controlled pedestrian crossing.

1.2 Recent work undertaken

1.2.1 In order to progress the Zebra crossing option on the desire line, a Traffic Regulation Order was proposed and advertised in December 2013. This proposed TRO attracted 9 formal objections including one from Kent Police who did not support the proposal and felt it was unsafe given the approach speeds. In contrast five offers of support were received including one from Tonbridge School.

1.2.2 In light of the lack of support from Kent Police, a meeting was set up in late January between the 2 local County Members, Borough Councillors and officers. The various options were discussed and the technical difficulties and merits with each discussed. The meeting resolved that the only viable option, which would be satisfactory in terms of safety and usage was a Puffin type signal crossing, sited as close to the desire line as possible. County Members have offered a financial contribution from their Members Highway Fund budget.

1.2.3 In early February a site meeting was held between KCC Officers and representatives from Tonbridge School. Verbal agreement on a site for proposed Puffin Crossing was reached. Tonbridge School have since confirm their support in writing and offered a financial contribution towards the cost of the crossing

1.3 Officers recommendation

1.3.1 This site is complex and constrained. The various options previously discussed all have their merits and difficulties. On balance the proposed Puffin Crossing, whilst slightly off the desire line for those pedestrians accessing the sports centre from the Dry Hill Park Road direction still represents the best overall solution and for this reason Officers recommend that this option is progressed.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 None at this stage

1.5 Financial Considerations

1.5.1 The site currently has a good safety record, however it is clear there remains concern over the use of this site to access the school sports centre. In light of the additional financial support offered, and the likely usage of the site, it is considered this scheme does offer value for money, provided The Tonbridge School do encourage the use of the facility by their pupils.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 Not required

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 The Board **ENDORSES** the proposed way forward set out in the report.

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