
Wateringbury Crossroads - Consultation

To: **Tonbridge & Malling JTB, 26th November, 2018**

Main Portfolio Area:

By: Tim Read – Head of Transportation, KCC

Classification: **For Information**

Summary:

Kent County Council (KCC) is launching a consultation running from 5 December to 13 January 2019. The consultation will show two options to improve the crossroads in Wateringbury, A26 Tonbridge Road / Bow Road / Red Hill. The junction is used by vehicles aiming to travel between Maidstone, Tonbridge, Nettlestead and East Malling and a number of pedestrians accessing the local amenities.

1.0 Introduction and Background

Funding of £350,000 has been allocated from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) to improve the crossroads in Wateringbury to reduce Congestion.

Wateringbury Crossroads is a well-used traffic route and suffers from congestion which leads to pollution. There is limited road space available to make adjustments, but these options will improve capacity at the junction which should see traffic flow more smoothly. The scheme aims to maximise the potential of the available road-space while making improvements for pedestrians where possible.

KCC has highlighted a number of congestion hotspots in the county, including Wateringbury Crossroads, and has secured funding to improve them.

There are two options being proposed. Both improve capacity on the junction to allow traffic to flow more effectively while improving pedestrian crossing facilities.

Option A includes:

- A new dedicated right turn lane on the Tonbridge Road heading West towards the junction.
- A new dedicated left turn lane on the Bow Road heading North towards the junction. This will result in a narrower pavement.
- Using 0.5m of Parish land to widen the junction, allowing a vehicle to turn right into Bow Road without impeding the traffic behind.
- Pedestrian phases added to the two remaining arms of the crossing
- Improved traffic signal technology allowing 'reactive' management of the lights to optimise traffic flows.
- Re-surfacing of carriageway and footways.
- May result in the loss of three trees on the Tonbridge Road to accommodate widening. Can be mitigated with replacement tree planting.

Option B is the same as Option A except it does NOT include:

- A new dedicated left turn lane on the Bow Road heading North towards the junction. This will result in a narrower pavement.

Running the modelling for option A shows that there is a 50% increase in capacity. However, this would still leave the junction at -20% practical reserve capacity in the AM peak and -14% in the PM peak. Therefore after the changes are made the junction will be operating as efficiently as possible but is likely to remain congested at peak times – albeit less congested than the current situation.

KCC will also be asking for feedback on a proposed pedestrian crossing on Tonbridge Road near to the Parish Church of Saint John the Baptist.

An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to assess the possible impacts of this scheme on people with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010. The EqIA will be updated after the consultation to take into account any relevant information received. The EqIA can be viewed on our website and is available in hard copy on request (see details below).

The budget for this scheme is £350,000, which includes design, construction, other fees associated with the project. It is being funded by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership to tackle Congestion Hotspots in the county.

2.0 Consultation

KCC plan to hold two exhibition events in Watlingbury Village Hall.

KCC Officers will be available to answer any questions on:

Wednesday 12 December 4pm – 8pm

Wednesday 19 December 4pm – 7pm.

There will be a letter drop to all properties in Watlingbury, road signs and email notifications for the consultation. Feedback will be requested through an online questionnaire with paper copies available also.

The closing date for this consultation is midnight Sunday 13th January 2019.

Future Meeting if applicable: Future JTB for updates	Date: 11 th March, 2019
Contact Officer:	Tim Middleton, Principal Transport Planner, KCC
Reporting to:	Tim Read, Head of Transportation - KCC



