

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

11 November 2020

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 A229 BLUE BELL HILL JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT CONSULTATION

1.1 Summary: This report provides an overview to junction improvements on the A229 Blue Bell Hill and sets out the Borough Council's response to the consultation.

1.2 Overview

1.2.1 KCC published a consultation which sought views on three design options for the A229 Blue Bell Hill Junction Improvement Scheme. The consultation was open from 15 September to 19 October, due to the timing of this the response prepared by officers was approved by Cllr Lettington prior to submission [**Annex 1**].

1.2.2 This consultation is still available to [view online](#). This sets out the county council's initial proposals for improvements to the junctions on this important route that connects the M20 and M2.

1.2.3 The overall aim of the scheme is to improve journey time reliability and road safety. This will allow the road to accommodate an increase in future traffic, expected as a result of the Lower Thames Crossing and proposed local developments, while providing suitable routes and facilities for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists.

1.2.4 Three options were presented in the consultation for the improvement of the route which covers the Bridgewood, Taddington and Lord Lees roundabouts at junction 3 of the M2, which are situated in Tonbridge & Malling borough, and the Cobtree and Running Horse roundabouts at junction 6 of the M20 which are situated in Maidstone borough.

1.2.5 In responding a preference was expressed for option 2 on the basis that the enhanced arrangement at the Bridgewood Roundabout, could provide the most direct and convenient route for traffic routing eastbound on the M2 then southbound on the A229. Subject to detailed design this could also be less visually prominent than option 1 which bisects the Taddington Roundabout.

- 1.2.6 The A229 northbound to M2 westbound free flow link and additional southbound lane on the A229 were supported, as these were considered to improve the capacity of the road and support the free flow of traffic.

1.3 Next Steps

- 1.3.1 KCC will use the feedback received to inform the selection of a preferred option for the scheme. This will be subject to further modelling and site investigations. Support was expressed for this and for further design consultation, which includes targeted engagement with the communities that will be immediately affected by the proposals.
- 1.3.2 The feedback received will be published in a consultation report, which will be issued in December. This report will be used to inform a funding bid which is due to be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) before the end of the year.

Background papers:

Contact: Bartholomew Wren

Annex 1 - A229 Blue Bell Hill Improvement Scheme –
Consultation Questionnaire

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