

Agenda Item: 14
Report to: Planning, Transport & Environment Committee
Date: Wednesday 3rd June 2020
Subject: Highway Improvement Plan
Summary: To decide future actions with regard to highway improvement plan.

Decisions Required:

Zebra crossing at Discovery School

- to consider funding a traffic survey to better understand pedestrian crossing demand, vehicle speeds etc. Please note that there is no budget allocated in this financial year and there are no reserves.
- To consider adding "SLOW" road markings at this location which would be funded by Kent County Council.
- To consider funding an upgrade to the warning sign to include flashing amber lights. Please note that there is no budget allocated in this financial year and there are no reserves.

Milton Lane, Kings Hill

Decision Required:

- To consider putting notices on vehicles which are causing problems through inconsiderate parking.

Pedestrian Crossing at Gibson Drive

Decision Required:

- to fund a traffic survey to better understand pedestrian crossing demand, vehicle speeds etc. Please note that there is no budget allocated in this financial year and there are no reserves.

Controlled crossing at the end of Tower View

Decision Required:

- to fund a traffic survey to better understand pedestrian crossing demand, vehicle speeds etc. Please note that there is no budget allocated in this financial year and there are no reserves.

1. Zebra crossing at Discovery School

Kings Hill Parish Council approached KCC via a HIP to ask for a Zebra Crossing outside Discovery School. KCC responded as follows:

We visited site on 25.02.20 during school drop off time. It was evident that many drivers are already naturally stopping and giving way for pedestrians who are waiting to cross. Approaching vehicle speeds were observed to be low and pedestrians were seen crossing to and from the school without difficulty. There are numerous traffic calming features on the road which appear to be effective in reducing vehicle speeds to an appropriate level for the surrounding environment. There are also good footway links to multiple informal crossing points which are spread out along the road to cater for the numerous pedestrian desire lines. The school also has its own one-way system for parent / carer access.

All requests for formal pedestrian crossing facilities such as zebra crossings must be reviewed and prioritised. As you know, one of the factors we use is the recent personal injury collision data. I am pleased to advise that there have been no recorded incidents here within the last three years (up to 30.09.2019). Formal crossings must also be justified in terms of the potential conflict between pedestrians wanting to cross the road and vehicles travelling past. Again, our observations on site suggest that the degree of conflict is not high enough to justify further investigation by KCC at this stage. If however the parish council are interested in funding traffic surveys to better understand pedestrian crossing demand, vehicle speeds and numbers please let me know and I'll arrange a quotation for you at the appropriate time. (FYI – please be advised that all traffic surveys are currently suspended until further notice due to the impact of Covid-19).

We also noted that all approaches to the school have warning signs and other accompanying features. There is the potential to add 'SLOW' road markings at these locations which I would be happy to pay for or upgrade the warning signs to include flashing amber lights (which I can quote you for).

Decision Required:-

Please note that the correct indicators have not been observed to place a zebra crossing outside of Discovery School, although the following alternatives are available:

- **to consider funding a traffic survey to better understand pedestrian crossing demand, vehicle speeds etc. Please note that there is no budget allocated in this financial year and there are no reserves.**
- **To consider adding "SLOW" road markings at this location which would be funded by Kent County Council.**
- **To consider funding an upgrade to the warning sign to include flashing amber lights. Please note that there is no budget allocated in this financial year and there are no reserves.**

2. Milton Lane, Kings Hill

Kings Hill Parish Council approached KCC via a HIP to ask for the installation of bollards at the side of Milton Lane to deter pavement parking. KCC responded as follows:

We are concerned that installing footway bollards will restrict the available footway width, displace parking and place an on-going maintenance burden on our operations team. As a first action, in other locations we are trialling putting notices on vehicles which are causing problems through inconsiderate parking. We would be happy to try this approach here and see if it helps alleviate the issue.

Decision Required:

- **To consider putting notices on vehicles which are causing problems through inconsiderate parking.**

3. Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill

The site was inspected and it was noted that there were already various pedestrian dropped kerb areas for crossing. One is situated at each end of Kings Hill Avenue and there is one directly next to the bus stop. Pedestrian dropped kerbs are used when taking into account the following:-

- People with mobility issues, particularly those with walkers, wheelchairs or mobility scooters.
- People with prams and pushchairs.

Tactile paving is also used to help people with vision impairments to find the crossing points and guide them across the road.

There is no further action to be taken at this site.

4. Gibson Drive, Kings Hill

Kings Hill Parish Council approached KCC via a HIP to ask for the installation of a pedestrian/ puffin crossing to be located at the top of Gibson Drive. KCC responded as follows:

We visited site during the afternoon of 25.02.20, with very little pedestrian crossing movement observed. We did notice that one of the bus stops does not have a link between the existing hardstanding and footway behind the verge. We have queried this with our public transport team to understand if this is causing difficulties for passengers using the stop and are waiting to hear back. We've checked the collision history here and are pleased to report that there have been no recorded incidents involving pedestrians.

As per item 1, our observations on site therefore suggest that the degree of pedestrian versus vehicle conflict is not high enough to justify further investigation by KCC at this stage in terms of providing a formal pedestrian crossing. If however the parish council are interested in funding traffic surveys to better

understand pedestrian crossing demand, vehicle speeds and numbers please let me know and I'll arrange a quotation for you at the appropriate time (same caveat applies about traffic surveys currently affected by Covid-19).

Decision Required:

- **to fund a traffic survey to better understand pedestrian crossing demand, vehicle speeds etc. Please note that there is no budget allocated in this financial year and there are no reserves.**

5. Greenways at the end of Tower View, Kings Hill

Kings Hill Parish Council approached KCC via a HIP to ask for the installation of a controlled crossing at the end of Tower View. KCC responded as follows:

We visited site on 25.02.20 during school pick-up time, with very little pedestrian crossing movement observed. Vehicle flows were generally light and speeds low, with ample gaps in the traffic when pedestrians did cross. There are chicane build-outs acting as traffic calming measures on one approach, with the other approach being just off a roundabout junction. The layout also allows pedestrians to wait in the central refuge area if required, meaning that they do not have to make the crossing in one go. Again, we have checked the collision history here and are pleased to report that there have been no recorded incidents.

As per items 1 & 4, our observations on site suggest that the degree of pedestrian versus vehicle conflict is not high enough to justify further investigation by KCC at this stage regarding formal pedestrian crossing provision. If however the parish council are interested in funding traffic surveys to better understand pedestrian crossing demand, vehicle speeds and numbers please let me know and I'll arrange a quotation for you at the appropriate time (again - please note caveat regarding traffic surveys and Covid-19).

Decision Required:

- **to fund a traffic survey to better understand pedestrian crossing demand, vehicle speeds etc. Please note that there is no budget allocated in this financial year and there are no reserves.**

Contact Officer: Georgina Jackson, Deputy Clerk

Date: 27/05/2020