

Peters Marland School Passing Place

Report of the Head of Planning Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (a) the scheme shown on Plan B23006AA is approved for construction at an estimated cost of £47,000; and**
- (b) approval is given to obtain land.**

1. Background/Introduction

A report to Cabinet Committee on 12 July 2017 considered the conversion of residential boarding provision at Peters Marland School. The conversion was to change from termly boarding (7-night provision) to weekly (4-night provision). It was resolved by Cabinet Committee that approval be given to these changes. But that the Torridge HATOC also be asked to explore the provision of a vehicular passing place on the main road access to both the school and village.

The main highway access into Peters Marland and the school from the A386 is a narrow country lane with limited opportunities to pass oncoming traffic. To improve access to the school and address previous consultation concerns from the Parish Council about increased vehicle trips. The proposal in this report is to provide a new passing place on the narrow 3.0m wide approach to the village between Broomhill Farm and Beacon Hill.

2. Proposal

The scheme proposal is shown on Plan B23006AA in Appendix I.

The location and detail of the proposed passing place was agreed on site with the Parish Council and landowner. The passing place is located approximately 250 to the south east of the village and school.

The proposal is to widen the road by 2.5m to create a 12.5m long passing place over a total length of 22.5m including entry exit tapers. The proposed location will set back and widen an existing field gate access and provide a second new field gate entrance into the adjacent field. The second field gate will replace an existing narrow field entrance located to the north west, which will be blocked up and the hedgebank reinstated.

The proposed scheme has an impact on protected Devon hedgerows. A preliminary wildlife survey was undertaken in December 2017. A full wildlife report was included in a full planning application submitted to Torridge District Council in January 2018 (Ref 1/0048/2018/FUL). The planning application was approved on 23 March 2018.

To avoid the bird nesting season and disturbing dormice, any construction work should be undertaken in either May or September/October. To minimise local disruption, the preferred timing of the works would be October 2018 to incorporate the Peters Marland school autumn break which is between 22 and 26 October.

Prior to commencement of the works, the land required for the proposed passing place will need to be transferred to Local Highway Authority Devon County Council.

3. Options/Alternatives

The option to co-locate a passing place at the site of an existing field access was chosen to minimise the impact on local hedgerows and habitats. All options required private land, and these were considered in conjunction with the requirements of the land owner.

4. Consultations

Consultations were undertaken as part of the conversion of residential boarding provision at Peters Marland School in 2017. Local consultation on the proposals for a passing place were undertaken with the Parish Council, Local Member and landowner in Autumn 2017. The scheme proposal was subject to a full planning application and consultation in February 2018. No objections were received to the planning application.

5. Financial Considerations

The estimated scheme cost is £47,000, of which £9,972 was spent in 2017/18 and £37,028 is projected in 2018/19. This is all funded by the Local Transport Plan grant.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

The proposals have been subject to a preliminary wildlife survey and a full wildlife report produced to accompany the planning application. Construction works will need to be carried out in accordance with the recommendations and mitigation set out within the submitted Wildlife Report.

7. Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

An Equality Impact and Needs Assessment (EINA) was undertaken for the Local Transport Plan. No negative impacts were identified. No new policies are being recommended in this report and therefore an individual Equality Impact and Needs Assessment for the scheme is not considered necessary.

8. Legal Considerations

A land transfer will be required before commencement of the works.

9. Risk Management Considerations

The passing place will need to be maintained as highway maintainable at public expense. No other risks have been identified.

10. Public Health Impact

No adverse impacts on public health have been identified.

11. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

The proposed scheme has minimal impacts on the surrounding landscape. And provides wider benefits to the local highway network by improving access to Peters Marland School and for the village.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Division: Torrington Rural

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
None		

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