

A381 Footway/Cycleway: Kingsbridge Hill to the Old Toll House

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 drawing number B13004/7 Revision A1 be approved for construction at an estimated cost of £75,000;**
- (b) the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment, in consultation with the Local Member be given delegated authority to make minor amendments to the scheme design.**

1. Background/Introduction

‘Totnes on the Move’ is a local community group, guided by a Community Board, which has been set up to encourage sustainable travel in Totnes and surrounding areas through identifying projects and initiatives. The group has been funded through the Department for Transport’s Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This project has run since 2011 and is due to come to an end in April 2015.

A scheme on the A381, to the south of Totnes has been put forward by the Community Board, with the objective of providing an improved safe cycle and walking route parallel to a steep section of the A381, in the vicinity of Kingsbridge Hill.

In 2010, the narrow footpath between the Old Toll House was widened to between 2 and 2.5m towards the Ashprington turn. This provides access between Totnes and nearby villages, such as Ashprington and Harbertonford via quiet back roads.

The remainder of the section of footway between the Old Toll House and Kingsbridge Hill was not widened and has widths of approximately 1m, down to 0.5m outside the Old Toll House, which is considered an obstacle to footway users. As a result, the Totnes on the Move Community Board has requested funding for a scheme to widen the footway to create a shared use path. Providing this enhanced width will promote access to nearby villages and Totnes, making it more suitable for wheelchairs, prams and bicycles.

The scheme is listed in Totnes Town Council’s ‘Transport Policy and Strategy 2014’ which has the objective of outlining Totnes Town Council’s position relating to transport in the town, therefore showing community support for the scheme.

2. Proposal

The proposal is to widen the existing footway from Kingsbridge Hill to the Old Toll House, tying in with the previous improvements from 2010. This would provide a continuous route of width 2-2.5m that can be used by pedestrians and cyclists.

The scheme involves:

- (a) Widening the existing footway between Kingsbridge Hill to a point south of the Old Toll House.
- (b) Changes to the road markings in the vicinity of the improvements, and north of Kingsbridge Hill which includes removal of the hatched area.
- (c) Shortening of the two lane southbound approach in order to construct the widened path to highway standards.

The delivery of the scheme is complicated by the need to move over 120m of kerbing, raise service covers and alter road markings. As a result there will be a significant period where the road will be under traffic management.

Drawing B13004/7 Revision A1 provides details of the proposed improvements.

3. Financial Considerations

Harberton Parish Council and Totnes Town Council have jointly been awarded £6,825 from the TAP (Town and Parish) fund for this scheme and £50,000 is allocated from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). The remainder will be funded from LTP.

4. Environmental Impact Considerations

The LSTF is focused upon reducing reliance on car use by providing infrastructure for sustainable modes complemented by promotion and marketing initiatives. An increase in perceived safety to pedestrians and cyclists will remove a barrier to travelling by these modes in the area, therefore reducing vehicle travel and associated impacts to the environment.

5. 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.

This may be achieved, for example, through completing a full Equality Impact Needs Assessment/Impact Assessment or other form of options/project management appraisal that achieves the same objective.

No equality considerations have been identified arising from the proposals.

6. Legal Considerations

The lawful implications/consequences of the proposals have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of this report.

7. Risk Management Considerations

This proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or actions have been taken to safeguard the Council's position.

8. Public Health Impact

The scheme will have a positive public health impact by encouraging increased walking and cycling, with associated personal health benefits.

9. Conclusions

The scheme has been brought forward by the Totnes on the Move Community Board and is supported by Harberton Parish Council and Totnes Town Council. The improvements would provide an improved route for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Division: Totnes Rural

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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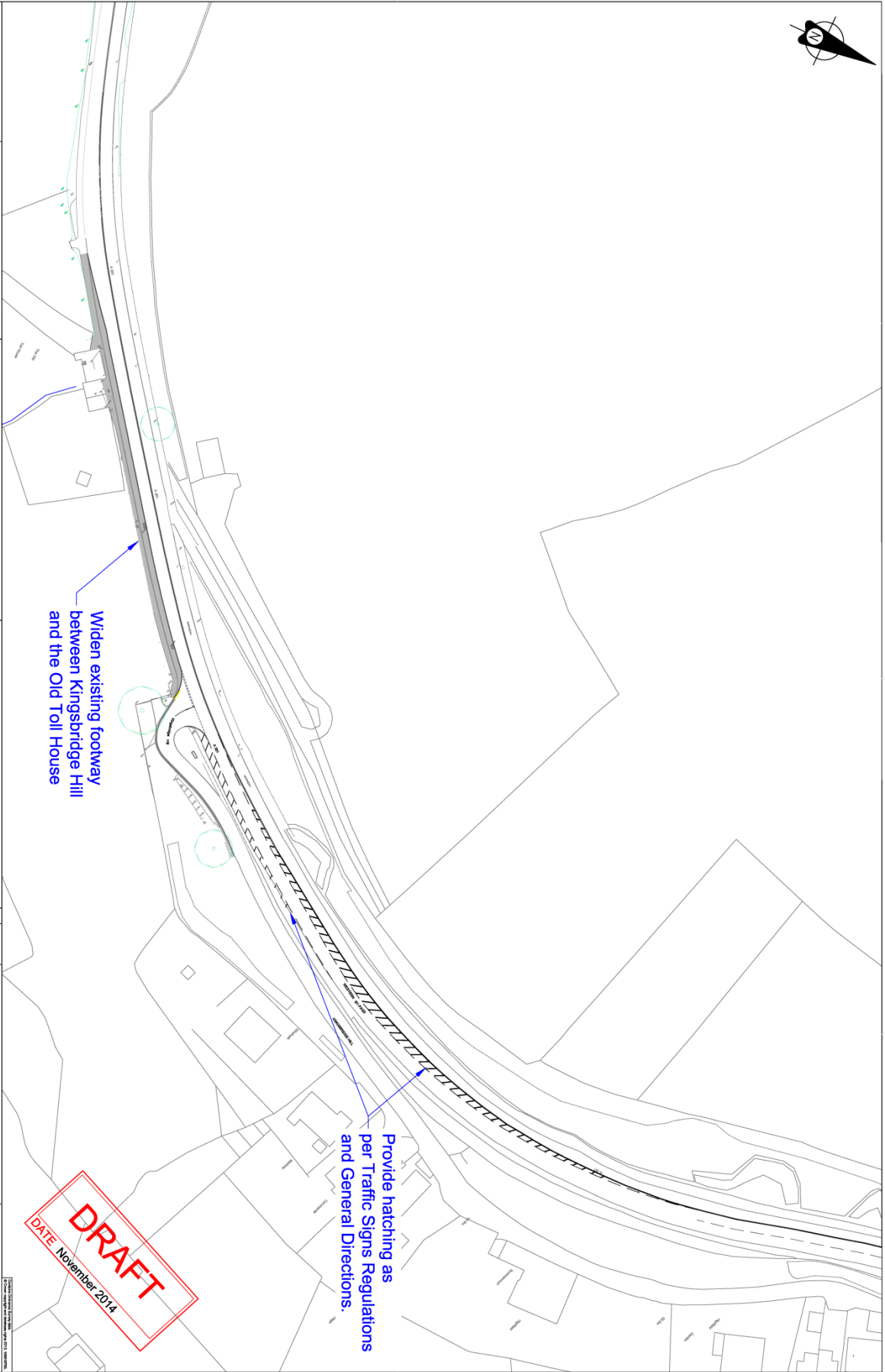
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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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Nil

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