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To: The Chair and Members
of the South Hams
Highways and Traffic
Orders Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 7 October 2021

Contact: Fiona Rutley 01392 382305
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SOUTH HAMS HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDERS COMMITTEE

Friday, 15th October, 2021

A meeting of the South Hams Highways and Traffic Orders Committee is to be held on the above date at 10.30 am at Council Chamber, County Hall to consider the following matters.

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART 1 - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2021, attached.

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

- 4 Totnes, Western Bypass Crossing at Plymouth Road - Report of site visit (minute *6, 25 June 2021) (Pages 7 - 10)

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/21/60, attached).

STANDING ITEMS

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 5 Dates for Future HATOC Meetings

Dates of future meetings, as set out in the Council's Calendar;
<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

NB: Please check link regarding meeting arrangements/venue as this is subject to change:-

(Meetings commence at 10.30am).

Friday 18 February 2022

Friday 8 July 2022

Friday 4 November 2022

Friday 3 February 2023.

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED

Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). They need to be disposed of carefully and should be returned to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

MEETINGS INFORMATION AND NOTES FOR VISITORS

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Committee Terms of Reference

For the terms of reference for any Committee, please [visit the Committee page](#) on the website and click on the name of the Committee. Under purpose of Committee, the terms of reference will be listed. Terms of reference for all Committees are also detailed within Section 3b of [the Council's Constitution](#).

Access to Information

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or background papers relating to an item on the agenda should contact the Clerk of the Meeting. To find this, [visit the Committee page](#) on the website and find the Committee. Under contact information (at the bottom of the page) the Clerk's name and contact details will be present. All [agenda, reports and minutes of any Committee are published on the Website](#)

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In relation to Highways and Traffic Orders Committees, any member of the District Council or a Town or Parish Councillor for the area covered by the HATOC who is not a member of the Committee, may attend and speak to any item on the Agenda with the consent of the Committee, having given 24 hours' notice.

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Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chair. Filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible without additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard to the wishes of others present who may not wish to be filmed. Anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance.

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Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council

It is to be noted that Members of the Council must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

WiFi

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Fire

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Induction Loop available



SOUTH HAMS HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDERS COMMITTEE

25 June 2021

Present:-

Devon County Council

Councillors J Brazil, R Croad (Chair), R Gilbert, J Hart, J Hawkins, J Hodgson and D Thomas

South Hams District Council

Councillor H Reeve

Apologies:-

Councillors P Smerdon (South Hams District Council) and L Granados (Devon Association of Local Councils)

* 1 **Election of Chair**

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Gilbert and **SECONDED** by Councillor Hawkins and

RESOLVED: that Councillor Croad be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

* 2 **Election of Vice-Chair**

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Gilbert and **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart and

RESOLVED: that Councillor Hawkins be elected Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

* 3 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2021 be signed as a correct record.

* 4 **Member Training/Induction**

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste on the workings of the Committee This covered the Committee's Constitution; its Terms of Reference; and Scheme of Delegation (to be circulated to members).

Regarding reporting processes for Members where highways issues had been identified, the designated local Neighbourhood Highways Officers were a

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good point of contact and/or issues could also be reported via the County Council's website: www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/ Parking enforcement matters could also be directed to the parking link on that page.

* 5 **Totnes, Residential Parking (Council minute 368, 29 April 2021)**

The Committee received a verbal presentation from the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste, outlining the process for responding to residents' parking requests, following a question to Council on 29 April 2021 by Councillor Hodgson.

The annual programme was subject to approval and funding from the Council each year (currently £25,000). The list was reviewed at the beginning of each financial year and requests prioritised at that point (determined by various criteria e.g. less than 75% off street parking, self-supporting, demonstrable/scale of problem, community support, best use of time and resources and technical reasons -not the length of time on the list). The viability of schemes was not known until they were reviewed towards the end of the financial year. Some schemes on the list could be rejected either at the review stage because they did not conform to policy, or later if residents dropped their support once the operational impacts of a scheme become clear. Subject to resources, approximately two requests on average per financial year were selected and added to the next annual programme, to undergo investigation and consultation procedures. Depending on the size of the area and the outcomes from the consultation process this could take one to two years before implementation.

Currently there were around six schemes on the request list and about eight or nine in progress at different stages, with Officers completing schemes and progressing new ones throughout the year as part of the rolling annual programme.

Councillor Hodgson referred to some requests within Totnes, particularly the situation for the residents of Swallowfields near to the river Dart, which had grown into an increasingly popular residential road with the public, who parked to access the river for leisure, causing year round parking issues, including obstruction, nuisance to residents and on occasions intimidating behaviour. There were also instances of vehicles being left at Swallowfields for several days. There was a concern that this was now a difficult and dangerous situation and eergency vehicles would not be able to access the river at this point if required.

Officers acknowledged the situation at Swallowfields and confirmed the scheme was on the request list. Various representations and evidence had been received by the County Council, including representations sent direct to the Committee on 20 June 2021.

In response to questions, Members noted:-

-that pending progression of Swallowfields on the priority list and, temporary solutions to ease the situation (e.g. identification and signage of any appropriate alternative river parking) could be considered; and

-that schemes where local communities or developers were full or part funding could be considered but these would not necessarily enable earlier progression of schemes, as it was dependent upon any higher priority schemes requiring Officer time.

* **6** **Totnes, Western Bypass Crossing at Plymouth Road**

The Committee considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/21/33) regarding investigation into the addition of a straight through crossing on both Western Way arms of the junction to enable pedestrians to cross in one movement, as requested by HATOC on 5 April 2019, following HATOC's earlier receipt of a letter and 64 signature petition following a collision on 1 October 2018 involving a child.

The Report advised of current crossing arrangements including signal controls and the existing central island. There had been no other collision recorded at or near the junction in the past five years. The County Council's Casualty Severity Reduction Programme prioritised sites with greatest need. There were currently 68 sites across Devon on the Casualty Severity Reduction (CSR) list with five or more injury collisions in the last five years.

The Report suggested two options:-

(a) replace existing signals as they were during planned maintenance now due (£30,000); or

(b) pursue the design developed with single straight across crossings and implement when funding became available (additional £138,000 over option (a)).

The Report advised that the casualty record did not meet the criteria for funding of a scheme to be considered from the Casualty Reduction Programme. Funding could come from a mixture of s106 funding and signal maintenance budgets, although this may not be sufficient to fund the whole of the scheme and would mean that the s106 funding was not available for other schemes in the community. Given the substantial impact on traffic flows and increased traffic congestion and emissions from stationary traffic impacting on air quality, Officers could not recommend on balance that a scheme be developed.

However further to the Report, Officers also advised:-

-that a third option for a staggered signal-controlled crossing on the north side (similar to that on the south side) had also been raised very recently. This

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option would have a lesser impact on traffic congestion, but would mean that pedestrians would have to cross in two stages on the northern side of the junction, as they currently did on the southern side. Detailed traffic modelling and an estimate of costs could be undertaken if Members wished to consider this option.

The local County Councillor advised that this junction was heavily used by families and school children at school times and the planned maintenance was the opportunity to consider and make improvements. She wondered if any developer contribution could be made available for air quality work. She also advised there was a narrow pavement adjoining this junction, improvements had local support and would support more sustainable school journeys.

In view of the pending traffic signal maintenance costs, Members supported a site visit and a full report back to the next meeting to consider all the options suggested.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart and **SECONDED** by Councillor Hawkins and

RESOLVED:

(a) that a Members' site visit be held prior to the end of the summer term 2021 to consider all options suggested;

(b) that a full report be brought to the next meeting, to include the feasibility and costings of a staggered junction option on the north side; and

(c) that Officers liaise with South Hams District Council to establish whether there was any air quality developer contribution funding that may be utilised.

* 7

Dates for Future HATOC Meetings

Members noted the dates of future meetings, in line with the Council's Calendar;

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

Please check link regarding meeting arrangements/venue in the current situation:-

15 October 2021 at 10.30am and

18 February 2022 at 10.30am.

NOTES:

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*

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2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

* **DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 11.40 am

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HIW/21/60

South Hams Highways and Traffic Orders Committee
15 October 2021

Western Bypass Crossing at Plymouth Road, Totnes

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

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 outcome of the site visit be noted; and**
- (b) members support the proposal to alter the verge on the north west corner of the junction, so that pedestrians waiting to cross west to east on the north side of the junction have better visibility of vehicles coming out of Plymouth Road.**

1. Background/Introduction

At the HATOC meeting on 25 June 2021 members requested that a site visit be undertaken at this junction, in the morning peak hour, to determine whether an additional crossing point is required on the northern (downhill) side of the junction. This meeting took place on Monday 12 July 2021, between 08.30 and 09.30, with highways officers in support.

2. Main Text/Proposal

Members observed the junction for approximately one hour, and highways officers were on hand to answer questions about the layout and signal phasing.

Although no formal vote was taken members were in general agreement that an additional crossing point was not required, and a number of other options were put forward. The local member was not in agreement.

3. Options/Alternatives

The following options were supported at the site visit.

- (a) Request that the local Neighbourhood Highways Officer visit the site and arrange for vegetation overhanging the footway on Plymouth Road and the Western Bypass be cut back. This action was undertaken in July, although it should be noted that much of the vegetation is private and notices have therefore needed to be served.**

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- (b) Request that officers undertake a scheme to permanently remove the vegetation on the north west corner of the junction and replace it with a hard material. This will enable pedestrians waiting to cross west to east on the north side of the junction have better visibility of vehicles coming out of Plymouth Road.

4. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

Members resolved to undertake a site visit to determine whether an additional crossing point is required.

5. Financial Considerations

It is estimated that the design and installation cost of the proposal to remove vegetation on the north west corner of the junction would be approximately £8,000, although that cost may increase if a retaining wall is required or utilities are identified under the footway or verge. This can be funded from developer contributions received in the area.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

A small amount of vegetation will be permanently removed on the north west corner of the junction in order to improve visibility for and of pedestrians at the junction.

7. Equality Considerations

The proposal will have a positive benefit for pedestrians as it will aid crossing of this junction.

8. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

9. Risk Management Considerations

It is not considered that there are any risk management considerations, although the alteration of the junction and the removal of vegetation will improve visibility for and of pedestrians crossing on the northern side of the junction.

10. Public Health Impact

Improving visibility at this junction may increase the number of pedestrian journeys from the Plymouth Road area into Totnes.

11. Summary

This report follows a member's site visit at the junction. Although the crossing point was not generally supported the proposals listed in section 3 were made.

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Meg Booth
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Division: Totnes & Dartington

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: John Fewings

Room No: Ryefields

Tel No: 01392 38 3000

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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Nil

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sc/cr/Western Bypass Crossing at Plymouth Road, Totnes
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Appendix I
To HIW/21/60

Plan of current junction layout

