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.

(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.

Electoral Division: Totnes & Dartington

<u>Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers</u>

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
Nil		

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sc/cr/Western Bypass Crossing at Plymouth Road, Totnes
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Plan of current junction layout

Approximate area of verge to be removed and replaced with hard surface

Plymouth Road to Follaton House, Avonwick and Plymouth

A381 to Harbertonford, Halwell and Kingsbridge

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