

Report of the Cabinet Member for Highway Management

Introduction

I have been asked to report to full Council by Councillor Connett on the following:

1. Arrangements and any fees to be charged for community-requested street closures for events to mark and celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
2. Progress on delivering the A379 highway and pedestrian improvements at Starcross
3. Progress with estimated dates for delivery for the improved cycle path connecting Kennford with Exeter, via the new development at South West Exeter

And by Councillor Dewhirst as follows:

4. On progress towards supporting the safety of young people from the Deaf Academy in Douglas Road, Exmouth whilst they are using the highway outside their school. The Cabinet Member will remember that the young people petitioned for a 20 mph speed limit outside their school last year. The vulnerable young people cannot understand why other schools in Exmouth have a 20 mph speed limit outside their schools but they have to contend with a very wide and fast road outside their school.

Response

1. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - events and road closures

6 weeks' notice is required if any events are planned to be held on the public highway.

If a community wants to hold a street party they will need to apply for a temporary traffic restriction to close the road.

There is no charge for a temporary traffic restriction to close a minor road for these events. If no waiting cones are needed these will need to be arranged via a third party contractor. Only a suitable insured and trained person may place signs or cones on the highway.

The application form is available online [Application for The Big Lunch/National Celebration](#)

2. Progress on A379 highway and pedestrian improvements at Starcross

Starcross improvements were approved by Teignbridge HATOC in July 2021 and the traffic orders were advertised in the Autumn. These have since been approved to progress. The trial footway widening is planned to take place in Spring, with permanent elements of the scheme to be tied in with the resurfacing of the A379, which is planned for Summer 2022.

3. Progress on improved cycle path connecting Kennford with Exeter

The improvements to the cyclepath between Kennford and Exeter was linked to Park and Ride plans at Peamore; however, at the current time there are no timescales for progressing this scheme. Park and Ride bus services have suffered during the pandemic and have not recovered well with use below 50% as a result of changing commuter patterns. With Park and Ride capacity available on this corridor at the Matford Park and Ride, we are being cautious about progressing plans for a new site at the current time and so are not actively pursuing plans. However, the Exeter Transport Strategy 2020-2030 identifies the need to support active travel from villages on the edge of the city into Exeter and most recently we have approved a scheme to improve linkages from Ide into Exeter and have a live bid to Government for funds to link Woodbury to the Exe Estuary. We will seek out future funding opportunities to deliver the Kennford to Exeter improvements.

4. 20 mph zone outside Schools: Douglas Avenue

Surveys were undertaken on Douglas Avenue in July 2021 which included a speed survey and traffic counts, including pedestrian surveys. Our Engineering Design Group are reviewing the data and considering road safety options. In addition, Wig Wag signals have been ordered for erection on Douglas Avenue as a short term measure.

Town Council and Division members are to be asked to identify the extent of their desired 20 mph limit, identifying community support and alignment to our assessment criteria, as outlined in the members briefing that was recently issued. I can assure you that Douglas Avenue will form a part of the local elected members consideration.

Councillor Stuart Hughes
Cabinet Member for Highway Management