

South Hams Highways and Traffic Orders Committee  
8 July 2022

**Proposed improvements to the footway on Ashburton Road, Totnes near Puddavine Court**

Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

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

**Recommendation: It is recommended that this Committee raises no objection to the proposed widening by removing vegetation and resurfacing of the existing footway located east of Puddavine Court, Totnes.**

**1. Summary**

This report is concerned with the widening by removing vegetation and resurfacing of the footway located on the southwest side of the A385 road near Puddavine Court Residential Home. The improvements will stretch from the access to Spring Cottage to a point approximately 140m southeast of this point.

**2. Background/Introduction**

Recent concerns from local bus patrons have been made that the existing bus stop footway is inadequate. The Highway Authority has investigated and found that the footway has sunken in key areas surrounding the bus stop. It has been reported there is an issue of pooling water on the sunken footway making it difficult to negotiate when wet. Also getting on and off the bus is difficult and hazardous due to the recessed sunken footway adjacent to the kerb. The footway leading towards Totnes currently has a narrow (500mm - 750mm width) grass strip between the carriageway and footway (leading to the bus stop), which has been difficult to maintain and over time encroached onto the footway and created a substandard footway width and maintenance issue. Officers would like to address both matters by re-grading the footway where it has sunken and to remove the grass verge to create overall a wider more suitable resurfaced footway. This is likely to benefit existing and projected future footway user needs.

**3. Proposal**

The proposals can be seen on drawing J21012/1 Rev 1.

#### **4. Consultations/Representations**

Consultation has occurred with Puddavine Residential Care Home, the houses located near Spring Cottage and also with the residents located in the Bloor Homes estate development opposite. Plans have been directly sent out notifying residents of the scheduled works. Officers have not received any formal objections to the scheme but have been asked to schedule resurfacing to appropriate times where the footway resurfacing works impinge on the vehicle access to the Puddavine Care Home premises due to need to retain emergency access. Also, it is considered appropriate that a temporary bus stop is installed during the works to ensure the bus is still accessible during the works. Best endeavours will be made to accommodate the needs of the nursing home and other residents through close liaison in advance and during the scheme works.

As the scheme exceeds a budgetary value of £25,000 it is current policy at Devon County Council that the scheme must gain approval of the South Hams Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) before progressing.

A full set of plans will be available during the HATOC meeting or by email on request. The plans illustrate the proposals.

#### **5. Financial Considerations**

The estimated scheme cost is £50,000, of which £2,491 was spent in 2021/22. It is being funded from section 106 contributions received.

#### **6. Sustainability Considerations**

Improve the width of the footway by removing the vegetation will facilitate improved suitability of the footway to meet the needs of all users.

#### **7. Equality Considerations**

There are no known equality issues.

#### **8. Legal Considerations**

There are no known implications at this time.

#### **9. Alternative Options Considered**

No alternative options have been considered.

## **10. Reasons for Reaching the Recommendation**

It is recommended that the proposals are approved by members. The proposal will improve the functionality and safety of the footway to meet the needs for the projected future increased footfall. A wider footway will enable pedestrians to more easily pass other users and the scheme will enable ease of movement for more vulnerable users such as disabled wheelchair users and pram users.

Meg Booth  
Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

### **County Electoral Division: Totnes & Dartington**

#### Local Government Act 1972 - List of Background Papers

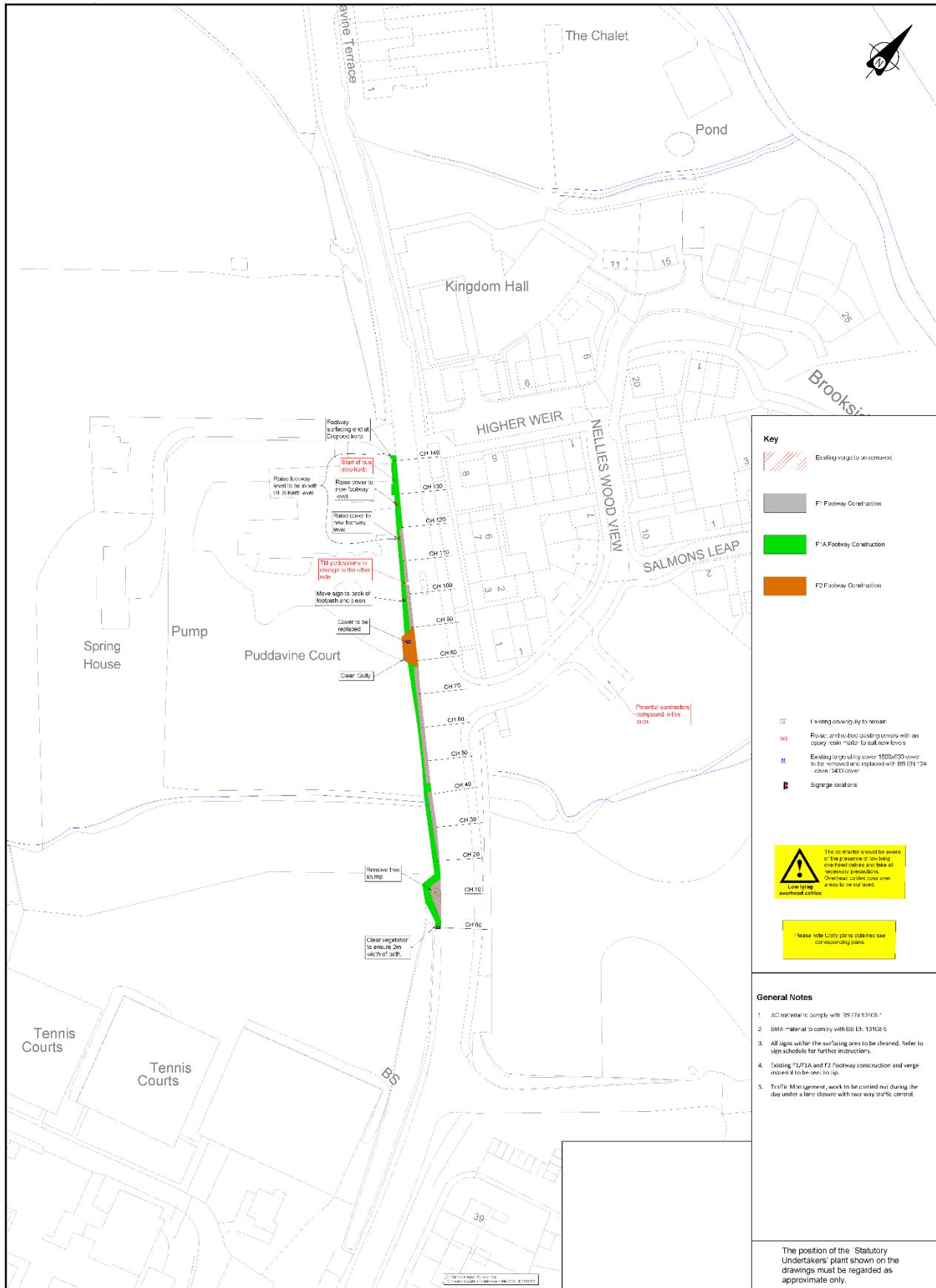
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Background Paper	Date	File Ref
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Nil

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sc/cr/Proposed improvements to the footway on Ashburton Road, Totnes near Puddavine Court  
02 290622



Engineering Design Group	JOB	DRAWING TITLE	Date Drawn	Explanations	Drawn by
Devon County Council	A385 - Puddavine Footway	Footway Maintenance - General Layout	19/01/2012 14/01/2012	Revised 0 Notes coded in red	J21012/1 1 1:500 A1