

Marsh Lane, Crediton – Road Widening

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

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

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (a) the scheme shown on plan A11013/003 revD and included in Appendix I, is approved for construction at an estimated cost of £65,485;**
- (b) that Devon County Council continue to work with the local community to identify pedestrian crossing improvements.**

1. Introduction

The Crediton Link Road scheme was opened in 2014 to provide a new route through the Lords Meadow Industrial Estate between the A377 and the A3072. To improve safety and access for large vehicles, this report seeks approval to construct a road widening scheme that will remove a pinch point on the A3072 Marsh Lane/Commercial Road route through the estate.

2. Background

The £8.5m scheme to construct the Crediton Link Road was approved by Cabinet on 29 May 2013. The link road was opened in October 2014 and now provides a direct connection into the Lords Meadow Industrial Estate from the A377. The Crediton Link Road scheme has provided an alternative route for HGV's to avoid Exeter Road, which is both narrow and has suffered from air quality issues as part of the Air Quality Management Area declared in Crediton.

During development of the Link Road Scheme, the impact of routing additional heavy traffic onto the existing industrial estate roads was considered. The link road scheme incorporated improvements to the junction from Commercial Road onto the A3072 Exhibition Road and a change in priority from Marsh Lane into Commercial Road, making this the main road route through the estate.

In January 2012 Cabinet Member approval was secured to progress a more extensive road widening scheme along Marsh Lane between its junctions with Commonmarsh Lane and Commercial Road. The more extensive scheme was not introduced as part of the link road scheme in 2014 and following further review and consultation it is no longer proposed to pursue the full widening scheme on Marsh Lane. Post scheme monitoring has shown a positive impact on both HGV routing and on the town's air quality. However, a pinch point still exists on the new route south of the shared private entrance into Kirton Kayaks and Crediton Confectionary Ltd. The width of road at this location means that it is not possible for two large vehicles to safely pass. To address this issue the report is requesting approval to remove this localised pinch point.

3. Scheme Proposal

The scheme shown on plan A11013/003 revD and included in Appendix I, incorporates localised widening of the carriageway on Marsh Lane adjacent to the boundary of Kirton Kayaks. To accommodate this road widening, additional private land is required from Kirton Kayaks in order to relocate the footpath. The private land is being transferred by agreement to become part of the public highway in exchange for accommodation works to relocate and replace the boundary fencing and gates into the site and to make necessary changes within the site itself. The scheme also includes an informal crossing point with dropped kerbs between the footpaths on either side of the access serving Kirton Kayaks and Crediton Confectionary Ltd.

4. Consultations

Extensive consultation work was undertaken during the development of the link road scheme and also through formal planning application.

Ongoing consultations with the town council and local member have taken place during the construction period and after the opening of the link road scheme. One of the key local concerns is safety on Marsh Lane\Commercial Road where pedestrians cross from Hawkins Way towards the leisure centre. Concern has been expressed that any extensive widening of Marsh Lane could increase vehicle speeds and reduce road safety for pedestrians.

A range of pedestrian crossing options have been investigated to address these concerns. However the proximity of accesses has meant that it is not possible to incorporate a new formal crossing facility where required, without acquiring additional private land and delaying any localised widening on Marsh Lane where it is required.

The localised pinch point widening scheme that is now being proposed will have a minimal impact on the width and alignment of Marsh Lane. Crediton Town Council resolved in October 2016 to support the scheme to remove the pinch point outside Kirton Kayaks in order to take advantage of land whilst it is still available. Work will continue to identify a pedestrian crossing solution with the Town Council and local member.

5. Options/Alternatives

Options to widen Marsh Lane were considered at the detailed design and planning stages for the Crediton Link Road scheme. The reduced scheme is being proposed to address the most significant pinch point on the new A3072 route and to minimise any potential for increased traffic speeds through the estate.

6. Financial Considerations

The estimated scheme cost is £65,485. A developer contribution of approximately £114k has been secured through Section 106 agreement for 185 dwellings at Wellparks, Crediton. Forward funding of this contribution has been identified within the current Transport Capital Programme.

7. Environmental Impact Considerations

By promoting suitable alternative routes for large vehicles, the scheme proposals will have a positive impact on reducing vehicle emissions and improving the environment within the town centre.

8. Equality Considerations

An Equality Impact and Needs Assessment (EINA) was undertaken for the Crediton Link Road Scheme. No new policies are being recommended in this report and therefore an individual Equality Impact and Needs Assessment for the scheme is not considered necessary.

9. Legal Considerations

Land will be transferred subject to agreement with the registered owners of Kirton Kayaks.

10. Risk Management Considerations

No risks have been identified.

11. Public Health Impact

Improving access to the Lords Meadow Industrial Estate will contribute towards maintaining the public health benefits achieved by removing heavy polluting traffic from narrow streets in the town centre.

12. Reasons for Recommendations

It is recommended that the scheme is approved for construction to improve HGV access on the A3072 Crediton Link Road and support air quality improvements achieved in the town centre.

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Electoral Division: Crediton Rural

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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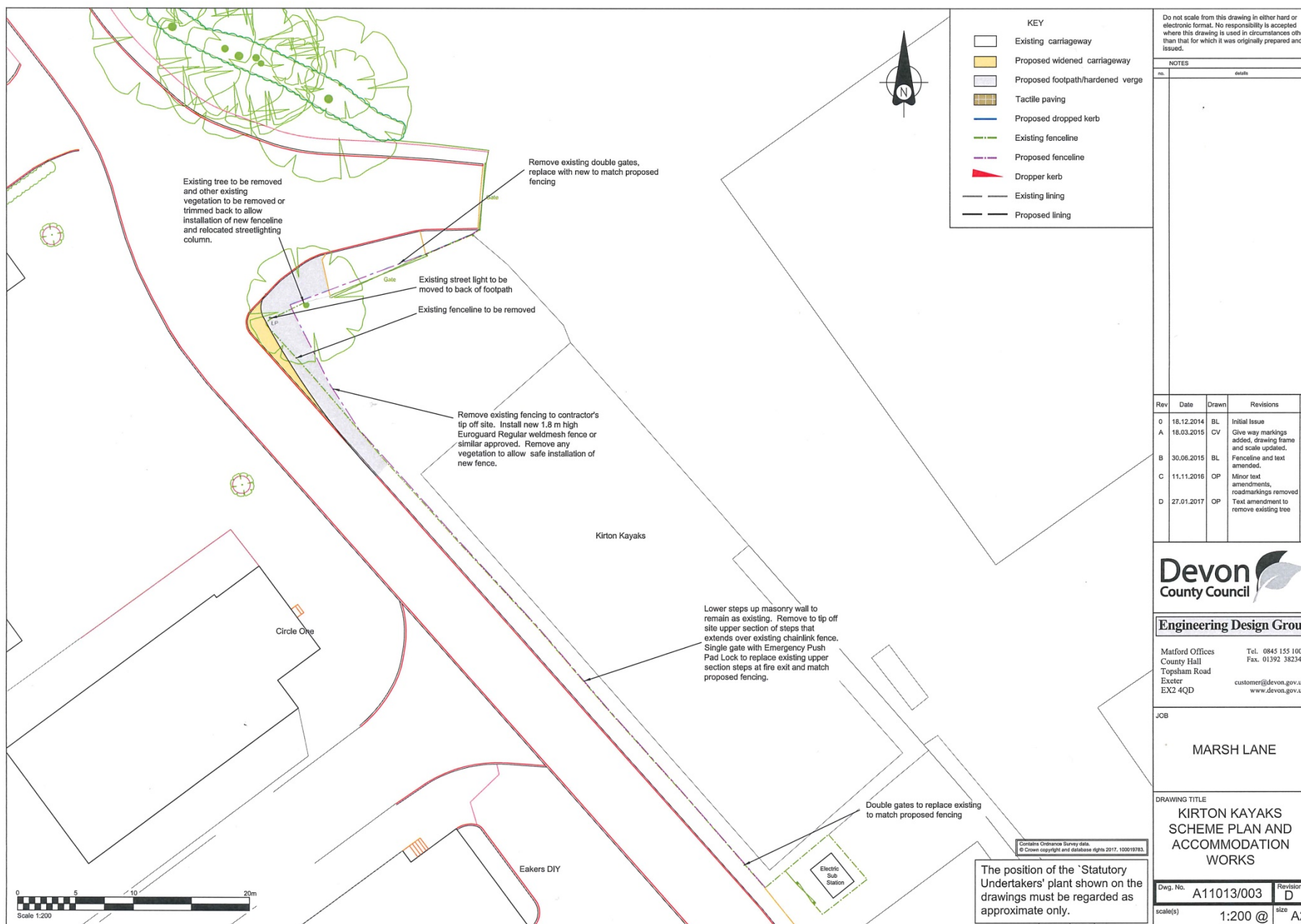
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Background Paper

None

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sc/cr/marsh lane crediton road widening
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Appendix I To PTE/17/17



Appendix II To PTE/17/17

