

Introduction

The A262 High Street and the A274 North Street are the main routes that go through the village of Biddenden. The village green is currently situated between the two A-roads in the village centre. Traffic at this location can be heavy during peak times and this can make it difficult for pedestrians to access the green or cross the High Street.

Kent County Council (KCC) is proposing to make alterations to the existing road layout and install a T-junction. This will mean changing a section of Tenterden Road from carriageway into an extension of the existing green.

Background

The Parish Council, on behalf of their Parishioners, had approached County Member Mike Hill and KCC Officers expressing concerns with the safety of the junction and its function. Issues were raised about the confusion of pedestrians crossing the High Street, who are unsure of a driver's direction when approaching the A274. Concerns were also raised with vehicles approaching the A274 from the High Street on both sides of the village green with the intention of turning right.

The site was previously investigated, however as there is no proven safety issue KCC highways were unable to allocate funding to a scheme, so no further action has been taken until now.

In October 2017, KCC Officers presented a scheme proposal to reconfigure the junction in a bid for funding from the Local Transport Plan budget and were successful in securing the budget required. The proposal was to offer an improvement to the current road layout and access/use of the village green.

What are we proposing?

We are proposing to change the existing junction to a new T-junction and removing a section of Tenterden Road and converting it to grass, extending the existing village green. This will mean there will be one entry and exit from the High Street onto the A274, reducing the time pedestrians are in the road when crossing. The tightening of the junction should also reduce the speeds of vehicles when turning.

The scheme will include:

- Removing the existing traffic regulation orders for no entry and waiting restrictions
- Converting a section of carriageway on Tenterden Road to village green
- Installing a new drainage system
- Installing new parking bays

- Adjusting a section of the existing village green to allow for the required turning circle for new T-junction
- Removing and replacing the existing tree on the village green
- Providing a new landscaping area
- Relocating the existing school warning sign in line with the new road layout

Information can be viewed on our website www.kent.gov.uk/highstreetbiddenden.

An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to assess the possible impacts of this scheme on people with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010. The EqIA will be updated after the consultation to consider any relevant information received. The EqIA can be viewed on our website and is available in hard copy on request (see details below).

Have Your Say

We would like to give you an opportunity to let us know what you think of this proposal and we invite you to complete the consultation questionnaire, which is available on our website www.kent.gov.uk/highstreetbiddenden.

If you have any questions regarding these proposals or require hard copies please email traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 41 81 81.

Please use the reference 'High Street, Biddenden Consultation' to identify the scheme.

The closing date for this consultation is midnight on Monday 9th July 2018.

Please drop in and talk to our team at the following events:

- Tuesday 12th June 2018, 3pm till 7:30pm at Biddenden Village Hall, TN27 8BB
- Tuesday 26th June 2018, 3pm till 7:30pm at Biddenden Village Hall, TN27 8BB

Next Steps

Following the consultation, a report will be compiled summarising the analysis of the responses. This report will be made available to consultees. The consultation responses and EqIA will be used to inform the decision on whether to proceed with this scheme.

If the decision is taken to proceed our intention is to start onsite in October 2018. Depending on weather conditions the build should take approximately 6 weeks to complete.

Junction reconfiguration

A262 High Street junction with A274 North Street

Public Consultation 11th June – 9th July 2018



Alternative formats

If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

