
Westwood Road/ Northwood Road: Proposed new stretch of cycle path

To: **Thanet Joint Transportation Board, 15th March 2012**

Main Portfolio Area: **KCC – Environment & Enterprise**

By: **Director of Highways & Transportation, Kent County Council**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **St Peters**

Division: **Broadstairs & Sir Moses Montefiore**

Summary: To update Members about the proposals to permit cycling on the southern footway of Westwood Road between Rumfields Road and Northwood Road (in the vicinity of the Westwood Road/ Northwood Road roundabout). This is to address a cycle related personal injury crash problem at this roundabout.

For Decision

1. Background & Discussion

- 1.1 Kent County Council (KCC) is promoting a pedestrian and cycle safety scheme for Westwood Road/ Northwood Road in the vicinity of the roundabout (by St Georges School). The proposals plan can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 This scheme is being promoted as a crash remedial measure to address an identified pattern of personal injury crashes. These crashes involve cyclists being hit by motor vehicles whilst negotiating the roundabout. The volume of traffic is high at this location, particularly at peak times as Westwood Road forms a part of the A256. The volume of pedestrians and cyclists is also high at this location, especially due to the proximity of the University, St Georges Secondary school and other nearby schools.
- 1.3 This crash remedial measure involves the following:
 - The upgrade of a stretch of footway to a shared use facility for pedestrians and cyclists on the southern side of Westwood Road between Rumfields Road and Northwood Road.
 - Upgraded crossing point on Northwood Road to cater for cyclists as well as pedestrians.
 - A section of pedestrian guard rail at the new pedestrian entrance to St Georges School.
- 1.4 In December 2011, KCC carried out a public consultation on the proposals. Consultation documents were distributed to local residents as well as key organisations including the emergency services and local County & District Councillors. Comments were invited on the proposals. A total of 13 responses were received. Of those, 9 stated that they support the proposals; 1 did not support; and the remaining 3 just provided comment without stating a preference of support or not. The comments received and officers response can be seen in the below table.

Respondent	Comment	Officers Response
Local resident – Northwood Road	Considers that the proposals will not improve pedestrian & cycle safety as we will not be reducing the speed of traffic.	Pedestrians & cyclists will both be able to use the path segregating them from other traffic.
Member of the Thanet Cycle Forum	<p>1) Guard rail encourages higher traffic speeds.</p> <p>2) Can vehicle deflection be increased at the roundabout going from Westwood Road to Northwood Road to slow vehicle speeds?</p> <p>3) Concern over vehicle to cycle conflict as the cyclists transfers from the road to the path.</p> <p>4) Can the existing pedestrian & cycle refuge island to the west of the roundabout be widened?</p> <p>5) Can we introduce a 20mph zone?</p> <p>6) Can we introduce interactive signs displaying “slow down – school” like outside King Ethelberts on A28 Canterbury Road?</p>	<p>1) Guard rails are located on exit from roundabout; vehicle speeds should be relatively low as they have just negotiated the roundabout. The guard rails will prevent school children from drifting across the road in multiple locations.</p> <p>2) It is not normal to provide deflection on the exit of a roundabout. Technical advice on roundabout design requires that there should be a minimum of 6m width between splitter island and adjacent nearside kerblines. The width here is a little below this at present, so further path or island widening is not recommended.</p> <p>3) There will be a short stretch of cycle lane leading to the path. Visibility is good at this location.</p> <p>4) This is beyond the scope of this scheme but could be considered as part of the Westwood Road Improvement Scheme at a later date.</p> <p>5) This is not advised for class ‘A’ roads.</p> <p>6) This is beyond the scope of this scheme. The A28 in the vicinity of King Ethelberts has a 40mph speed limit and no features to naturally slow traffic. The interactive signs there required special DFT approval. The roundabout by St Georges acts as a feature to slow traffic.</p>
Member of the Thanet Cycle Forum	Can the cycle path be extended along Westwood Road to link the cycle paths in the vicinity of the University and at Westwood Cross?	This will be proposed as part of the Westwood Road Improvement Scheme.

Sustrans Ranger	Agrees that this scheme will improve safety by prevent pedestrians crossing Westwood Road except at the existing crossing points. And that the upgraded path will be safer for cyclists preventing them from being 'cut-up' by vehicles negotiating the roundabout. Also will be safer for those crossing Northwood Road linking up with the existing shared use path outside the University.	Noted.
Member of Thanet Cycle Forum	Favours the proposals as agrees that this area is notoriously busy with vehicular traffic. This new section of shared use path will link with existing shared use paths outside the University and St Georges School completing a missing link in the vicinity of this roundabout.	Noted.
Head teacher of St Georges School	Welcomes the scheme, particularly the guard rails as they will concentrate pedestrians at the formal crossing points as well as prevent parents from dropping off children at this location on the exit of the roundabout.	Noted.
Kent Police	No objection to the proposed scheme provided that it is implemented to the current guidelines.	Noted.
Local County Councillor Bill Hayton	Strongly supports the scheme.	Noted.
Local District Councillor Ian Gregory	Considers this a necessary & suitable scheme.	Noted.

2. Legal Implications

2.1 In order to convert all, or part of a footway to a cycle track, all, or the appropriate part of, the footway alongside a carriageway must be 'removed' under the power of Section 66(4) of the Highway Act 1980, and a cycle track 'constructed' under section 65(1). The process need not necessarily involve physical construction work, but there needs to be clear evidence that the Local Highway Authority has exercised its powers. This can be provided by a resolution of this Board.

2.2 The cycle track will need to be clearly signed.

2.3 The new facility will be classed as a cycle track, however it will have pedestrian right of way, hence the term 'shared use'.

4. Conclusion

4.1 As part of this pedestrian and cycle safety scheme the southern footway on Westwood Road between Rumfields Road and Northwood Road will need to be upgraded to a shared use facility for use by both pedestrians and cyclists.

4.2 The results of the consultation demonstrate support for this scheme with only one respondent not supporting the proposals.

5. Recommendation

5.1 It is recommended that Members endorse the proposal to redesignate the footway as a shared use cycle track on the southern side of Westwood Road between Rumfields Road and Northwood Road.

5.2 That pursuant to Section 66 (4) Highways Act 1980 Members endorse the removal of the footway identified in Appendix 1 to this report.

5.3 That pursuant to Section 65 (1) of the Highways Act 1980 Members endorse Kent County Council constructing a shared pedestrian/cycle facility along the above mentioned length of footway.

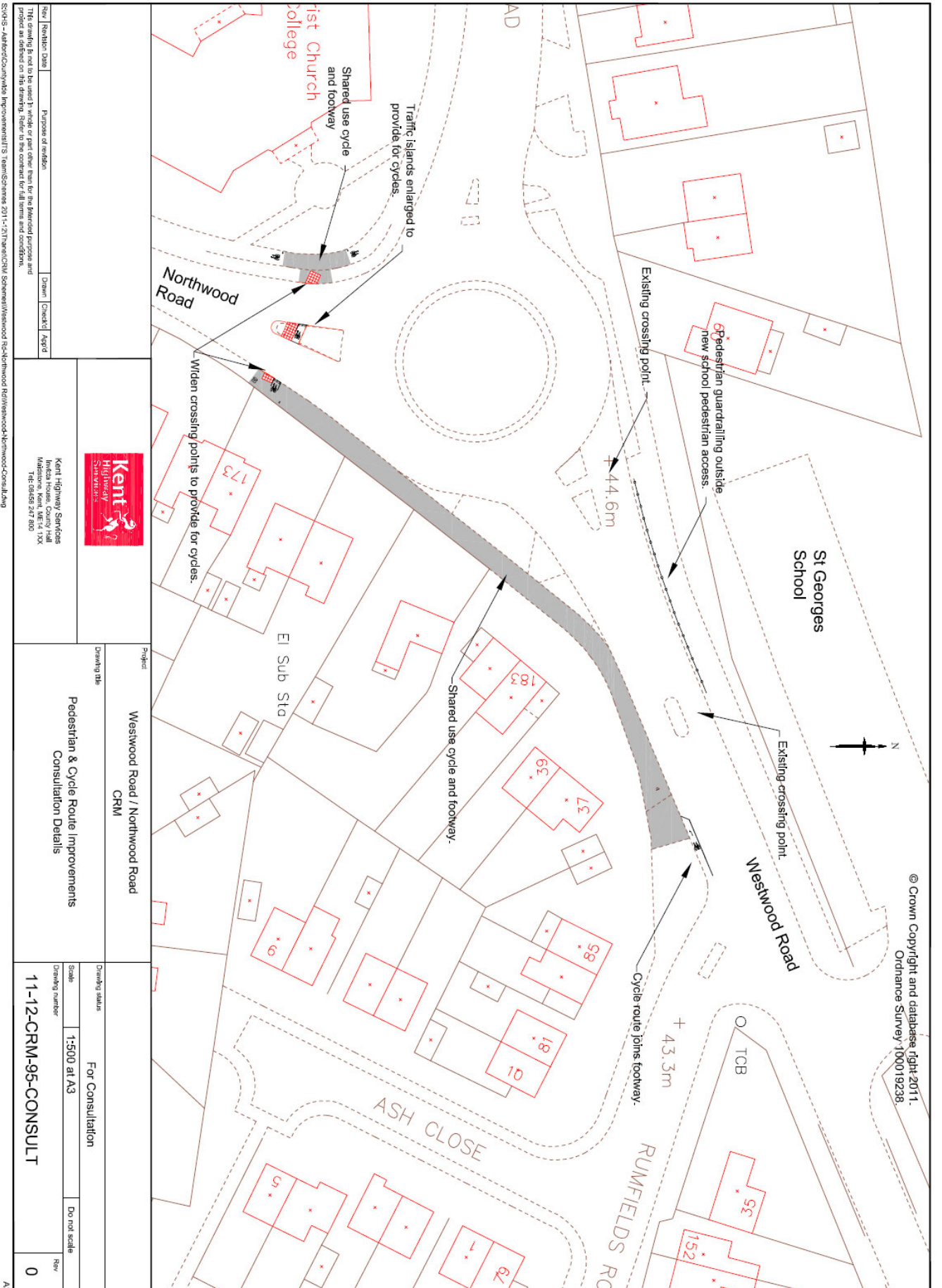
Background Papers:


Respondents' letters & feedback forms as summarised in paragraph 1.4 and accompanying table.

Contact Officer:

Kelly Garrett *Traffic Engineer (Canterbury & Thanet)* 08458 247 800

Appendix 1



<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Rev</th> <th>Revision Date</th> <th>Purpose of revision</th> <th>Drawn</th> <th>Checked</th> <th>App'd</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> <p>The drawing is not to be used for any other than the intended purpose and project as defined on this drawing. Refer to the contract for all terms and conditions.</p>	Rev	Revision Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	App'd							 <p>Kent Highways SUSTAINABLE</p>	<p>Project:</p> <p>Westwood Road / Northwood Road CRM</p>	<p>Drawing title:</p> <p>Pedestrian & Cycle Route Improvements Consultation Details</p>	<p>Drawing status:</p> <p>For Consultation</p>
Rev	Revision Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	App'd											
<p>Kent Highway Services Indica House, County Hall Medway, Kent ME16 8JX Tel: 0866 247 800</p>	<p>Scale:</p> <p>1:500 at A3</p>	<p>Do not scale</p>	<p>Rev:</p> <p>0</p>													

SP083 - Ashford Councilwide Improvements ITS Teams Schemes 2011-21 / 11/11/2011 / CRM / Schemes / Westwood Road / Westwood Road / CRM / Consulting / AS