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**NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE ZEBRA CROSSING – Member Highway Fund Scheme  
RESULTS OF CONSULTATION**

To: **Thanet Joint Transportation Board, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

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

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

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Cliftonville East**                      Division: **Margate and Cliftonville**

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**Summary:**                      **The report summarises the results of the public consultation for a new pedestrian crossing and associated footway widening in Northumberland Avenue, Margate.**

**For Decision**

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**1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Kent County Council (KCC), is proposing the introduction of a new zebra crossing in Northumberland Avenue, Margate.
- 1.2 Staff and pupils from the nearby school have requested a new crossing facility to assist pedestrians when crossing Northumberland Road, in particular for children and parents when crossing to reach Cliftonville Primary School. The request was submitted in the form of a petition in July 2013, the document contained approximately 420 signatures. A copy of the petition can be seen upon request.
- 1.3 The principal scheme aim is to improve pedestrian safety when crossing Northumberland Avenue, and encourage walking and cycling in the area. The scheme also aims to lower vehicle speeds in the area which has been raised as a concern by residents, by way of narrowing the existing carriageway.
- 1.4 A crash analysis was carried out in Northumberland Avenue from its junction with Northdown Road to its junction with Northdown Park Road (a distance of approximately 350 metres) to ascertain if a crash record is present. In the last three years six slight injury crashes were reported. Five were located at the junction of Northdown Road and one at the junction with Northdown Park Road, no crashes were recorded within 100 metres the proposed crossing area. There was no discernible pattern based on the results of the crash analysis.
- 1.5 To safely install a new pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the school some on street parking will need to be removed. The proposed site has been deemed the most suitable location for a crossing, but will require the removal of all on street parking spaces between nos. 77 to 81 and part of 75 Northumberland Avenue. After taking into account that each of these properties has an existing private driveway / access the proposal as shown would remove approximately 6 on street parking spaces.

**2.0 Summary of consultation response**

- 2.1 A scheme proposal was prepared and put forward for public consultation. The scheme proposal may be seen in Annex 1.

- 2.2 The consultation period ran for just over 5 weeks (taking into account the Christmas period), from 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Information leaflets and plans were distributed to 35 immediately affected residents and businesses and 4 notification posters were placed along Northumberland Avenue.
- 2.3 All of the consultation information was made available on the [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) website, which included the opportunity to comment via email, post or telephone. Other consultees directly contacted included Thanet District Council, the local District and County Councillors, the emergency services and bus companies.
- 2.4 Consultees were asked whether they supported the proposals, and to provide any additional comments/thoughts that were relevant to the scheme. A summary of the responses received can be seen in Annex 2. Detailed copies of the consultation responses can be viewed upon request. The results were as follows:-

Do you support the proposed zebra crossing in Northumberland Avenue?	
Yes	No
37.5% (3)	62.5% (5)

- 2.5 The Head Teacher of Cliftonville Primary School has provided strong support for the scheme as has both local County Council Members, and the school crossing patrol. The Head Teacher and other staff at the school have advised that the new crossing is not proposed to replace the existing crossing patrol, but provide a safer environment and location for the patrol to operate. All three residents directly fronting the proposed site have objected to the proposals outlined. Their reasons for objection are outlined in Annex 2.

### 3.0 Financial

- 3.1 The scheme will cost £22,160 to implement. This will include high friction road surfacing on approach to the crossing, and the costs associated with widening the footway on the eastern side of the road. Kent County Councillors William Scobie and Mo Elenor have chosen to use some of their Member Highway Fund allocation to progress and construct this scheme. In addition, the governors at Cliftonville Primary School have also pledged to make a £1,000 contribution towards the project.

### 4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 All funding is to be delivered by the local County Council Members and the nearby school. Based on the petition for a crossing, and amendments made after the consultation process it is proposed that the scheme proceed as outlined.

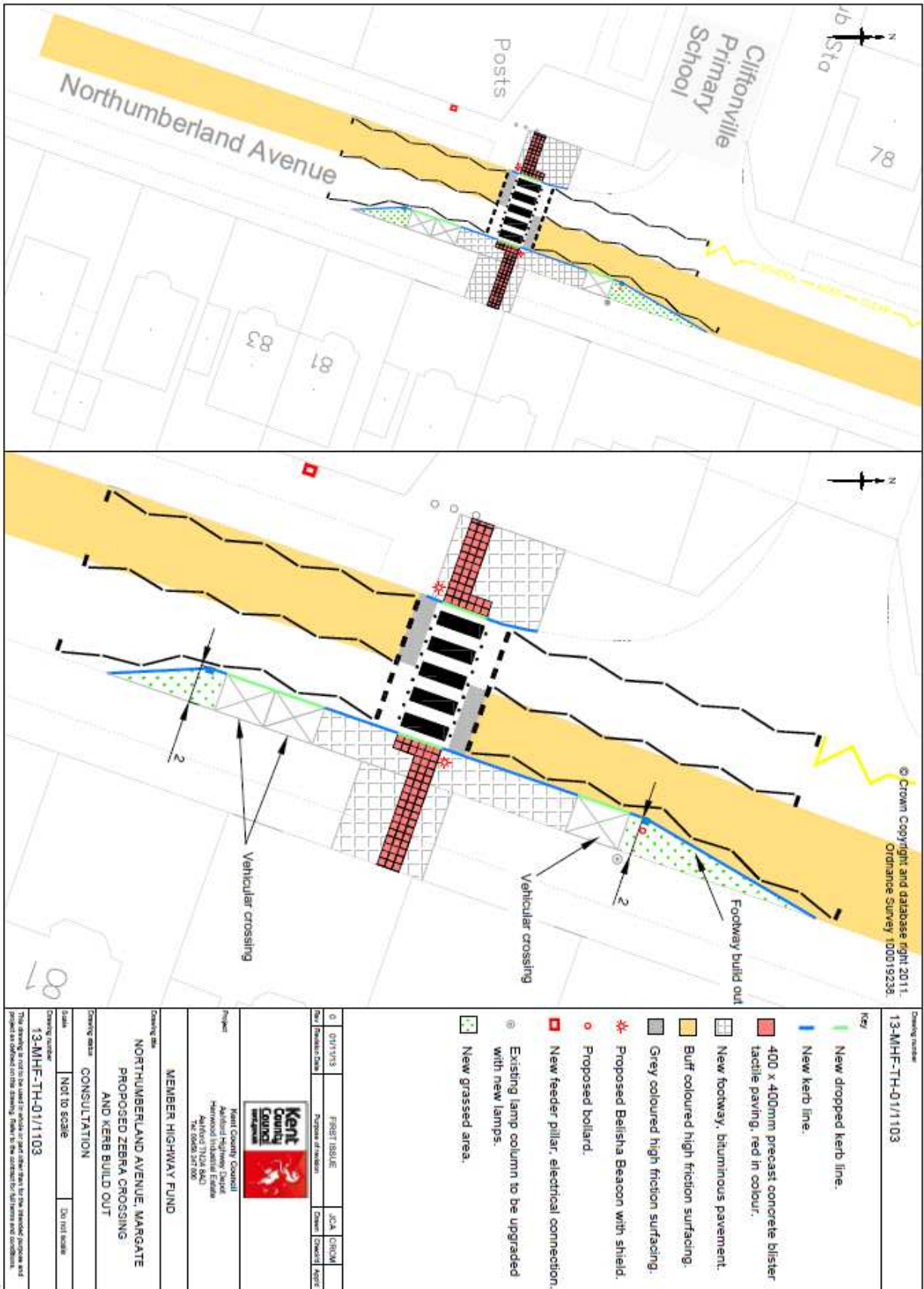
Future Meeting if applicable: N/A	Date: 27/03/2014
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Contact Officer:	<i>Ryan Shiel, Traffic Engineer 08458 247800</i>
Reporting to:	<i>Andy Corcoran, Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager</i>

#### **Annex List**

<i>Annex 1</i>	<i>Scheme Proposal / Plan</i>
<i>Annex 2</i>	<i>Consultation Responses</i>

# NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE ZEBRA CROSSING SCHEME – Member Highway Fund Scheme Annex 1 – Scheme Proposal / Plan



Drawing number 13-MHF-TH-01/1103											
<p>Key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">—</span> New dropped kerb line.</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">—</span> New kerb line.</li> <li><span style="color: red;">■</span> 400 x 400mm precast concrete blister tactile paving, red in colour.</li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> New footway, bituminous pavement.</li> <li><span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Buff coloured high friction surfacing.</li> <li><span style="background-color: grey; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Grey coloured high friction surfacing.</li> <li><span style="color: red;">*</span> Proposed Belisha Beacon with shield.</li> <li><span style="color: red;">○</span> Proposed bollard.</li> <li><span style="color: red;">■</span> New feeder pillar, electrical connection.</li> <li><span style="color: red;">⊗</span> Existing lamp column to be upgraded with new lamps.</li> <li><span style="background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> New grassed area.</li> </ul>											
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>01/11/13</td> <td>FRBT 188/LE</td> <td>JCA</td> <td>CRDM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rev</td> <td>Revision Date</td> <td>Purpose of revision</td> <td>Drawn</td> <td>Checked</td> </tr> </table>	0	01/11/13	FRBT 188/LE	JCA	CRDM	Rev	Revision Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	<p>Kent County Council          Maidstone Highway Dept          Herwood Industrial Estate          Maidstone TN26 3BQ          Tel: 01622 571100</p>
0	01/11/13	FRBT 188/LE	JCA	CRDM							
Rev	Revision Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked							
<p>Project  <b>MEMBER HIGHWAY FUND</b>          NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, MARGATE          PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING          AND KERB BUILD OUT</p>											
<p>Drawing title  <b>CONSULTATION</b></p>											
<p>Scale          Not to scale</p>	<p>Do not scale</p>										
<p>Drawing number  <b>13-MHF-TH-01/1103</b></p>											
<p>This drawing is not to scale in order to aid clarity for the Member Highway Fund project and is subject to change without notice. There is no liability for errors and omissions.</p>											

**NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE ZEBRA  
CROSSING SCHEME – Member Highway Fund Scheme  
Annex 2 – Consultation Responses**

Item	Comment received	KCC response
1.	The installation of a new zebra crossing in front of the residential properties is an over the top solution to the problem which will penalise residents in the fact that they will not be able to park vehicles outside their homes.	The carriageway is extremely wide at this point, over 8 metres in width. The widened footway is an essential element of this scheme to ensure that visibility for pedestrians using the crossing is sufficient, and to make sure parked cars do not obscure vision to drivers on approach to the proposed crossing. As with any crossing scheme the main aim is to help pedestrians safely cross and remain in the vehicular carriageway for as little time as possible, narrowing the carriageway is an effective way to reduce the risk.
2.	To ease the pressures in Northumberland Avenue a speed restriction of 20 mph should be introduced and to have traffic calming measures installed in the street to help alleviate some of the risks.	Traffic calming is beyond the scope of this scheme.
3.	A lot of the problems are caused by parent's dangerous driving habits and school staff, parking on the road instead of the car park, leaving less space for the sensible parents to drop their children off safely.	Comment noted. We will raise this issue with Cliftonville Primary School and ask that they take appropriate action.
4.	Introduction of two belisha beacons will add further unnecessary light pollution to this area. How effective will the shields be, as the ones at the top of the road seem to have disappeared? It is also not clear whether the beacons are proposed to have illuminated poles.	The proposed scheme does not include illuminated beacon poles, just the orange beacon globes. The shields will be black metal covers which will cover the light from directly shining into nearby properties. KCC Street lighting has now been made aware of the missing shields in Northdown Park Road.
5.	What type of surfacing is proposed, and will this lead to an increase in road noise?	Application of high friction surfacing is a standard procedure for new pedestrian crossings. The material is used frequently in urban areas, and we have not previously received any complaints about additional road noise.
6.	The zig zag lines extend further than the built out footway. Could this be reduced to maintain some on street parking on the eastern side of Northumberland Avenue?	Comment noted. The scheme proposal will be amended to ensure that the zig – zag lines on the exit and approach of the eastern side of the road are reduced by 2 metres.
7.	The safety of children crossing this road at peak school starting and finishing times is of paramount importance and there is a risk to this if some form of action is not taken especially with plans to expand the school further in the immediate future.	Comment noted.
8.	The school busy period is for about an hour in the morning and maximum two hours in the afternoon Monday to Friday during term time. The rest of the time the street is fairly calm and residents should be allowed to park outside their properties during these periods.	To safely install a pedestrian crossing in Northumberland Avenue, some on street parking provision will need to be removed. There are minimum parking restrictions associated with new crossings, to maintain adequate visibility. Please see KCC response to item 1.