

**Sevenoaks Town Council
Planning Committee 18th October 2021**

Reference Agenda Item 11: Highway Improvement Plan Draft

1. The below is the Highway Improvement Plan Draft as prepared by Cllrs Shea and Parry for consideration of the Planning Committee.

Sevenoaks Town Council - Highway Improvement Plan/Action Plan Revised October 2021

This HIP revision has been prepared for Sevenoaks Town Council's Planning Committee for discussion with Kent County Council's Highways Team.

It builds on earlier versions and discussions, and reflects recent changes in the town such as the introduction of two 20mph zones. We have focussed on the areas which are relevant to policy for both councils in areas including Place Making, Zero Accidents and Active Travel, with reference to STC's draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

The NDP addresses multiple themes. Relevant to Highways Improvement is Theme 3 - 'Movement and Public Realm'. The relevant extracts can be found in Appendix 1, but the key themes which matter for the HIP are:

- shifting towards **greener modes of transport**;
- **public realm enhancements**, including improving the pedestrian experience and surface repairs;
- **removal of barriers** to pedestrian and cycle movement;
- additional **cycle facilities**;
- new **walking and cycling routes**;
- **20mph speed limits** close to schools and in some residential areas;
- improved **pedestrian and cycle crossing** facilities at major junctions; and
- improvement of **transport interchange** at Sevenoaks rail station.

Cllr Shea and Cllr Parry
13/10/2021

**Sevenoaks Town Council - Highway Improvement Plan/Action Plan
Revised October 2021**

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN - Stage 1			ACTION PLAN - Stage 2		
Priority	Location	Problem and suggested remedy	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Action/Programme (Who/When)
1.	Bat and Ball Junction, A25/A225	<p>PROBLEM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate, poorly designed crossing points for pedestrian safety; • Considerable congestion and delays during the four daily rush hour periods and throughout the day, with particular traffic queues forming on Otford Road and Seal Road towards the junction; • Very high levels of air pollution. <p>SUGGESTED REMEDY:</p> <p>We have been consulted by Tarmac on their designs for a roundabout here. Our concerns have been largely reflected in the design we have seen.</p> <p>This scheme should be implemented ahead of the development at the Tarmac quarry site. The design proposed will improve pedestrian safety, reconnect the neighbourhood and reduce air pollution and traffic jams.</p>			
2.	Sevenoaks Railway Station / London Road/ Hitchen Hatch Lane	<p>PROBLEM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrians take 'shortest route', walking in the highway and avoiding pedestrian crossings; • Long waits for vehicles at multiple lights causing delays, noise and pollution. <p>SUGGESTED REMEDY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign junction to create safe, direct pedestrian crossings and simplify vehicle controls. 			
3	HGV routes	<p>PROBLEM:</p> <p>HGV movement in the town as through traffic. This:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhibits active travel; • Increases burden on junctions; • Increases air pollution in residential areas; • Risks damage to Conservation Areas. <p>SUGGESTED REMEDY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce HGV weight/ size restrictions to the 'central' Sevenoaks area for through traffic. • Highways England to improve signage at motorway junctions to direct freight to use the M25 and the A21 bypass rather than A25 through Sevenoaks and neighbouring villages. 			

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4	Junction of A25/ Hospital Road	<p>PROBLEM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult for motorists to exit Hospital Road and Greatness Lane onto A25, contributing to the congestion at Bat and Ball junction. The Tarmac site development, accessed from Greatness Lane, will considerably increase this problem. <p>SUGGESTED REMEDY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC Highways Engineering advice welcomed. 			
5	Surfacing improvements	<p>Carriageway/ Footpath surfacing improvements and repairs are required in the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wickenden Avenue 2. Broomfield Road 3. Mill Lane 			
6	Pedestrian Crossing Safety	<p>STC would welcome a review of pedestrian safety in select locations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillingdon Avenue; • Seal Road/ Greatness Park; • Bradbourne Vale Road/ Betenson Avenue; • A225 Seal Hollow Road/ 'Hole in the Wall'; and • St John's Hill/ Dartford Road 			

Footnote: It would be timely here to re-open discussion with our MP about the impact of J5 slip road design on the town and villages.

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Appendix 1 - Extract from Neighbourhood Development Plan

Below are extracts from the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, Theme 3 which encompasses three objectives, and a number of policies:

Objective 6:

To work with the District Council and Kent County Council, in consultation with neighbouring Parish Councils, to identify a long term strategic approach to transport in Sevenoaks to respond to and mitigate any impacts of new development on the existing network.

Objective 7:

To promote a coordinated approach to transport and movement that encourages use of sustainable transport modes, including walking and cycling, and reducing pollution levels, whilst ensuring that the centre is still accessible by car.

- Policy M1: The Neighbourhood Plan promotes walking and cycling and supports the removal of barriers to pedestrian and cycle movement across the town.
- Policy M2: The Neighbourhood Plan supports the Sevenoaks District Cycling Strategy and provision of additional cycle facilities to support new development.
- Policy M3: The Neighbourhood Plan promotes the delivery of a new walking and cycling route that connects Bat and Ball/ Otford Road with Dunton Green.
- Policy M4: The Neighbourhood Plan supports the introduction of a 20mph speed limit close to schools and in some residential areas.
- Policy M5: The Neighbourhood Plan supports proposal for improved pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities at major junctions across the town.
- Policy M7: The Neighbourhood Plan supports proposals to improve transport interchange facilities at Sevenoaks Station.
- Policy M9: The Neighbourhood Plan supports measures that will encourage a shift towards the use of greener modes of transport by businesses and residents.

Objective 8:

To deliver public realm enhancements to improve the pedestrian experience in the town.

- Policy M10: The Neighbourhood Plan supports proposals for public realm improvements within the town centre particularly linking key town centre destinations. Such improvements should be part of a town centre-wide strategy to help improve the pedestrian experience in the town centre. Where appropriate, the Neighbourhood Plan will support innovative proposals, such as shared surfaces, to improve the pedestrian environment and reduce the impact of traffic in both the town and neighbourhood centres. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the removal of street clutter including unnecessary street furniture and the adoption of a coordinated palette of materials and street furniture for the town and neighbourhood centres.
- Aim M11: The Town Council will identify locations across the town where repairs and improvements to paths and pavements are required to improve the pedestrian environment.

The complete Neighbourhood Development Plan draft can be found at www.sevenoaksndp.wordpress.com