Agenda Item 13 of Sevenoaks Town Council's Planning Committee Agenda – 17th July 2023

Sevenoaks Town Council's complete submission to Sevenoaks District Council's (SDC) and Kent County Council's (KCC) joint consultation on their proposed East-West Walking, Wheeling and Cycling route for Sevenoaks Town.

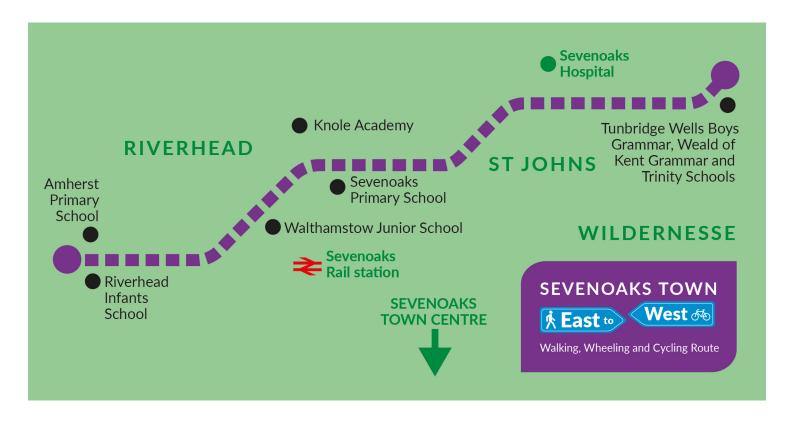
The attached responses were drafted via a Working Group, comprising Cllr Clayton, Cllr Shea, Cllr Skinner and Cllr Layne, who were assigned by the Planning Committee on 5th June 2023 to look at the proposals and feedback to the Committee.

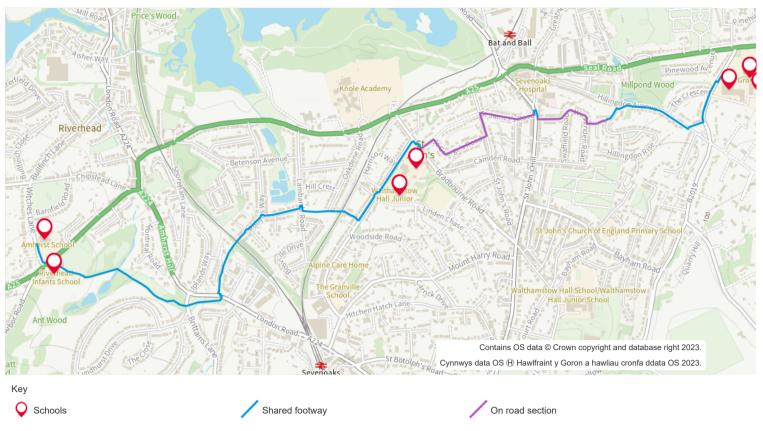
The draft questionnaire response was received and approved for submission by the Planning Committee on 3rd July 2023, with an added resolution to forward accompanying letters to both SDC and KCC Officers, notifying them of STC owned land which is affected by the route, and expanding on the comments and concerns of the Planning Committee. These letters were subsequently drafted using Cllr comments, approved by the Working Group, and submitted via email to SDC and KCC on 12th July 2023.

Pages 2-14: Consultation Questionnaire with STC responses

Pages 15-17: A letter to SDC and KCC Officers concerning additional comments that the Town Council wished to make

Pages 18-19: A letter to SDC and KCC Officers notifying of Town Council owned land affected by the route





About your journeys

Firstly, we would like to know a little about your current journeys in and around Sevenoaks Town.

1 How do you usually travel to and around Sevenoaks Town, and how often?

	Every day or nearly every day	2-5 days a week	Once a week	Less often but at least once a month	Less often than once a month	Never
Walking or wheeling (using a wheelchair) to get to/from work or school Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0	\circ
Walking or wheeling (using a wheelchair) for pleasure Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cycling to get to/from work or school Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cycling for pleasure Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, van or motorcycle to get to/from work or school Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, van or motorcycle for pleasure Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public transport (e.g bus, taxi, train) to get to/from work or school Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public transport (e.g bus, taxi, train) for pleasure Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0	0

What stops you from walking, wheeling or cycling more often?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I don't have access to a bike Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Using a car or public transport is easier/quicker Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
The places I want to travel to are too far away to walk, wheel or cycle Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Fear of being involved in a collision Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
I don't feel safe cycling on the road Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Poorly maintained road, footpath or cycle lane surfaces Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of cycle routes or footpaths Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
I don't have anywhere safe to store a bicycle at home or at my destination Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Health reasons Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
I don't feel confident enough to cycle Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
The weather Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
I don't feel safe walking, wheeling or cycling on my own Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Nothing stops me from walking, wheeling or cycling more often Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Another reason Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
you have selected 'another reason' pleas	se provide details here				

3 How much do you agree that the following would encourage you to walk, wheel or cycle more often?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagre
Saving money on transport costs Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Getting more exercise /improving my health Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Knowing I am helping the environment Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
New footways or cycle facilities Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Separating facilities to cycle or walk on away from traffic Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Routes that are more direct to my desired destination Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
mproved cycle storage at my destination Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
More lighting for travelling at night Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Seeing more people walking or cycling Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Better maintained existing roads, footways or cycle paths Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
A more attractive environment to travel around Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
Nothing would encourage me to walk, wheel or cycle more Please select only one Item	0	0	0	0	0
Another reason Please select only one item	0	0	0	0	0
ou have selected 'another reason' please	e provide details here				

Lake View Road options

At this point along the route we would like to understand your preference for connecting Lake View Road to Bradbourne Park Road.

4 Which route option would you prefer to take? Please select one route option from the map below.



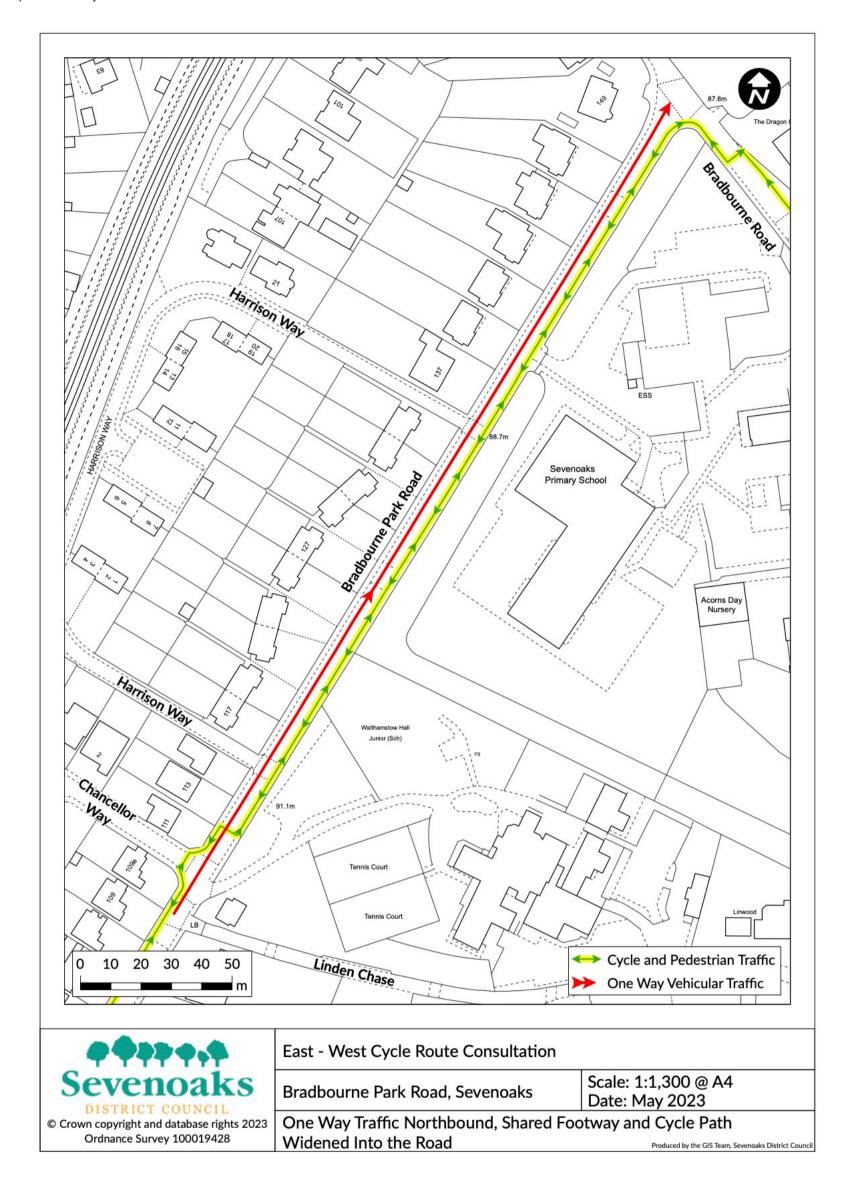
Please select only one item

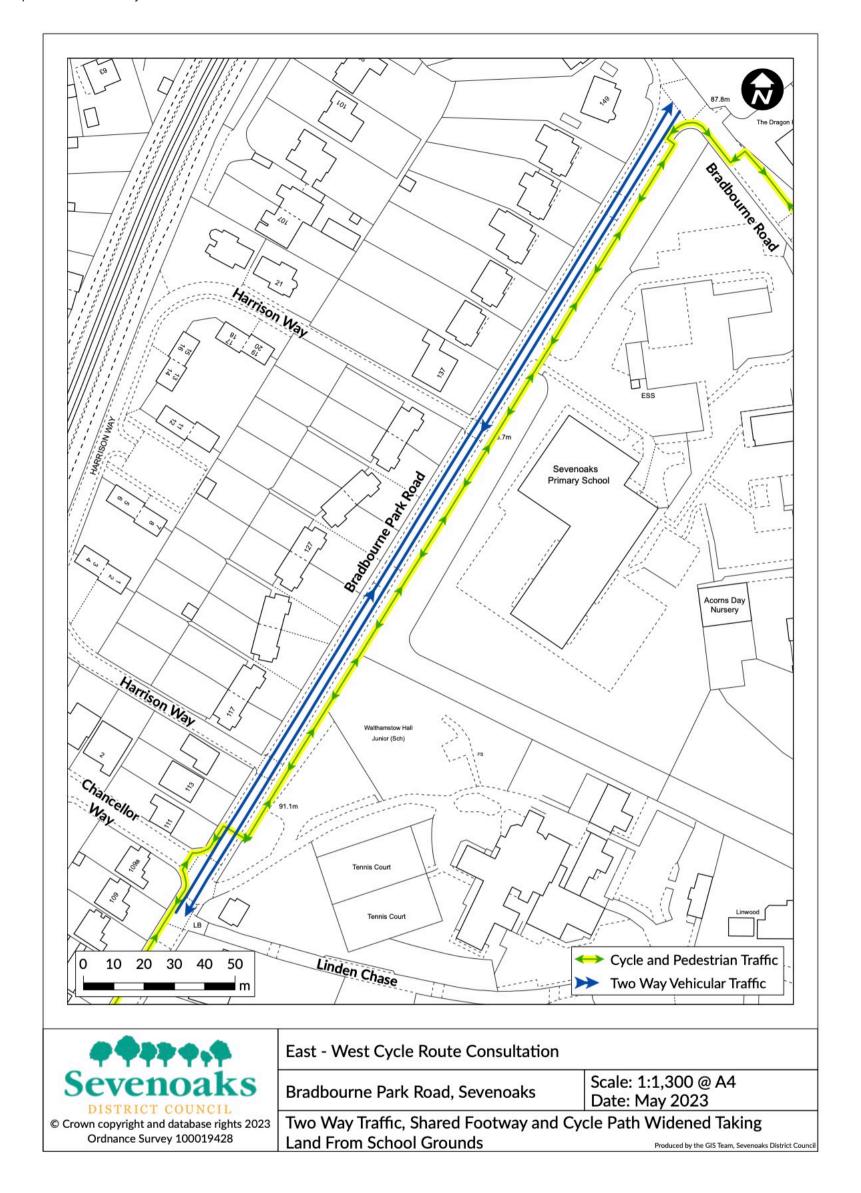
Option A - Clockhouse Lane

Option B - Lambarde Road > Bosville Road > Bradbourne Park Road

Bradbourne Park Road is a residential road, however we know it can get busy at school drop off and pick up times. We would like to understand your preferred approach to providing a safe walking, wheeling and cycling route for this section of the route.

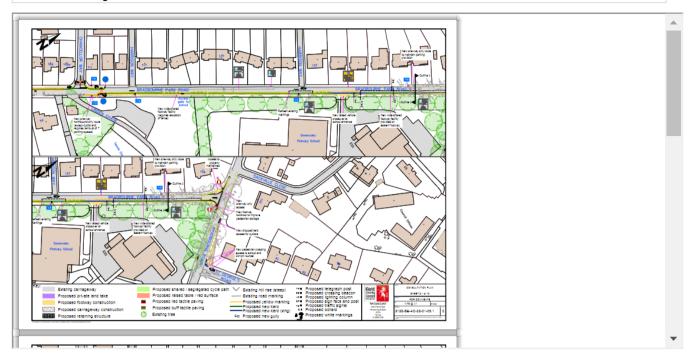
Option A - One-way northbound





5 Please select your preferred option to ensuring a safe walking, wheeling and cycling route along Bradbourne Park Road.

Technical Drawings



Diagon colont only one item

Option A - One-way northbound from the junction of Linden Chase. The footway will be widened by relocating the existing school fence.

Option B - Maintain two-way traffic from the junction of Linden Chase. The footway will be widened by land-take from the school.

Option C - None of the above

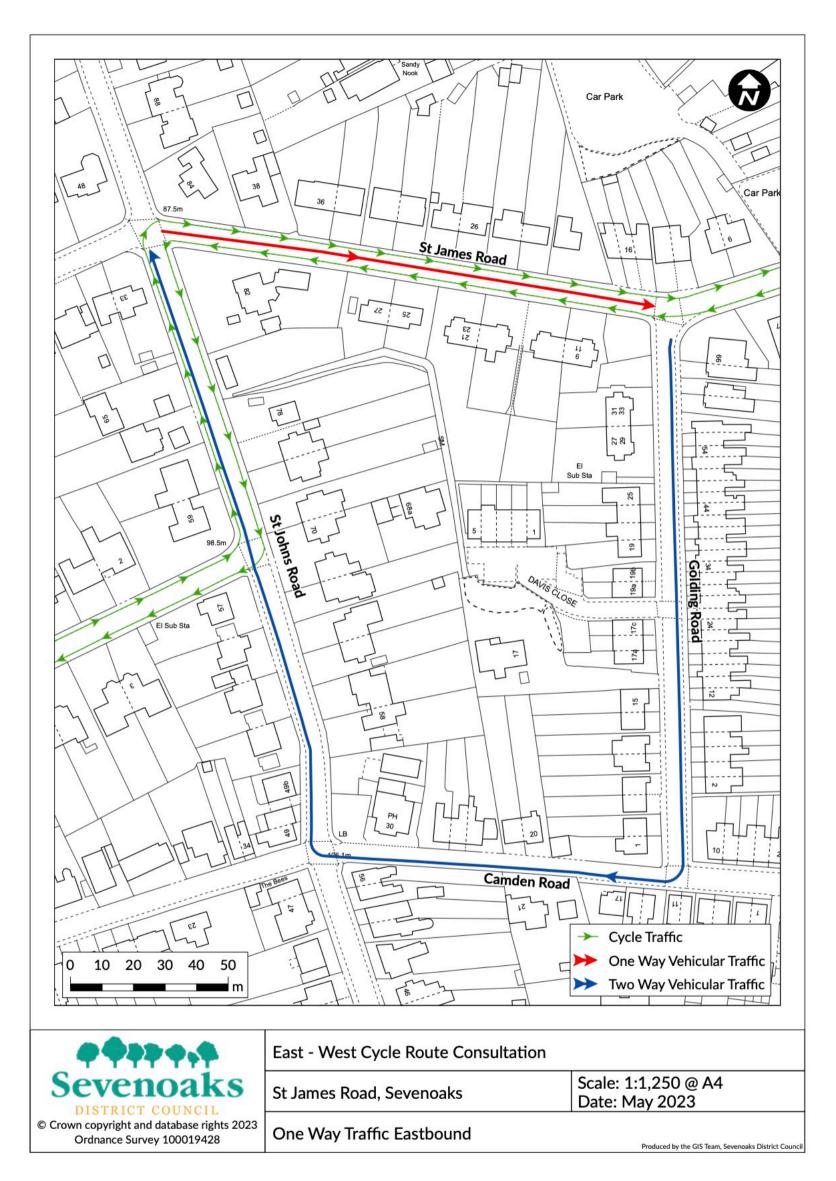
If you have selected 'Option C - none of the above' please provide details below

Sevenoaks Town Council is strongly against Option A, as the one-way system will have an unacceptable impact on other roads in the area.

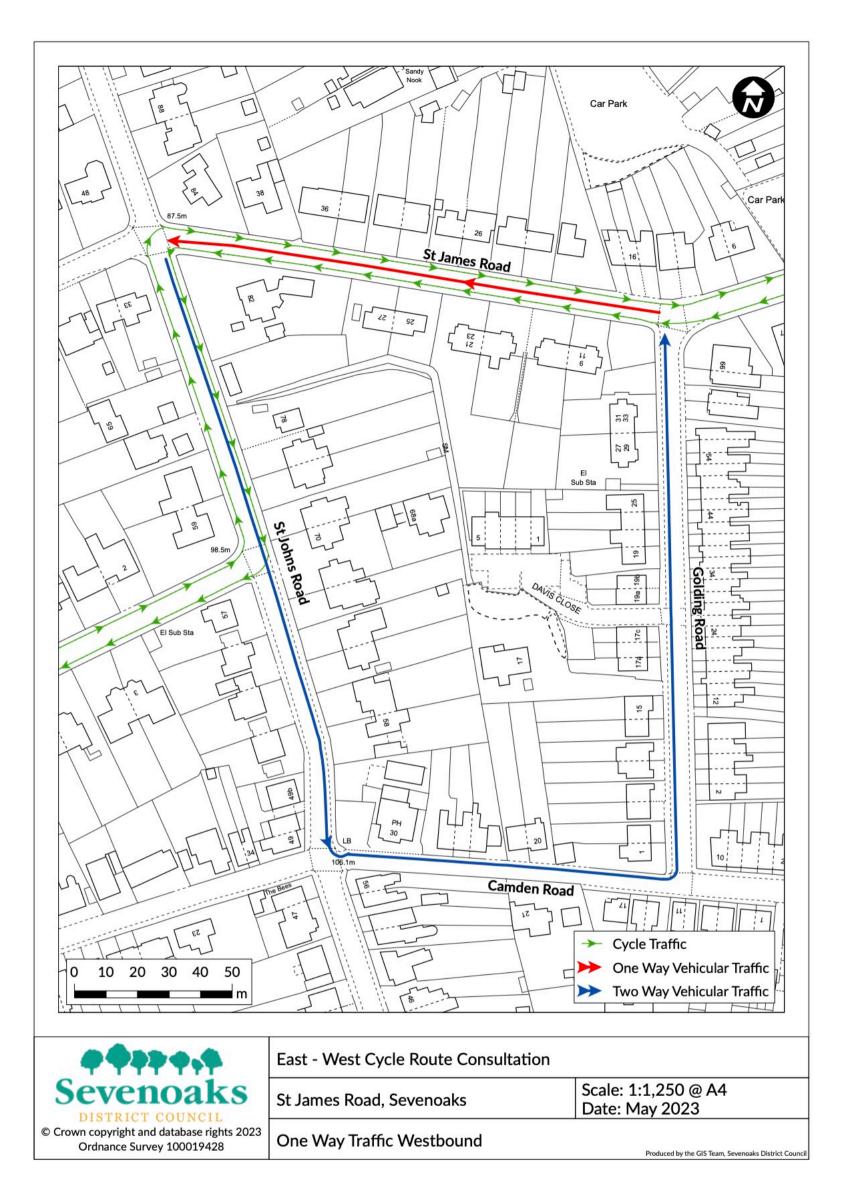
It is also hesitant to approve Option B, on the basis that it also has unfortunate repercussions such as the loss of land to the school, cost of purchasing this land, and the loss or relocation of mature trees here. The Town Council does not consider the perceived benefit from segregating motorist traffic from cyclists to outweigh these costs, as it may not necessarily even reduce accidents.

Sevenoaks Town Council instead urges the engineers to consider/look into the viability of a shared surface for both motorists and cyclists, indicated with green tarmac and cyclist markings to give cyclists priority and to make motorists more mindful and aware that it is a shared zone, while maintaining the 2 way system for cars as a priority. The Town Council acknowledges that this this will be further complicated by the fact that cars park on both sides of the road and recommends that street furniture be removed to facilitate the shared space.

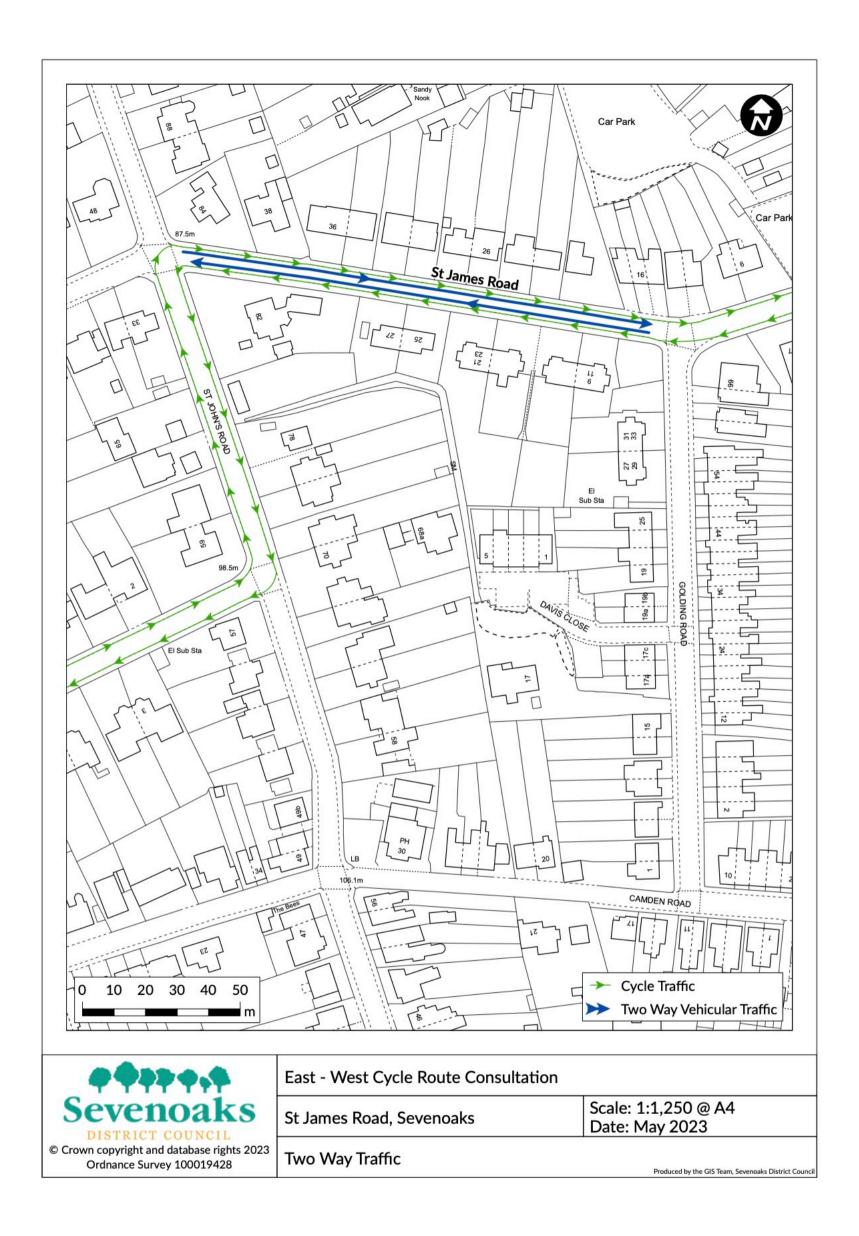
Option A - One way eastbound



Option B - One way westbound



Option C - Maintain two-way traffic



6 Please select your preferred option for managing vehicular traffic along St James's Road.

Technical Drawings

Please select only one item Option A - One way (Eastbound) Option B - One Way (Westbound) Option C - Maintain two-way traffic Option D - None of the above If you have selected 'Option D - none of the above' please provide details below Sevenoaks Town Council would prefer Option C on the basis that it does not change the routings of traffic, and requests, similarly to its recommendation in Question 5, that engineers amend the design to incorporate a shared surface for both motorists and shared space, this would be much more preferable to major diversions and one-way proposals.

cyclists, with coloured tarmac to indicate to motorists that it is a shared zone and to give priority in that zone to cyclists when they are present. Again, parking is an issue on this road on the south side, however with adequate road markings that encourage motorists to be mindful of the Sevenoaks Town Council would also request that negotiations with residents on the private stretch of St James' road continue for a paved cycling route (if economically and engineeringly viable), as it considers that this route will be used by the majority of cyclists regardless of

whether they are directed to take the longer route via St George's Road. The Town Council questioned why this part of the proposed route, as shown in the Technical drawings, was not included either in the questionnaire, or in the main consultation document where it is notably absent. Your views

7 To what extent do you agree with the proposed improvements for walking, wheeling and cycling in Sevenoaks Town?

Please select only one item

Strongly Agree

X Agree

Neither agree or disagree

O Disagree

Strongly Disagree

8 Would you use the proposed route for walking, wheeling or cycling?

Please select only one item

() Yes

O No

I don't know

9 Do you have any further comments about the proposed walking, wheeling and cycling improvements in Sevenoaks Town?

Please explain your answer here

Sevenoaks Town Council wished to flag the issue that not all of the routes shown in the Technical drawings are included in the main consultation document - most notably the private stretch of St James Road. Similarly, the Technical drawings do not cover the entire extent of the East-West route.

Sevenoaks Town Council also wished to flag its opinion that the potential for short-cutting at the junction between St James and Wickenden Road, with cyclists taking this direct option rather than the diverted crossing point further up the hill. It would request that this be monitored so that that similar current situation by Sevenoaks Station not be repeated here. In addition, the Town Council expressed concerns with the proposed crossing on Seal Hollow Road to the Trinity School,

as the pavement is extremely narrow and not considered wide enough for a bike to turn the required 90 degrees to make the crossing, without blocking the entire pavement. A more effective solution would be to utilise the back gate at Trinity School for special cyclist entry, and for cyclists to cross at that point instead.

Finally, Sevenoaks Town Council wished to portray that - in the event that the obtained funding is not enough to cover the entirety of the route - it would allocate priority to the section between Clock House to Trinity School.

About you

Finally, we need to ask for a bit of information about you, so that we can take on board your comments. We cannot accept anonymous comments.

We will use information you provide here only for this activity.

Comments will be published and attributed by name and organisation only.

10 Name and Organisation
Please enter your first name (Required)
Georgie
Please enter your surname (Required)
Elliston
If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please enter the name of the organisation here
Sevenoaks Town Council
11 What is your email address?
Email
planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk
12 How do you describe your gender?
Please select only one item
Male
Female
Other
Prefer not to say
42 Herrald are yeu?
13 How old are you?
(Required) Please select only one item
0-11
0 12-17
18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
<u></u>
65 and over
💢 I'd prefer not to say
14 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?
Please select only one item
Yes
○ No
Prefer not to say
45 Diagon state the type (a) of impairment that applies to you
15 Please state the type(s) of impairment that applies to you. Please select only one item
None - I do not have a disability
Sensory impairment (such as being blind / having a visual impairment or being deaf / having a hearing impairment)
Learning disability (such as Downs syndrome or dyslexia) or cognitive impairment (such as autism or head-injury)
Mental health condition (such as depression or schizophrenia)
Long-standing illness or health condition (such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy)
Prefer not to say
Other

If you have selected 'other' please provide details here

16	If you live in Sevenoaks District, which Town or Parish do you live in?
Plea	se select from the list (Required)
Pleas	e select only one item
Ō	I don't live in the District
\bigcirc	Ash-cum-Ridley
\bigcirc	Badgers Mount
\bigcirc	Brasted
\bigcirc	Chevening
0	Chiddingstone
\bigcirc	Cowden
0	Crockenhill
0	Dunton Green
0	Edenbridge
\bigcirc	Eynsford
0	Farningham
\bigcirc	Fawkham
\bigcirc	Halstead
\bigcirc	Hartley
\bigcirc	Hever
\bigcirc	Hextable
\bigcirc	Horton Kirby & South Darenth
\bigcirc	Kemsing
\bigcirc	Knockholt
\bigcirc	Leigh
\bigcirc	Otford
\bigcirc	Penshurst
\bigcirc	Riverhead
\bigcirc	Seal
X	Sevenoaks Town
\bigcirc	Sevenoaks Weald
\bigcirc	Shoreham
\bigcirc	Sundridge with Ide Hill
\bigcirc	Swanley
\bigcirc	Westerham
\bigcirc	West Kingsdown
17	Please confirm that you agree to your comments being published and attributed by name and organisation (if applicable)
	quired) e select only one item
X	I confirm that my comments can be publish and attributed by my name and organisation

Sevenoaks Town Council Town Council Offices Bradbourne Vale Road Sevenoaks TN13 3QG

12th July 2023

Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council

Good afternoon,

Re: East – West Walking, Wheeling and Cycling proposed route

In addition to Sevenoaks Town Council's (STC) sur ey response, formatted as per the consultation's questionnaire, Sevenoaks Town Council would also like to reiterate its main comments and concerns as to the proposals as follows:

(Working through the route from West to East for ease of reference)

- The stretch of route which goes through Brittains Common (please refer to the
 accompanying letter regarding STC Land Ownership) is across STC owned land, and will
 therefore need closer consultation with the Town Council as to issues such as treatment of
 trees and other greenery, as well as any restrictions that may be applicable due to this land
 being formally registered as a Town and Village Green.
- STC isn't opposed to the route through either Lake View Road or London Road, subject to both of those stretches being reduced to 20mph.
- The section along Clockhouse Lane could be improved by extending the route to Knole Academy at the junction with Oakdene Road and towards Sevenoaks Station at the junction with Bradbourne Park Road. This would increase its value and use.
- STC is strongly opposed to any proposals for one-way systems; both on Bradbourne Park
 Road and also on St James's Road further on in the route. Regardless of which direction is
 made one-way, the impact on surrounding roads and congestion are considered
 unacceptable, and should be avoided. The following concerns with regards to the
 Bradbourne Park Road one-way proposals are noted:
 - School traffic will divert to Bradbourne Road, which has no drop off capacity;
 - All traffic, school or residential will have to travel the full length of Bradbourne Park Road to get in/out. There are no other 'escape routes'. STC is therefore extremely concerned about the impact on the junction with Bosville Road, as drivers trying to access or leave the centre section of Bradbourne Park Road will divert along the A25, through Bradbourne Lakes along Lambarde Road (crossing the new cycle route at the bottom of Clockhouse Lane, where visibility is poor), and exiting at Bosville Road. This junction is extremely narrow, and local users know that it is a 'one in, one out' junction as it is so narrow and tight for modern cars. STC considers that this will add

- to pollution through extra distance travelled, impact the maintenance of the very poorly constructed Lambarde Road and make for frustrated drivers.
- Alternatively, as the diversion route map shows, traffic will divert up Bradbourne Road to exit at Gallows Corner and come back down Mount Harry Road. STC considers this unacceptable on the grounds that Bradbourne Road is very narrow with the pavement being barely wide enough to accommodate a pushchair, the pavement frequently changes sides or disappears, and two-way traffic is impossible in places. The highway is full of pedestrians, many of them children, at school run time, and it can be quite dangerous already.
- Due to the catchments for the two independent schools are large, with many parents delivering children to school on their way to work, the volume of drivers on these roads are high enough that all three schools have to actively work to reduce car nuisance locally.
- With the above points in mind, STC urges design engineers to look into the feasibility of a shared surface for cyclists and motorists at the locations which propose one-way systems, with road markings and coloured tarmac to indicate that it is a shared space to encourage motorists to be mindful/give priority to cyclists. STC acknowledges that this present have difficulties of its own, especially on Bradbourne Park Road where cars park on both sides of the road, however considers that a one-way system must be the absolute last resort. In addition to avoiding loss of land at the School, which is wooded with mature trees, this could also be a cheaper option than re-routing traffic and widening the pavements.
- With regards to the private stretch of St James' Road, STC would request that negotiations with residents on this road continue for a paved cycling route, as it considers that the route will be used by the majority of cyclists, regardless of whether they are directed to take the long route via St George's Road. The alternative is longer and uphill, and therefore unlikely to be adhered to. At a minimum STC would ask that the private part of St James' Road at least be a walking route, even if cyclists get diverted.*
- STC would at this point also mention the discrepancies between the routes proposed in the
 technical drawings, and the route shown in the main consultation drawing. The most
 significant one being the private section of St James' Road, which is shown in the technical
 drawings, but not in the main consultation document. In addition, but perhaps less
 controversial, the extension of Bradbourne Park Road via Bosville Road to Sevenoaks station
 is not shown on the main document, and neither is the turning off Clock House Lane to
 Oakdene Road, nor the alternative route at The Crescent.
- The Junction between St James Road and Wickenden Road, in diverting cyclists down the hill in order to cross the road, presents the potential for a repetition of the issues seen frequently at Hitchen Hatch Lane; where pedestrians will take the more direct route on the road instead of using the formal crossing which is further up the road. STC is concerned that cyclists will take the direct route as a short-cut, and would ask that this at least be monitored, or preferably, the zebra crossing be moved to create a direct line between Wickenden Road and St James' Road.
- Similar to the first bullet point, the land on the right of Littlewood through which the route crosses onto Hillingdon Avenue, is owned by STC. Please refer to the accompanying letter

which relates to this as, again, this will require closer consultation with STC as to issues such as treatment of trees and other greenery.

- STC expressed concern with the proposed crossing on Seal Hollow Road to Trinity School, as the pavement is extremely narrow and not considered wide enough for a bike to make the required 90 degree turn without blocking the pavement. A more effective solution would be to utilise the back gate at Trinity School for special cyclist entry, and for cyclists to cross at that point instead.
- *Similarly to the previous suggestion marked with an asterisk in the bullet-point above, this is another area that may benefit from the proposed cycle path being separate from the walking path. STC suggests that, regardless of which path SDC and KCC decide to pursue for the cycling path (out of Seal Hollow Road, or STC's suggestion of going via the back gate at Trinity School), the walking path remain separate and go via The Crescent. This is proposed in order to avoid conflicts between walkers and cyclers on the narrow pavements.
- STC wished to reiterate that, should the obtained funding not be enough to cover the entirety of the route, its priority for delivery would be the section between Clock House and Trinity School.
- To conclude on a positive note, STC is supportive in particular of the proposals at Wickenden Road, Littlewood, Hillingdon Avenue (with its off-road facilities), and the creation of a pedestrian crossing at Seal Hollow Road. With regards to the section through Littlewood and Wickenden Road, if the road surface cannot be improved, then STC would recommend a detour to the west end of Hillingdon Avenue and up Hospital Road.

Sevenoaks Town Council would like to thank both Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council for their collaborative work on this project, including the designing, consultation, and acquiring of funding, and thanks both for the opportunity to present the Town Council's views.

It looks forward to working closely with both authorities in order to reach an agreement on a deliverable East-West route which will provide the best quality of use to its constituents.

Kind regards,

Linda Larter MBE Town Clerk/Chief Executive Sevenoaks Town Council Town Council Offices Bradbourne Vale Road TN13 3QG

Sevenoaks Town Council Town Council Offices Bradbourne Vale Road Sevenoaks TN13 3QG

12th July 2023

Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council

Re: STC Land Ownership and the East – West Walking, Wheeling and Cycling proposed route

Good afternoon,

With regards to the proposed East-West Walking, Wheeling and Cycling proposed route, Sevenoaks Town Council wished to notify the engineering and design team of Town Council land which is directly affected by the route. The proposed route has been mapped as per the consultation designs on the below maps for reference.

The following parcels of land, with ownership boundaries accurately mapped below as per HM Land Registry Cadastral Parcels are owned by the Town Council. In two instances, the proposed route crosses directly through the land as shown.



*note: the blue line on the plan indicates the Sevenoaks Town Council parish boundary. The land shaded dark green relates to STC land known as Brittains Common, which is also registered as a Town and Village Green under the Commons Act 2006, register unit number VG250.



*note: The land shaded dark green relates to land known as "Land on the north side of Woodside Road." The proposed alternative route which runs adjacent to it does not appear to affect it as the route is proposed on-road, however the Town Council wishes to bring it to the design team's attention in case the designs should change following consultation. The land is open space with mature trees, and it is therefore important that these be retained.



*note: Finally, the land above shaded green is known as "Land at Littlewood" and is open space and woodland with coppiced Alder trees.

Please note that as landowners, Sevenoaks Town Council would expect to be fully consulted and made aware of any proposed changes to the land, including treatment of trees, hedgegrows and other greenery before development of the route on Town Council land can proceed.

Kind regards,

Linda Larter MBE Town Clerk/Chief Executive Sevenoaks Town Council Town Council Offices Bradbourne Vale Road TN13 3QG