

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: 18th September 2006

SUBJECT: MARINE PARADE, SHEERNESS – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME

BY: Divisional Manager – Kent Highway Services
Mid Kent Division

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: A report on the progress and objections to a crash remedial scheme at Marine Parade, Sheerness.

Decision required: That Members note the report.

Introduction

1. Marine Parade is a major route between Sheerness and Minster. The northern side of the road is bounded by seawall and there are residential properties and flats on the southern side. The properties have little or no off-street parking facilities. They therefore park their vehicles on the partially road and partially on the pavement thus making access very difficult for pedestrians and the less abled.
2. The crash record for this road shows 14 personal injury crashes between Alma Road and the Yacht Club in the 3 years to 31st December 2004. Of these 8 accidents took place in wet weather and 4 involved skidding and loss of control. The road was resurfaced during 2004 between the Town Centre and the junction with Richmond Street.

Discussion

3. A scheme to improve safety within this road was devised and has been included in the programme for this year. The scheme proposes a range of improvements, primarily between Alma Road and the footpath entrance to Cheyne Middle School to slow traffic, aid the movement of pedestrians and school children, protect footways and improve visibility at junctions. (A copy of the drawing of the scheme will be displayed at the meeting).
4. From east to west the scheme comprises of;
 - a. Marked parking bays to discourage footway parking and create a natural stagger forcing traffic to give way.
 - b. A built-out crossing point to protect the footpath entrance to Cheyne Middle School and enable safe crossing of the street.
 - c. A bus border to protect a bus stop and facilitate safe access to public transport.
 - d. Bus cages (bus stop bays) to clearly indicate bus stopping points on the road.
 - e. A kerb build out to improve visibility and bring give-way lines forward at junction with Alma Road.
 - f. Amendment to the existing parking restrictions to accommodate passing places and regularise parking.
5. The proposed scheme would result in the loss of eight existing unrestricted parking places. Four are currently situated on the bend opposite numbers 25-31

where the road narrows and a further four opposite the junction with Richmond Street adjacent to numbers 42-43. This would be offset by the introduction of six unrestricted spaces adjacent to numbers 22-28 where there is currently restricted parking (8/30 am – 6 pm); a net loss of two parking spaces.

6. The amendment to the existing Traffic Regulation Order to accommodate these measures was advertised and received a number of objections. This led to a meeting with the residents, the Ward and County Members for the area. The main concern of residents was that their vehicles would be used as a form of traffic calming to hinder the two-way traffic flow. Residents currently mount the pavement to protect their vehicles from being clipped by passing traffic. Residents have suggested in their letters that the footway on the northern (seawall) side of Marine Parade could be narrowed to allow unrestricted parking and aid the free flow of traffic. It was explained at the meeting that as a consequence of doing this, passing speeds of vehicles would increase. This would then have to be counter measured with other traffic calming features, which may not be possible to introduce in this road. Nevertheless the residents request is being investigated and the outcome will be the subject of further discussion with them. This will form the basis of a report at the next meeting of this Board.

Decision required

That Members note the report.

Contact Officer

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Background documents:

Crash data

Proposed Scheme Drawing (to be displayed at meeting)

Plan 1 – existing restrictions

Plan 2 – proposed restrictions

Photo 1