

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DATE: 18th December 2006
SUBJECT: Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne – Highway Safety Issue
BY: Divisional Manager Mid Kent
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: An information report by the Divisional Manager to the Swale Joint Transportation Board on the planned implementation of the Swanstree Avenue extension and how the scheme will address local residents' concerns regarding existing highway safety issues.

Decision Required: Information item only

Introduction

1. Residents of Swanstree Avenue have submitted a petition requesting the introduction of speed reducing measures along Swanstree Avenue to address the perceived speeding problems and the related safety issues for pedestrians, particularly school children at the start and end of the school day.

Discussion

2. As part of the planning permissions granted for the housing development at Fulston Manor in Sittingbourne the developers, Wilson Homes, are required to construct a new road shared cycleway/footway between Wadham Place and Brenchley Gardens. The associated Section 278 Highway Agreement for the new road also requires the developer to design the new road with integral traffic calming measures which are required to be carried through to include the existing sections of Swanstree Avenue and Brenchley Road.
3. The S278 Agreement also requires the developer to provide new street lighting along the existing Swanstree Avenue consistent with the new road street lighting, the provision of a purpose designed cycleway along the existing section of Swanstree Avenue and the reconstruction of the junction of Swanstree Avenue and A2 London Road as a traffic signal controlled junction with integral pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities.
4. The local public were consulted on the housing development and consequent highway improvements in early 2003. At this time local residents were consulted on the outline design details of the road extension which provided details of the scale, alignment and proposed traffic calming features along the new section and existing highway as well as the improved pedestrian crossing points and the changes to the A2/Swanstree Avenue junction. The feedback received from the consultation exercise was then used to positively inform the final road design process.
5. Consequently, at the beginning of November 2006 the developers consultants engaged with the public again and sent out letters with plans to every household in the local area advising them of the final road design and the planned start of highway works. The final designs have been the subject of a rigorous technical and safety audit process to ensure that they meet all current design standards.
6. The letter advised local residents that the highway works would be starting in January 2007 and will take approximately 22 weeks to complete.

Conclusion

In view of the above planned highway works, it is clear that the concerns of the local residents who have signed the petition, will be addressed with the introduction of the traffic calming and improved crossing facilities along the whole stretch of new and existing sections of Swanstree Avenue and Brenchley Road. Following completion of the works which are expected to take 4 months, the county Council will monitor the safety situation closely. In the event that there are still highway safety concerns the matter will be reported to this Board accordingly.

Members are asked therefore to note the concerns of the petitioners and await any further notification from the County Council following the completion of the new road in the event that there remains any safety concerns.

Contact Officers:

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Background documents:

Appendix A – The Petition submitted on behalf of the local residents by D K Banerjee.
(This can be viewed by contacting Democratic Services at Swale Borough Council).

