

**TO:** SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Junction improvements at Ferry Road and School Lane, Iwade  
**BY:** Transportation and Development Manager  
**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** A report on the public consultation carried out to implement highway improvements at the junction of Ferry Road and School Lane, Iwade

**Decision Required:** Approval of recommendation to implement the scheme

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### **Introduction**

1. The junction at School Lane/Ferry Road in Iwade has been a concern of local residents for some time now. A petition has been received from Iwade Parish Council requesting a review of the junction of Ferry Road and School Lane adjacent to the village centre. The Parish Council feel that the junction is confusing for drivers, thus increasing the risk to pedestrians and cyclists who travel to the adjacent village centre and school.
2. A scheme to provide improvements to the junction of Ferry Road and School Lane was put to public consultation on 1st June 2009 (see Appendix 1).
3. Option 1 gives priority to traffic travelling along Ferry Road and The Street with School Lane as a junction. Option 2 gives priority to traffic travelling along School Lane and Ferry Road with The Street to tie-in on the bend. Both options would remove the existing island and bus lay-by. Option 3 is simply to leave the junction as it is. Plans showing options 1 and 2 are attached.
4. Funding to implement the chosen scheme is available from monies secured through Section 106 contributions from residential developments previously undertaken within the village.

### **Discussion**

5. As a consequence of the consultation of approximately 1300 properties via the Iwade Village Newsletter which is delivered to all properties in the village, a total of 514 representations were made with 241 voting for Option 1, 265 voting for Option 2, and 8 voting for no changes to the existing junction.
6. Of the 204 respondents that also made comments, 23 made mention of the school specifically, 21 requested vegetation be cut back outside the village shops, 17 requested parking restrictions, 12 asked for a modified bus lay-by and 12 suggested a mini roundabout at the junction.
7. The two primary layout modifications requested by consultation respondents were the retention of a reduced size bus lay-by, and the use of a mini roundabout. The retention of a reduced size bus lay-by as part of the scheme is currently being investigated. Mini roundabouts have been used successfully on the local highway network, however the orientation of the approach roads to this junction would not allow sufficient space for some turning movements to be undertaken easily, and would prompt the frequent over-running of the central island.

8. It should be noted that there is a separate project being undertaken regarding the implementation of zig-zag restrictions outside the school.
9. A stage 1 safety audit has been undertaken by Jacobs on the two options. No concerns were raised with the implementation of Option 1, however concerns have been raised with Option 2. The safety audit noted a high possibility that drivers would fail to recognise the junction priority created with Option 2 and drive into The Street across oncoming traffic. Also noted was the difficulty for buses to make the right turn into The Street, which could obstruct traffic, increase conflicting movements and increase the risk of crashes. As such the safety auditors recommend that Option 2 is not implemented.
10. In response to the consultation, Kent Police also support the implementation of Option 1.
11. There has only been 1 reported personal injury crash over the last 3 year period up to June 2009 at this junction.

### **Decision Required**

12. That Option 1 is progressed as it meets the objectives of the project outline and has received the support of the Safety Auditors and Kent Police.

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## **Proposed Junction Alterations at School Lane/Ferry Road, Iwade CONSULTATION**

### **Background Information**

The junction at School Lane/Ferry Road in Iwade has been a concern of local residents for some time now.

Many people have commented that the junction is confusing to drivers unfamiliar with the area, and that its restricted width often causes vehicles to over-run the pavement or hit the kerb stones. Further, vehicles have been observed going the wrong way around the island and cutting across vehicles turning into The Street from Ferry Road.

### **Funding**

Developer-funding from local housing projects is available for alterations to this junction layout. Kent Highway Services Traffic Engineers have visited this junction with Police Officers and members of the Parish Council. Following these meetings, Kent Highway Services Officers have drawn-up two options for altering the junction, with a third option being to leave the junction as is.

### **Options**

Option 1 gives priority to traffic travelling along Ferry Road and The Street.

Option 2 gives priority to traffic travelling along School Lane and Ferry Road. Both options would remove the existing island and bus lay-by.

Option 3 is simply to leave the junction as it is.

Kent Highways services would like to hear from you as to your preferences and to help inform your choice, we have included the options below.

After you have taken a look at the different options, please could you either fill-in the attached pre-paid postcard attached to this newsletter, or simply follow this link

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/publications/transport-andstreets/School+Lane+Ferry+Road+Iwade+Consultation.htm> to tell us your views on-line. You can also visit [www.iwadevillage.co.uk/](http://www.iwadevillage.co.uk/) to view a summary of the proposals.

This is your opportunity to have your say over the proposed alterations to this junction in your village and we look forward to hearing from you.

**Option 1:**

**Option 2:**

**Option 3:**

This option would simply be to leave the junction as it is; please choose this option if you think there is no problem with its current design.

We would welcome your views either on the enclosed postcard or the weblinks contained in this article, so please feel free to tell us why you think this Option would be your choice.

Please send in your responses by no later than Mon 5 October 2009.