

**TO:** SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**DATE:** 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**SUBJECT:** Bysing Wood Road cycle path, Faversham

**BY:** Transportation and Development Manager

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** A request from Faversham Town Council to remove the segregated cycle path along Bysing Wood Road

**Decision Required:** To note report

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### **Introduction**

1. Members of Faversham Town Council have written (attached) to Kent Highway Services requesting that the cycle path along Bysing Wood Road be removed. The grounds cited for its removal being that it is not regularly used, has a detrimental effect on the local community, and is hazardous.

### **Discussion**

2. Kent County Council is committed to encouraging the use of alternative modes of transport to reduce reliance on the use of the motor car. This is in line with the Sustainable Transport Policy that was announced by the Government back in 1996. Consequently, the Council entered into partnership with Sustrans, the organisation appointed by the Government to oversee the introduction of the National Cycle Network.
3. Route 1 is approximately 640 miles long and runs from Inverness to Dover, passing through Swale between its boundaries with Medway and Canterbury. The cycle route through Faversham is part of the National Cycle Route 1 and as such was subject to a considerable amount of planning and detailed design.
4. The objective of the scheme is to provide a safe route through local centres. A number of options for linking the route to Faversham were considered and the scheme along Bysing Wood Road was chosen following several detailed consultation exercises. During this consultation it appeared that residents were concerned that there would be a loss of on-street parking. A study showed that it would be possible to extend the northern footway to facilitate a cycle lane and retain the available on-street parking, whilst reducing vehicle speed along this road.
5. The scheme was subjected to independent safety audits; the route is safe for all road users and provides positive benefits for cyclists and pedestrians. Consultation with cycle groups, undertaken through the Swale Cycling Forum, confirms that clubs make regular use of the cycle path when they cycle between Sittingbourne and Faversham. The Bysing Wood Road cycle path is a key element of National Cycle Route 1 and puts Faversham firmly on the cycle map. Faversham has encouraged walking through their website and cycling can be promoted too if cyclists are welcomed and supported.

6. Interrogation of the personal injury crash database for the last 3 year period shows that there have been five crashes along this section of road, but no pattern links them, and none relate to the footway/cycleway.
  
7. There is no legal right to park on the public highway as it is only intended for the public to be able to pass and re-pass over it. Parking should be contained within private land by way of individual drives or parking courts. Kent Highway Services will issue permits to those who wish to construct a vehicular crossover to their property. It is not the policy of Kent Highway Services to provide on-street parking for residents as this is a matter for the individual property owner.

### **Decision Required**

8. There is no justification on safety or amenity grounds to warrant the removal of the off-road segregated footway/cycleway.
  
9. The Bysing Wood Road cycle path is a key element of National Cycle Route 1 and puts Faversham firmly on the cycle map. It is used and appreciated by local people and cycling clubs in the area.
  
10. Members are asked to endorse the recommendation of KHS in responding to Faversham Town Council that no action will be taken.

Contact Officer:  
Stephen Huckle 01233 614097  
[Steve.huckle@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.huckle@kent.gov.uk)

Background documents:

Letters from Faversham Town Council



Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NY Telephone: Faversham 594442/3

Your Ref: T/SW 10 Our Ref: SB/JF Date: 7 July 2010

Mr S Huckle  
Transportation Engineer  
Kent Highways Services  
4 Javelin Way  
ASHFORD  
Kent TN24 8AD

Dear Mr Huckle

### **BYSSINGWOOD ROAD - CYCLE PATH**

Your letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 was duly presented to the Members of the Town Council at their meeting held this week.

The Members of Faversham Town Council appreciate the comments that you make in your letter but consider that they feel that Bysingwood Road has been blighted by the cycle path and this has a detrimental effect on the community and in particular, the residents. It is considered that the cycle path is not used regularly as a cycle track and many cars do in fact already park on it.

It would be appreciated if Kent Highways could give serious consideration to these comments and also to the fact that Faversham Town Council did not agree to the installation of the cycle path in Bysingwood Road in the first place. Members of the Town Council consider that the cycle path has reduced the width of the road, which it is now considered creates a hazard and it is further considered that the corner at the junction with Priory Road is exceedingly dangerous.

Whilst writing Members also expressed concern at the proposals for the removal of the bus shelter in Bysingwood Road and if you could give me any information with regard to this, it would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Susan Brockman (Mrs)  
H.Cert.L.C.A.  
Town Clerk





Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NY Telephone: Faversham 594442/3  
e-mail: Faversham.TownCouncil@virgin.net

Your Ref. T/SW 10 Our Ref. SB/JF Date: 11 May 2010

Mr S Huckle  
Transportation Engineer  
Kent Highways Services  
4 Javelin Way  
ASHFORD  
Kent TN24 8AD

Dear Mr Huckle

#### **BYSINGWOOD ROAD - CYCLE PATH**

I thank you for your letter of 5 May 2010 and fully appreciate your comments with regard to the provision of parking along the Bysingwood Road for residents.

The main purpose of writing to you initially however, was to seek the removal of the cycle route, which as I am sure you will appreciate, has given considerable cause for concern since its installation, not only to residents but also to people using Bysingwood Road.

Members of Faversham Town Council are aware that when the new Sainsbury's supermarket is built at the end of Bysingwood Road, adjacent to the Western Link, there will be considerably more traffic using this roadway in both directions and they therefore would ask that serious consideration be given to the removal of the cycle path in order to take away the obvious obstruction that it causes.

Your comments with regard to this would be appreciated. It is appreciated of course that the cycle path does form part of the Sustrans cycle route, but it is considered that this cycle route is not very well used and is more of an obstruction than a useful facility.

Yours sincerely

Susan Brockman (Mrs)  
H.Cert.L.C.A.  
Town Clerk





Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NY Telephone: Faversham 594442/3  
e-mail: Faversham.TownCouncil@virgin.net

Your Ref.

Our Ref. SB/JF

Date: 21 April 2010

Mr S Huckle  
Transportation Engineer  
Kent Highways Services  
4 Javelin Way  
ASHFORD  
Kent TN24 8AD

Dear Mr Huckle

#### **BYSINGWOOD CYCLE PATH**

At their recent meeting, the Members of Faversham Town Council discussed their concern with regard to the ongoing problems that are experienced by residents with the obstruction that is caused along Bysingwood Road by the cycle path.

It is evident that this cycle path is very seldom used and it is considered that when the Sainsbury's development, which is planned to take place at the end of the Bysingwood Road adjacent to the Western Link Road, commences and is in place, Bysingwood Road will become even more congested with passing traffic and the cycle path will create an even larger hazard.

Faversham Town Council therefore asks that Kent Highways, in conjunction with Swale Borough Council, consider the removal of the cycle path in the light of the forthcoming Sainsbury's development and in its place to provide parking bays along the road for the benefit of the residents.

Your views on this suggestion would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Susan Brockman (Mrs)  
H.Cert.L.C.A.  
Town Clerk

cc Mr B Planner, Head of Environment & Amenities, Swale Borough Council

