

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: 10 June 2013

SUBJECT: Eden Village Proposed Bus Facility

BY: KCC Head of Transportation and Development

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: A report on a proposal to open a bus link in Eden Village, Sittingbourne to facilitate a bus route.

Decision Required: To recommend that the existing posts between the eastern and western lengths of Crossways are removed and that a bus only traffic order is implemented.

Introduction

Members may be aware that when the planning application was granted for the development of Eden Village on Fulston Manor, one of the conditions was that a bus link solely for buses would be provided at Crossways, and a sum of money was secured to pump prime the bus service for 5 years.

The bus service has now begun, but the bus link has remained closed to all traffic since the construction of the development.

Discussion

The area is served by a new bus service (service 9) which has been introduced on a commercial basis in the off peak. The peak service will commence in September and will be funded by the pump priming money for five years.

Opening the bus link at Crossways would enable the service 9 to better serve the residents of Eden Village and also serve the Northwood Drive area, providing residents with a new bus service. This will also substantially increase the likelihood of the service becoming commercially viable, so that it continues after five years when the funding runs out.

Opening the bus link would require removal of the posts which effect the road closure and the implementation of a traffic order to limit the use of the link to buses only.

There has been some consideration of whether it would be more appropriate to open the link between the two lengths of Crossways to all traffic, as bus only links are difficult to enforce, although progress is being made with enforcement of the buses only road at Great Easthall. Members' views on this are sought: if opened to all vehicles it may raise traffic volumes in the residential streets, or if the link is restricted to buses only, the lack of enforcement may create a safety issue if there is continued non-compliance.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the bus only traffic order is progressed as specified in the planning consent. It is recommended that this is advertised and implemented unless objections are received in which case they will be reported to a future meeting of the Board.

Financial Implications

This scheme is estimated at approximately £2000 which can be funded from KCC Public Transport budget. This cost includes the advertisement of the traffic order, removal of the posts and erection of the traffic signs.

Decision Required

Subject to the views of Members, it is recommended that:

1. The posts in the link between the eastern and western lengths of Crossways are removed;
2. A traffic order is advertised for the prohibition of driving motor vehicles, except for buses, on the length of Crossways between points 104m east of its junction with Northwood Drive, and 86m west of its junction with Iris Drive as shown on the attached drawing;
3. If no objections are received, this traffic order is implemented.

Contact Officer: Ruth Goudie, Strategic Transportation Planner, KCC Highways.

