New shared use pedestrian footway/cycleway - Cheriton Road, Folkestone

Public Consultation 9 October to 5 November 2017

Introduction
Kent County Council is proposing to install a shared use pedestrian footway/cycleway from the Harvey Grammar School to the Seafront incorporating a new Toucan Crossing on Cheriton Road outside Morrisons superstore to help pedestrians and cyclists cross the road.

What are we proposing?
At present central Folkestone has limited designated cycle routes and the links for pedestrians and cyclists in a north/south direction are poor, partly due to the railway line, which splits the town.

This scheme plans to create a new cycle route linking to the existing cycle route at the junction with Cornwallis Ave, continuing through to the Leas.

The scheme will include:
- Improved signage on existing routes
- Shared use pedestrian/cycle footways
- New/upgraded pedestrian/cycle toucan crossing
- Widened and re-aligned footways and kerbs on Cheriton Road, outside Morrisons and a section on Earl's Ave
- Re-surfacing and more level footways

The cycle route design will meet all national minimum design standards, including:
- Widening of the existing footpaths to a minimum of 2.5m
- The installation of shared pedestrian footway/cycleway signage throughout the length of the route
- The relocation of existing sign posts and street furniture to ensure pedestrian and cyclist movement is relatively unobstructed.

An initial design stage safety audit has been completed and another one will be carried out at the construction stage.

An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to assess the possible impacts of this scheme on people with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010. The EqIA will be updated after the consultation to take into account any relevant information received. The EqIA can be viewed on our website and is available in hard copy on request (see details below).

The budget for this scheme is £135,000, which includes design, construction, other fees associated with the project. It is being funded by the Local Growth Fund.
What is a shared use pedestrian/cycleway?

A shared use footway/cycleway is a wide footpath that has been designated permissible for cycle use as well as pedestrians. On a shared use facility, all permitted users have equal access; it does not have separate cycle lanes and footways marked out.

What is a Toucan crossing?

Toucan crossings are designed for pedestrians and cyclists to use at the same time. Where a cyclist is expected to dismount and wheel their bike across a zebra or pelican crossing, for example, with a Toucan crossing the area is wider, leaving plenty of room for cyclists to ride across.

Why are we proposing to do this work?

The scheme plans to utilize an underused safe cycle/pedestrian tunnel under the railway line, which currently has no links to the cycle network. The route would be direct, which we hope will encourage more people to choose sustainable modes of travel, such as walking and cycling. Increasing the number of cycle journeys has been shown elsewhere in England to reduce congestion, improve air quality, improve resident’s health and bring investment to an area.

The proposed route will improve cycle access to:

- Folkestone’s Railway Stations
- Harvey Grammar School
- Morrisons
- The Civic Centre and Law Courts
- Folkestone Coastal Park
- Folkestone Central Business Area

This scheme is part of a wider plan to create cycle routes in and around the centre of Folkestone, aiming to link up with local schools, train stations and the seafront.

The Shepway District Cycling Plan is a five year plan that supports cycle network improvements locally by:

- Creating new links – seeking new opportunities to extend routes to more people
- Maintenance of the Cycle Route Network – looking after what we already have, and improving it
- Spreading the word – raising awareness of existing and emerging cycle facilities
- Creating a safer cycling environment – designing safer routes and providing road safety education for cyclists
The scheme has the full support of Shepway District Council and Cycle Shepway, a local cycle group.

Have Your Say
We would like to give you an opportunity to let us know what you think of this proposal and we invite you to complete the consultation questionnaire, which is available on our website [www.kent.gov.uk/folkestonecentralcycleroute](http://www.kent.gov.uk/folkestonecentralcycleroute).

Alternatively, paper copies of this leaflet, plan and questionnaire are available from Folkestone Library (2 Grace Hill), Sandgate Library (James Morris Court, Sandgate High Street) and Cheriton Library (64 Cheriton High Street) or on request via the contact details below.

If you have any questions regarding these proposals or require hard copies please email [traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk](mailto:traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk) or call 03000 41 81 81. Please use the reference ‘Folkestone Central Cycle Route Consultation’ to identify the scheme.

The closing date for this consultation is midnight Sunday 5th November 2017.

Next Steps
Following the consultation a report will be compiled summarising the analysis of the responses. This report will be made available to consultees. The consultation responses and EqIA will be used to inform the decision on whether to proceed with this scheme.

If the decision is taken to proceed our intention is to start onsite in February 2018. Depending on weather conditions the build should take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

Alternative formats
If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language please email [alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk](mailto:alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk) or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.