

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
EQUALITY ANALYSIS / IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)**

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Directorate: Growth Environment & Transport

Name of policy, procedure, project or service: A262 High Street, Biddenden – junction reconfiguration

What is being assessed?: Highway Project

Responsible Owner: Tim Read

Date of Initial Screening: 02/05/2018

Date of Full EqIA :N/A

Version	Author	Date	Comment
1.0	Becky Bailey	02/05/2018	First draft
		22/5/2018	A Agyepong Comments
2.0		25/05/2018	B Bailey ammendments
		07/06/2018	A Agyepong Comments
3.0		07/06/2018	B Bailey ammendments

Screening Grid

Characteristic	Could this policy, procedure, project or service, or any proposed changes to it, affect this group less favourably than others in Kent? YES/NO If yes how?	Assessment of potential impact HIGH/MEDIUM LOW/NONE UNKNOWN		Provide details: a) Is internal action required? If yes what? b) Is further assessment required? If yes, why?	Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group? YES/NO - Explain how good practice can promote equal opportunities
		Positive	Negative	Internal action must be included in Action Plan	If yes you must provide detail
Age	Yes	Medium	None	Elderly and infirm can become disorientated at new road layouts and changes to the normal routes they take on a regular basis. The improvements to the junction will introduce slower vehicular speeds, will be constructed in a a manner that makes the changes clearly visible, easy to navigate and also provide a safer environment.	No
Disability	Yes	Medium	None	The proposals include improvements for pedestrians as the scheme removes the need to cross two sections of carriageway to cross the A262, meaning pedestrians will spend less time in the carriageway. The new junction layout will also reduce the speed of turning vehicle movements. Tactile paving will be retained. Public consultation is planned during June 2018 in order to capture stakeholder, residents and user views on the proposals and where appropriate, the	Yes. An improved pedestrian environment will increase mobility for all, especially those with physical disabilities.

				feedback will be utilised to inform and develop the design and construction processes. The scheme will also be subject to the three stage safety audit process, including a post-implementation audit. Any related issues can be identified and addressed through this process.	
Gender	No		None	No	N/A
Gender identity	No		None	No	N/A
Race	No		None	No	N/A
Religion or belief	No		None	No	N/A
Sexual orientation	No		None	No	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	No		None	No	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnerships	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
Carer's responsibilities	yes		Medium	It is not foreseen that there will be a negative impact for these individuals in the community if these changes are approved and implemented but rather a positive impact in assisting with mobility, safety and improving health.	Yes. An improved pedestrian environment will increase mobility for all, especially those with physical disabilities.

Part 1: INITIAL SCREENING

Proportionality - Based on the answers in the above screening grid what weighting would you ascribe to this function – see Risk Matrix

Low	Medium	High
Low relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a judgement.	Medium relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a Judgement.	High relevance to equality, /likely to have adverse impact on protected groups

State rating & reasons : **Medium** – this is a Highway scheme that improves the access to the village green and slows vehicle manoeuvres at the junction. It is unlikely to have a negative impact upon non motorised users as their time in the carriageway will be reduced. The new road layout will provide a more usable communal area for the local community and reduce areas of vehicle and pedestrian conflict.

Context: -

Current Situation: The A262 High Street and the A274 North Street are the main routes that go through the village of Biddenden. The village green is currently situated between the two A-roads in the village centre. Traffic flows at this location can be heavy during peak times and this can make it difficult for pedestrian access to the green or cross the High Street.

Benefits: Realigning the junction will increase the size of the existing village green which can be used by the local community. The proposed footway to the Village Green will be an even surface and wide enough to accommodate wheelchair users and prams. Tactile paving will be provided at the crossing points to assist blind and partially sighted pedestrians. The tightening of the junction should slow vehicles down when turning in and out of the High Street. Converting a section of carriageway to verge will mean pedestrians will only have to cross one section of carriageway.

Aims and Objectives: To reduce the speed of vehicles entering the junction and reduce the number of vehicle/pedestrian conflict points. The scheme will deliver enhancements to the use of the village green, providing better access and a more useable space for all highway users including the local community

Beneficiaries: The local community, pedestrians and through traffic.

Information and Data: The scheme originated from a request from the Parish Council (PC) to make changes to the existing road layout and is being promoted as a community improvement scheme. The proposed option has been presented to the PC and they are in support of the scheme and wish it to go to consultation. According to the 2011 Census 22.7% of the Biddenden population are over 65 years and 15% of the population have long-term health problems or disabilities. The proposed changes should reduce the time pedestrians are in the road when crossing the high street. The Village Green will no longer be an island in between the two roads.

Involvement and Engagement: Public consultation is being undertaken on the proposals and includes engagement with the following groups and organisations;

- Local businesses
- Bus companies
- Residents
- Biddenden Parish Council
- Ashford Borough Council
- Kent Association for the Blind
- Freight Transport Association
- Emergency services

We will be carrying out a 21-day public consultation from the 11th June – 9th July 2018, this will include an exhibition held at Biddenden village hall on 12th & 26th June 2018 15:00-19:30.

Feedback from the consultation will be collated and used to produce a report and used to determine how to progress with the scheme.

Potential Impact: Highway scheme – Medium impact.

Adverse Impact: Disruption during construction may restrict pedestrian access and temporary footways/crossing points may be required. This may have an adverse impact on elderly and disabled users while works are in progress. There may be an increase to demand on the new junction.

Positive Impact: Medium to high for pedestrian access to the village green and reduced crossing point across the high street, including elderly and disabled users

JUDGEMENT

No potential for discrimination and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken

Monitoring and Review: Kent County [Council being the highway authority will manage the delivery and overall maintenance of the scheme. Regular project group meetings will be held to inform/update the final design. The local Joint Transport Board will be informed of any changes. This document will be regularly reviewed to reflect any concerns raised through the process and updated post consultation. The public consultation will seek comments from protected groups and responses will be used to inform further reviews of this document.

Sign Off

I have noted the content of the equality impact assessment and agree that no actions are required to mitigate any currently known adverse impact(s).

Senior Officer

Signed: N Floodgate

Name: Nikola Floodgate

Job Title: Schemes Planning & Delivery Manager

Date: 07/06/2018

DMT Member

Signed: T Read

Name: Tim Read

Job Title: Interim Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste

Date: 07/06/2018

Protected Characteristic	Issues identified	Action to be taken	Expected outcomes	Owner	Timescale	Cost implications
Age/ Disability / Carers Responsibilities	changes to accessibility, familiarity of surroundings,	Public consultation during June 2018	Feedback from stakeholders, community groups, residents and users that will be collated and used to inform and develop the design and construction process	B Bailey	From 11 th June 2018 to the completion of the scheme	There may be additional costs regarding the construction elements and these will be assessed on a case by case basis.