Green Corridors Public Consultation

Dartford: Bean Road Consultation Brochure

Consultation open from 1 December 2021 to 19 January 2022

kent.gov.uk/greencorridors





Introduction and Background

Contents

Introduction	1		
Background Scheme Overview Scheme Proposals Scheme Plan	1 2 4 5		
		Visualisation of the Scheme	12
		Equality Analysis	14
		Have Your Say	14

Introduction

Welcome to our second public consultation on our plans to introduce an improved pedestrian route on Bean Road from Whitecliffe to St Clement's Way Roundabout.

Kent County Council (KCC) places a high priority on encouraging sustainable and active travel. We want to support making walking and cycling safer, easier, and inclusive for all.

Residents require a transport network that provides a variety of travel choices to support a growing population. We have worked closely with Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) to develop this scheme which connects existing routes and provides residents with more opportunities to choose walking for their day-to-day journeys.

Background

Earlier this year, we carried out a consultation focussed on eight of the Green Corridor schemes to gather views on our initial route proposals. The feedback for the Bean Road scheme was positive and revealed that respondents would welcome improvements along this route. The responses highlighted that there are:

- positive views of sustainable and active travel and an appreciation of the benefits walking and cycling improvements can have to health and the environment
- positive views of the scheme and that the one-way restriction will prevent some inconsiderate use of the road
- some concerns that the existing level of fly tipping will continue and block any widened paving.

The feedback has helped shape our initial ideas to create the more specific proposals shown in this consultation. The results of the previous consultation have been presented in a summary report, which can be found on our webpage: www.kent.gov.uk/greencorridors.

We are keen to hear your views on the proposals presented in this consultation brochure. Your feedback will be used to help form our detailed design.

Objectives of Green Corridors

The Green Corridors Programme aims to encourage and enable sustainable active travel by making walking and cycling a realistic choice for short journeys both for work and leisure.

The principle behind the Green Corridors Programme is to support a walking and cycling culture by making routes more attractive, safer, and better connected. This will ultimately improve the quality of life for residents, support health and wellbeing by incorporating physical activity into everyday routines and reduce the number of vehicles on the road, improving air quality.

The programme will work alongside other projects, such as <u>Kent Active</u> <u>Travel</u>, to:

- > deliver and maximise the quality of cycling and walking networks across Ebbsfleet Garden City by providing fully linked up cycle and pedestrian routes
- > create user friendly and appealing cycle and pedestrian routes encouraging experienced and inexperienced cyclists alike
- > encourage active travel and increase activity levels so that walking and cycling become main forms of transport for local journeys
- > connect new and existing communities through the provision of connected cycle and walking routes.

Overview

The purpose of this scheme is to improve the footway on Bean Road to facilitate the increase in pedestrians using it with the objective of making it more accessible for all.

Bean Road is a residential road that is parallel to St Clements Way (B255). As well as flats and houses, Bean Road also serves multiple care homes and care facilities. Despite this, the existing footway is narrow and is often blocked by refuse bins, making the footway inaccessible for those with reduced mobility or using pushchairs or prams.

As the Whitecliffe villages are built in Ebbsfleet, the footfall on Bean Road is likely to increase further, as it provides a more direct route to Greenhithe Station.

To address these issues, this scheme proposes to widen the footway along the entire length of Bean Road and improve pedestrian facilities.

To achieve this, Bean Road would be made one-way with vehicles travelling southbound only. This means the parking can be kept as it is.

By widening the footpath, the scheme aims to encourage walking as a means of transport to local destinations such as Greenhithe Station and Bluewater.

How will the scheme be funded?

The total budget for the whole Green Corridors programme is £7.4m which will be split across all schemes. This funding is provided by EDC. KCC will be delivering the schemes.

Can the funding be spent elsewhere?

The funding is required to be spent on walking and cycling infrastructure on routes which connect new and existing communities around Ebbsfleet Garden City. We have worked closely with EDC and Dartford Borough Council to identify this route. As such, the funding cannot be diverted elsewhere.

How will the scheme fit in with the wider network?

Feedback from the first consultation showed that respondents were unsure how the route would fit in with the wider cycling and walking network. Figure 1 (right) shows how this route, alongside the London Road to Greenhithe Station scheme, will connect with existing and planned routes in the area.

Figure 1 (right): Extract from Cycling and Walking map for Dartford with annotations showing north-south corridor created by the Green Corridor schemes.

The full map can be found on the Explore Kent webpage



We have summarised the key changes being proposed:

Improved pedestrian facilities

The proposed scheme includes widening and resurfacing the footway. This upgrade will improve accessibility for all users, including pedestrians with reduced mobility, along the whole stretch of Bean Road.

The footway widening also reduces users having to step into the road to avoid bins or street clutter, which is currently an issue. The refreshed and improved look of Bean Road will hopefully discourage continued fly-tipping. However, we will also work with our waste team and Dartford Borough Council to reduce this issue moving forward.

Residential parking

We recognise that parking on Bean Road is vital for residents and visitors. Therefore, the scheme proposes to keep all existing parking with parking bays being marked out. This would not involve the introduction of permits.

One-way traffic

As the suggested scheme proposes to keep the parking on Bean Road as well as widen the footpath, there is not enough space to retain twoway traffic on the road. Therefore, we are proposing to introduce oneway southbound traffic on Bean Road.

The northern entrance to Bean Road would remain two-way to facilitate access to McDonald's. This will also discourage vehicles from the nearby new development using Bean Road as a cut through to the restaurant and potentially blocking the road during particularly busy periods.

Speed limit reduction

The current speed limit of Bean Road is 30mph. Feedback the first consultation suggested making the road 20mph for the entire one-way section. Reducing the speed limit to 20mph, will encourage drivers to drive slower, making the overall environment safer for all road users. Therefore, we are investigating this as part of the proposal further.

Cycle lane

Our early plans included the possibility for a northbound cycle lane on Bean Road. However, there is not enough space for a cycle lane, widened footway and parking due to the width available. Therefore, cyclists will continue to be encouraged, through signage, to use the shared use cycleway on St Clement's Way. This is a parallel route to Bean Road and will add negligible time to journeys.

Pedestrian crossing points

The uncontrolled crossing points at the northern entrance of Bean Road will be resurfaced and widened to accommodate the proposed footway. This will tie in with the McDonald's development to introduce a drive-thru (Planning Application: 20/00140/FUL).

Landscaping

The vegetation and mature trees to the west of Bean Road are on private land and will not be impacted by the scheme. The existing overgrown grass and vegetation along the verge would be trimmed to improve safety and the overall look of the area.

The scheme also proposes to introduce rain gardens, shrubs, and a seated area at the southern end of Bean Road.



The following pages show the proposed location of the scheme and the outline design.

Scheme Plan: Bean Road (Northern Junction with St Clement's Way)





Scheme Plan: Bean Road



Scheme Plan: Bean Road (Opposite Entrance to Cobham Close)



Scheme Plan: Bean Road

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Scheme Plan: Bean Road (Approach to Mounts Road Junction)



11

Scheme Plan: Bean Road (Junction with Mounts Road)



Visualisations of the Scheme







Visualisation 1 (top left): Junction of Bean Road and Mounts Road.

Visualisation 2 (top right): Widened footway on Bean Road, with parking bays and one way restriction.

Visualisation 3 (bottom left): Junction of Bean Road with St Clements Way. This access will remain two-way to facilitate access to McDonald's.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

To help ensure that we are meeting our obligations under the Equality Act 2010, we have undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for this scheme. This is to assess the impact our proposals could have on people due to their protected characteristics (age, sex, gender identity, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, marriage and civil partnership and carer's responsibilities).

The EqIA is available to view at <u>kent.gov.uk/greencorridors</u> or on request.

This scheme will deliver positive impacts by providing safe places to walk which will benefit pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

There are likely to be some negative impacts during construction due to increased journey times and some construction noise. Construction will be planned to ensure all properties will remain accessible as required. During the works, alternative routes will be provided for pedestrians with barriers and ramps for those with visual and mobility impairments as required and in accordance with industry standards.

Help us shape our designs

We want to continue to understand and incorporate the views of residents, businesses, the travelling public, and other stakeholders into our scheme design. Your feedback will be vital in helping to shape how the detailed designs are developed and taken forward.

This consultation will run for seven weeks from 1 December 2021 to 19 January 2022.

You can provide feedback by completing the questionnaire which is available on our website: <u>www.kent.gov.uk/greencorridors</u>

Next Steps and timescales

Your feedback will be reviewed and analysed following the closure of the consultation. The findings will then be compiled into a consultation report and made available on our website.

Your feedback will be used to help form our detailed design. Should the 20mph speed limit be included in the detailed design, we will need to undertake a statutory Traffic Regulation Order consultation.

Our intention is to start construction on this scheme in early 2023 after completion of the London Road to Greenhithe Station scheme. The scheme would take approximately five months to complete.

Our timetable for delivery may be impacted on other works in the area. The web page <u>www.kent.gov.uk/greencorridors</u> will be updated with new information when it is available.

Contact us

If you have any queries about the scheme or require hard copies, please contact us at <u>greencorridors@kent.gov.uk</u> or call 03000 41 81 81. Please use the reference 'Green Corridor Programme: Bean Road' to identify the scheme.

Alternative formats

Larger PDF versions of these plans are available at <u>www.kent.gov.uk/greencorridors</u> which you will be able to zoom in to see the details more clearly.

For any alternative formats or languages, please email <u>alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk</u> or call 03000 42 15 53 (text relay service number 18001 03000 42 15 53). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.