

Committee	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	27 January 2009
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Petition for improvements at the junction of Station Road and Western Avenue, Polegate
Purpose of Report	To consider a petition seeking measures to improve the safety of traffic emerging from Western Avenue onto Station Road.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that, based on its recent crash record, this junction is not a priority for action at present, but the situation will continue to be monitored.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no specific financial implications in respect of the recommendation detailed in this report. A scheme to improve visibility at the junction, along the lines shown on drawing number W5023817/001, would cost in the region of £15,000 and, in the event that it is decided to progress such a scheme, it could be funded from the revenue budget for Road Safety Engineering.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 At the County Council meeting on 7 October 2008 Councillor Martin presented a petition to the Chairman expressing great concern about the junction of Western Avenue and Station Road, Polegate, and calling upon the County Council to take immediate steps to make this junction safe.

2.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members' room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners be invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

3. Comments / Appraisal

3.1 Prior to the opening of the Polegate Bypass in June 2002, Station Road formed part of the A27 Trunk Road and carried in the region of 19,000 vehicles per day. After the bypass opened this volume fell by about 50%, and the road was de-trunked and handed over to the County Council as local highway authority.

3.2 As part of the de-trunking works the Highways Agency implemented a number of local improvements along the Station Road corridor in the summer of 2003. These included kerb build-outs on either side of its junctions with Westfield Close and Western Avenue which were intended to improve visibility for drivers emerging from the side roads. In road safety terms these measures appear to have been successful; in the three year period prior

3.3 to the implementation of the build-outs there were 4 injury crashes at the Western Avenue junction, three of which involved vehicles emerging from the side road. In the most recent three year period to the end of October 2008 there were no recorded injury crashes at this junction.

3.4 Despite this good record the petitioners feel that the junction remains dangerous due to its sightlines being obscured by parked vehicles. To the left of the junction, vehicles occasionally park on the kerb build-out to access the shop on the corner; this can be discouraged by installing bollards. To the right of the junction visibility can only be improved by transferring the parking spaces on the north side outside numbers 53-63 to the opposite side of the road. These improvements are shown on drawing number W5023817/001, which also includes a proposal to ease the kerb radius on the left turn into Western Avenue in response to further concerns raised by the petitioners.

3.5 The proposals shown on this drawing are estimated to cost in the region of £15,000. They have been subjected to a Stage 1 & 2 Road Safety Audit which has raised a number of concerns including the risk to pedestrians who would need to cross the road in greater numbers to reach the relocated parking spaces, and the worsening of visibility from the two vehicular accesses on the south side of the road. Whilst these concerns are not sufficiently serious to prevent the implementation of the scheme, it needs to be borne in mind that the proposed solution to the problems at the Western Avenue junction could give rise to problems of its own and therefore the conflicting issues need to be carefully balanced.

3.6 The transfer of parking to the south side of the road would require an amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order which would need to be advertised. These may well result in objections which would need to be considered by the County Council's Planning Committee.

4 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

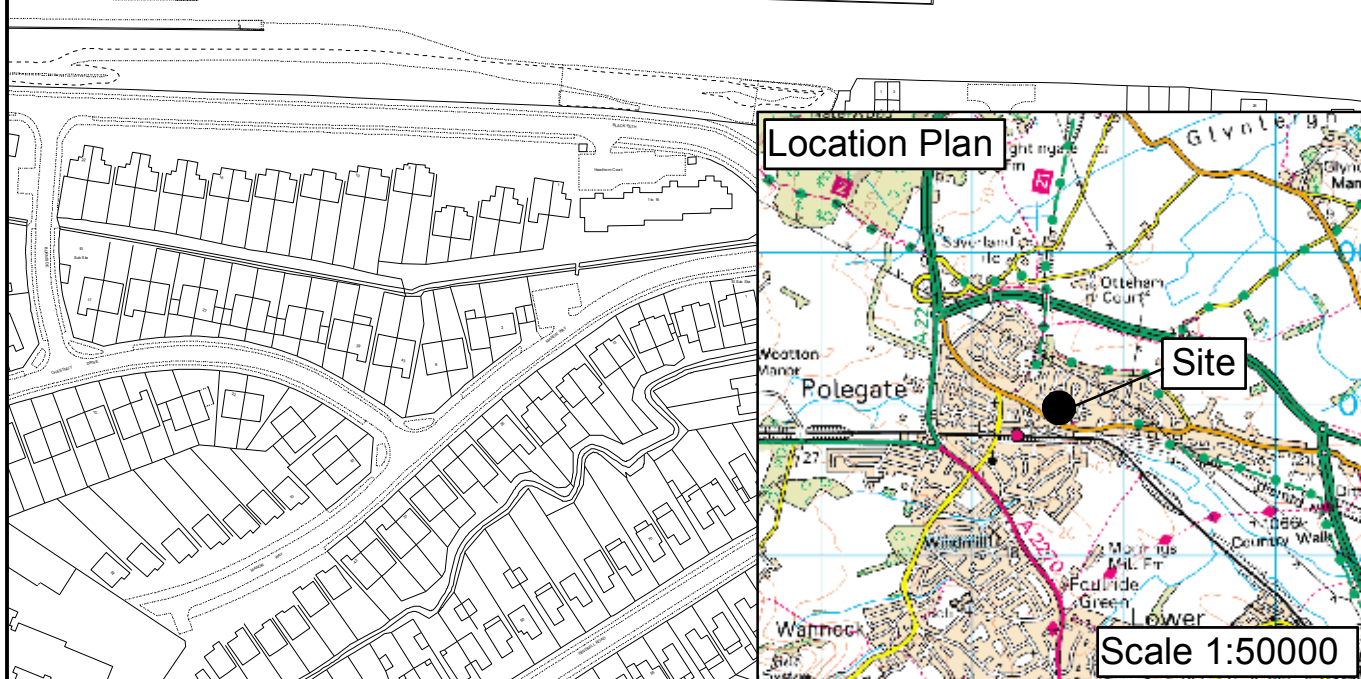
4.1 Although the concerns raised by the petitioners are noted, the issues they have raised are not currently giving rise to injury crashes and, therefore, it is difficult to justify improvements at the present time. It is proposed that the crash record should continue to be monitored for a further period of 12 months and consideration will be given to improvements if a problem is identified.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Transport and Environment
16 January 2009

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Local Member: Councillors Martin
and Shing

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
Petition

Petition for improvements at the junction of Station Road and Western Avenue, Polegate



Scale 1:2500

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