

Committee	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	22 February 2010
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Petition Calling for the Pavements in Station Street, Lewes to be widened
Purpose of Report	To consider the response to a petition calling for the pavements in Station Street, Lewes to be widened

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that: the potential for footway widening in Station Street requested by the petitioners, will be investigated and considered as part of a wider traffic management scheme covering part of Lewes town centre that will be considered for inclusion in Integrated Transport Capital Programme, by the Lead Member on 22 March 2010.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 While there are no immediate financial implications arising from this report, any footway widening scheme in Station Street, Lewes would need to be funded through the Integrated Transport Capital programme, subject to relative priorities and resource being available. The County Council has not yet been advised by Government on funding allocations after 2010/11. As a consequence, the allocation of funds to schemes beyond 2010/11 will be reviewed at a later date.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 At the County Council meeting on 08 December 2009 Councillor St.Pierre and Councillor O’Keeffe presented a petition to the Chairman containing 377 signatures, calling on the Council to “*extend the pavements on either side of Station Street Lewes, and as part of this process to do everything possible with respect of pavement furniture (e.g. signage and bollards) to ensure that all pedestrians have a safe passage between the town and station along a steep and busy street*”. Supporting material was also submitted, including a leaflet on “Station Street in the 1790s”, a report by the Lewes Town Partnership called “Focus on Station Street Past and Present” which summarised concerns about the pavements and which contains responses to a survey of Station Street undertaken by the Partnership.

2.2 A copy of the petition and supporting documentation 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 The B2193 Station Street is located in the centre of Lewes and a map showing its location is included in Appendix A. It is approximately 150m long and is subject to a 20mph speed limit. The Street is included in the Lewes Town Air Quality Management Area. The carriageway varies considerably in width, from 7.8m at its widest point to 2.9m at its narrowest.

Station Street forms part of a key link for Northbound traffic in Lewes. It is one way northbound and is used by approximately 4,700 vehicles a day including buses.

3.2 The street is a key pedestrian link from Lewes Railway Station to destinations in the town and also provides access to the business and residential properties located along it. There is a footway on both sides of the street but the width on either side varies considerably from 4.5m at the widest point to 0.85m at its narrowest. The footway has been widened along several short sections by pavement build-outs. The build-outs have bollards on them to make them clearly visible to drivers and to prevent vehicles overrunning or parking on them. Photographs of the footways are included in Appendix B. The fact that the footways are narrow and of varying width combined with the presence of bollards, makes the street challenging for pedestrians, particularly those with mobility and visual impairments.

3.3 The County Council monitors road safety data collected by Sussex Police. In the last three years, there have been no personal injury accidents reported on Station Street between Lansdowne Place and the High Street.

3.4 The Integrated Transport Capital Programme agreed by Lead Member in March 2009 included a scheme to address the air quality issues of Lewes. The scheme is referred to as the "White Hill/Fisher Street/West Street scheme". The aim of the scheme is twofold: firstly to improve the air quality in the Lewes Air Quality Management Area and secondly, to improve facilities for pedestrians. This scheme will be developed in three phases. The second phase will consider how traffic flow could be improved along Fisher Street and Station Street and how conditions for pedestrians using the footways could be improved. This will include a review of all street furniture to identify whether it could be removed or how it could be modified to minimise its impact on pedestrians.

3.5 The "White Hill/ Fisher Street/ West Street" scheme has been provisionally included in the County Council's Integrated Transport Capital Programme which is reviewed annually. The draft programme, which will be considered by the Lead Member on 22 March 2010, shows a funding allocation to specific schemes for 2010/11 only. This is because the Government has not yet advised the Council of its funding allocation beyond 2010/11. Phases 2 and 3 of the White Hill/ Fisher Street/ West Street scheme have been provisionally included on an indicative list of schemes for possible inclusion in the Capital Programme between 2011/12 to 2014/15. However, this list may need to be revised once the amount of funding is confirmed.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 The petition to rebuild and extend the pavements on either side of Station Street and address the intrusive street furniture has been considered. A scheme to investigate and potentially fund widening the pavements in Station Street has been provisionally included on an indicative list of schemes for possible inclusion in the Integrated Transport Capital Programme between 2011/12 and 2014/15.

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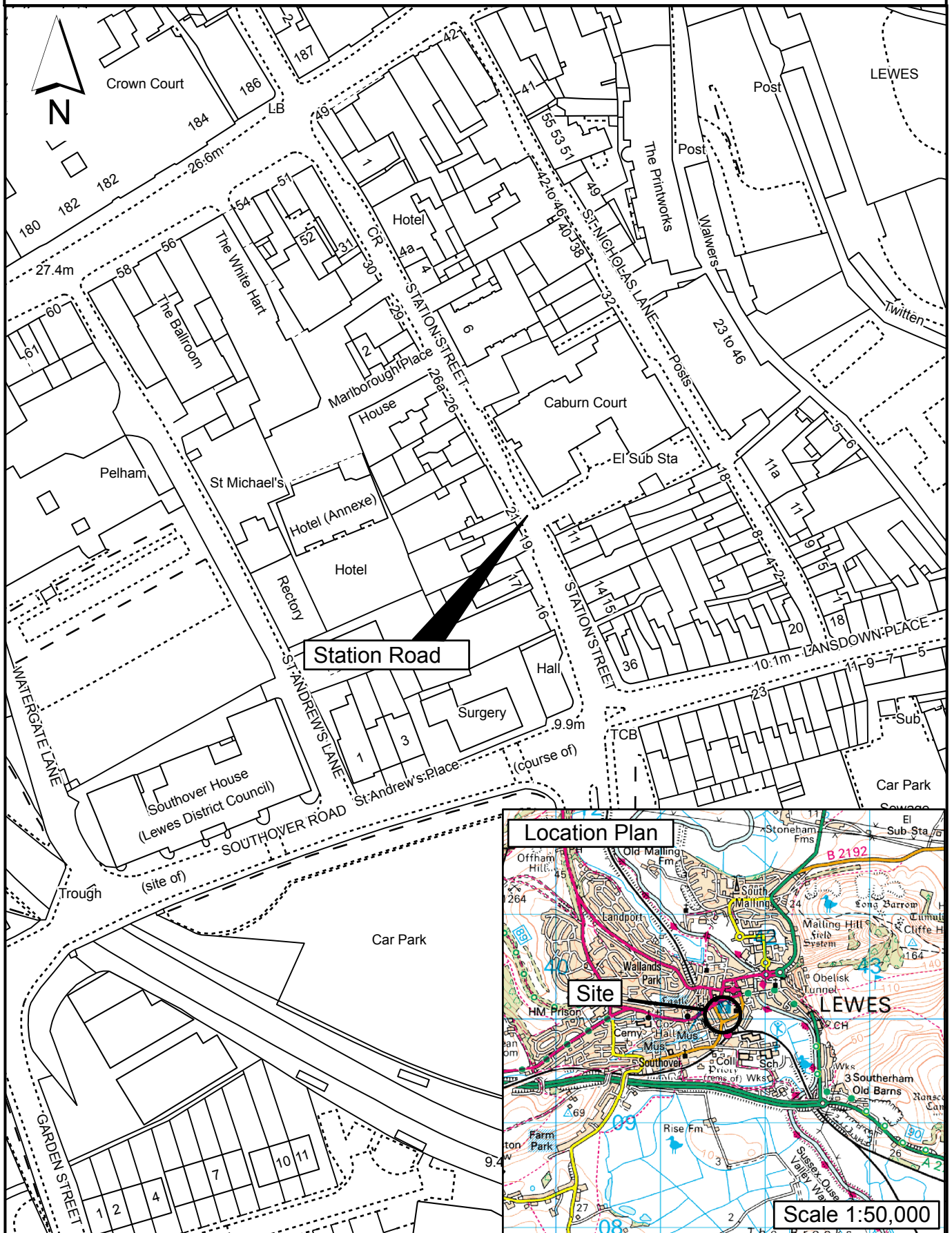
Director of Transport and Environment

Contact Officer: Robert Marshall 0345 60 80 193
Local Members: Councillor St Pierre and Councillor O'Keeffe

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Petition calling for the pavements in Station Road, Lewes to be widened



Scale 1:1250

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 BEng (Hons) CEng MICE
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 East Sussex County Council

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APPENDIX B - PHOTOGRAPHS



B2193 Station Street – Looking North from Lansdown Place



B2123 Station Road – Looking North at Caburn Court



B2123 Station Road – Looking North at Marlborough Place



B2123 Station Road – Looking South from the High Street