

Agenda Item No:

Report To: Joint Transportation Board

Date of Meeting: 6 December 2022

Report Title: **Ashford Shared Space and Lower High Street footway repairs, carriageway alterations and resurfacing**

Report Author: Alison Oates
Job Title: Safety and Wellbeing Manager

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. P Bartlett
Portfolio Holder for: Safety and Wellbeing



Summary:	This report details the works that are being completed or planned by Kent County Council to improve the Ashford Shared Space and Lower High Street.
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Key Decision: NO

Significantly Affected Wards: Victoria

Recommendations: **The Board is recommended to:-**

- I. Acknowledge the proposals and the work that has commenced and is planned.**

Financial Implications: The works are being completed by Kent County Council, set within their budget process.

Equalities Impact Assessment: Not Required

Data Protection Impact Assessment: NA

Risk Assessment (Risk Appetite Statement): NA

Sustainability Implications: NA

Other Material Implications: NA

**Exempt from
Publication:**

NO

**[Not For Publication by virtue of Paragraph ??? of Part 1
of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.]
and the public interest in maintaining the exemption
outweighs the public interest in disclosing the
information**

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Introduction and Background

1. The Ashford Shared Space was opened in spring 2008. Since its construction, a number of problems have arisen due to the quality and types of materials that were used to create this area. As a result, temporary fixes have been made to replace broken slabs and patch potholes. However, this approach has led to the shared space looking unsightly and unappealing to its users. Extensive repairs are currently underway and are due to be complete by the end of the calendar year.
2. The cobbled area of the Lower High Street has equally caused problems due to its inherent unevenness and the problems this causes for those with mobility issues or visual impairment. The suggestion is to remove the cobbles and replace with tarmac, which will provide an even surface and reduce future maintenance cost. The repairs to the slabs and footways will complement this.
3. Kent County Council (KCC) and Ashford Borough Council (ABC) members and officers have been working collaboratively over recent months to prepare the long-term solutions presented in this paper. Once implemented the shared space will be in a far better condition and more resistant to damage in the future. There will be less need for unplanned works and consequential unnecessary spend.

Proposal

4. The phases are summarised below:
5. ***Phase 1 – Forge Lane and West Street and New Street to Godinton Road***
 - Excavate granite kerbs and block paving from ground level centre island and carriageway block paving pads and reconstruct with asphalt.
 - Kerbing and block paving to be palatized and removed from site to stores. Materials to be stored for future use and repairs.
 - Undertake repairs to the block paving and kerbing to the raised centre island at junction of New Street.
 - Install kerb line of zebra crossings.
 - Remove temporary asphalt fill from zebra crossing area and replace with granite setts to match existing junction of Godinton Road.
 - Full carriageway resurfacing of complete area (1451m²) with black asphalt.
 - Installation of new lining design to denote the centre island.
 - Installation of stainless-steel pedestrian studs to denote crossing points.
 - Undertake localised repairs to areas of damaged footway.

6. **Phase 2 – Godinton Road/Elwick Road and West Street to Apsley Street**
 - Removal of kerbed/granite sett traffic island at junction of Apsley Street, new island to be formed out of asphalt and denoted with new lining design.
 - Undertake localised repairs to edge of carriageway kerbing and block paving utilising materials removed from phase 1.
 - Remove temporary asphalt fill from County Square shopping centre car park access road and replace with new granite setts and block paving to match existing.
 - Carryout repairs and reinforcement of kerbing and block paving in bus stand/stop on Elwick Place opposite County Square Shopping Centre.
 - Lift and relay and granite slabs against retaining wall for Elwick Place Car Park.
 - Full carriageway resurfacing of existing asphalt areas with black asphalt.
 - Full strengthening/resurfacing of Gasworks Lane in standard black asphalt.
7. Phases 1 and 2 commenced on 1 November and are due to be completed by the first week of December.
8. **Phase 3 - Elwick Road/Elwick Square and Bank Street to Church Road**
 - Remove areas of temporary reinstatement materials in fantail granite setts design and zebra crossing area within Elwick Square and reinstate with granite setts to match existing pattern.
 - Replace areas of damaged linear drainage channel in carriageway.
 - Excavate crossover point at Travelodge access point, undertake footway reinforcement works, reinstate with a suitable substitute surface material able to withstand HGV delivery vehicles.
 - Undertake repairs to block paving and granite paving utilising materials removed from phase 1 works and Kent County Council stock from Faversham depot.
 - Remove areas of temporary asphalt reinstatements from southern footway and reinstate with granite slabs removed from Travelodge crossover point.
 - Rake out and clear resin jointing compound in fantail setts design area of Elwick Square and replace with cementitious grouting material.
9. **Phase 4 - Bank Street and Elwick Square to High Street**
 - Undertake localised repairs and reinforcement to areas of damaged carriageway, Taxi Stand/Rank, and footway.
 - Remove areas of temporary asphalt fill and reinstate with new setts/slabs to match existing.
10. **Phase 5 - Lower High Street and North Street to Wellesley Road.**
 - Remove cobbles from carriageway, parking bays, stopping bays and reinstate with new asphalt construction throughout.
 - Remove and replace current cobbled drainage channels and replace with concrete drainage channels. Install granite kerbs removed from phase 1 to rear of parking bays to denote carriageway and footway.

- Removal of modular paving and installation of flexipave material to protect tree roots and reduce root heave damage.
 - Undertake localised repairs to footways.
 - Repointing of slabbed areas.
 - Remove areas of temporary asphalt fill and reinstate with new setts/slabs to match existing.
 - Undertake repairs to highways street furniture.
11. Phase 5 could take nine weeks and would involve market traders being temporarily relocated to other areas of the town centre. Due to the works in the Lower High Street requiring a 24/7 closure, extensive consultation will be required with the business holders and residents prior to works commencing.
12. The exact dates of the commencement of phases 3 to 5 are yet to be confirmed but likely to be at the start of 2023 and completed by Easter.

Conclusion

13. It is positive to see that these works have commenced and demonstrate strong Member and Officer relationships between Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council.

Portfolio Holder's Views

14. I support the work being carried out. The shared space needs to be maintained and the red tarmac and kerbs need repairing. We agreed at our site visit in October that additional road markings would be deployed to ensure that drivers understand the separate routes to Elwick Road or Aspley Street.
15. The cobbles on Lower High Street need replacing as they have become a trip hazard and are not easy to walk on safely. I am pleased that the cobbles in North Street are remaining as this is consistent with the town centre strategy.

Contact and Email

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