

A20 Harrietsham Highway Improvements Scheme

Public Consultation



Have your say!

Find out about our proposals for highway improvements.

www.kent.gov.uk/a20harrietsham



Introduction

Welcome to Kent County Council's (KCC) public consultation on the A20 Harrietsham Highway Improvements Scheme.

The proposals are to reduce the speed limit from 40 miles per hour (mph) to 30mph, construct new pedestrian refuge islands, upgrade the pelican crossing point to a toucan crossing point and widen the footpath along the A20 through Harrietsham (mile long scheme) to provide a shared footway/cycleway.

Roads with a 30mph speed limit are normally lit throughout the night so if the decision is taken to reduce the speed limit along this stretch, it would mean a full review of the existing street lighting will be undertaken.

Three large estates are being built and the existing footpath is currently narrow and in poor condition. The aim of the scheme is to improve the quality of the existing highway, make it safer by reducing traffic speeds and providing pedestrian crossing points and a cycle facility.

KCC's project team, are working together in close liaison with Maidstone Borough Council (MBC), Harrietsham Parish Council as well as the housing developers. This consultation is being carried out at the detailed design stage to provide local residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback on the scheme before plans are finalised for construction.

This project is likely to be implemented in stages as it is funded from developer contributions.

The formal traffic order to place a 30mph speed limit through the main village and extending the 40mph to provide a buffer zone at each end of the village will be advertised at the same time. This can be found on our website by visiting www.kent.gov.uk/highwaysconsultation.

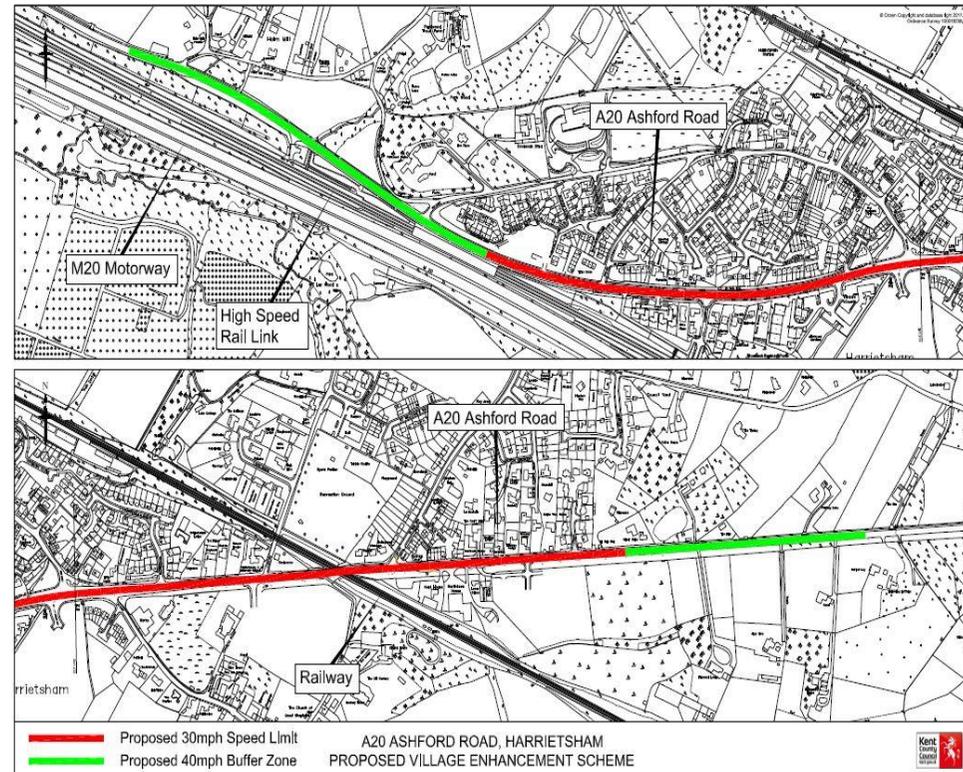
1. Scheme overview

Route corridor

In the recently (October 2017) adopted Maidstone Borough Local Plan, Harrietsham is designated as a rural service centre capable of accommodating growth. A total of approximately 242 new homes are due to be delivered across three allocated sites over the plan period to 2031. The local plan can be view at: www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/planning/local-plan

The Local Plan requires that the new housing developments are supported by improvements to transport infrastructure. These include modifications to the A20 Ashford Road corridor in order to facilitate safe and convenient pedestrian movement between the new housing and existing village facilities.

KCC will be designing and delivering the improvements using up to £925,000 of developer funding secured via planning obligations.



The proposals involve the narrowing of the carriageway, the lowering of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph, the provision of new sections of footway and pedestrian crossing facilities and providing a shared footway/cycleway.

KCC believe that the scheme offers a real opportunity to improve highway safety and create a more pedestrian-friendly environment within Harrietsham, whilst also serving the access needs of the housing developments. We invite you to share your views on the proposals with us.

2. Our proposals – vicinity of Holm Mill Lane

40mph Buffer Zone

Proposed 40mph speed limit buffer zone to give drivers warning that the street environment is changing ahead.

Traffic Island

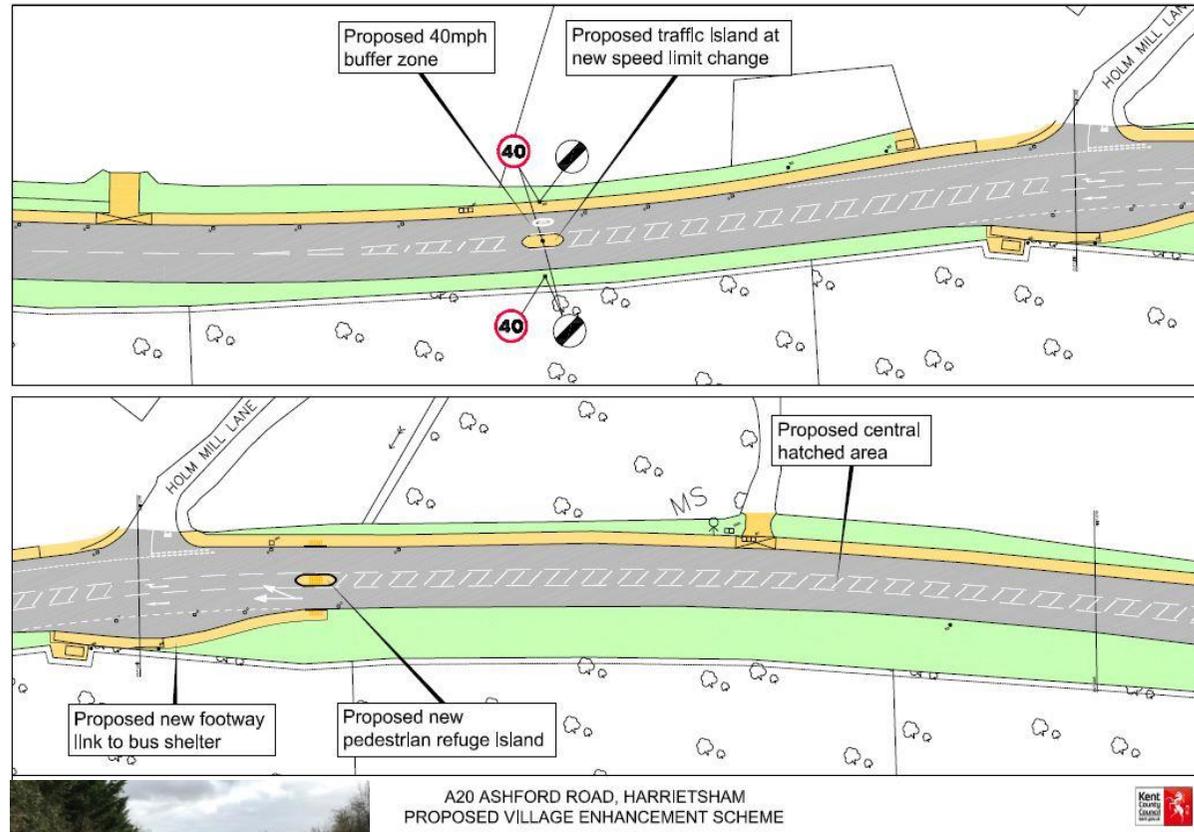
The traffic island is part of the 40mph gateway, which also provides a prominent position to display the speed limit signage.

Central Hatching

The central hatching aids the enforcement of the 40mph speed limit by narrowing the carriageway width and reducing the possibility of speeding vehicles overtaking drivers travelling at the correct speed.

Pedestrian Refuge Island

The pedestrian refuge island benefits pedestrians to cross one half of the road at a time. New footway links the island and the Maidstone bound bus stop.



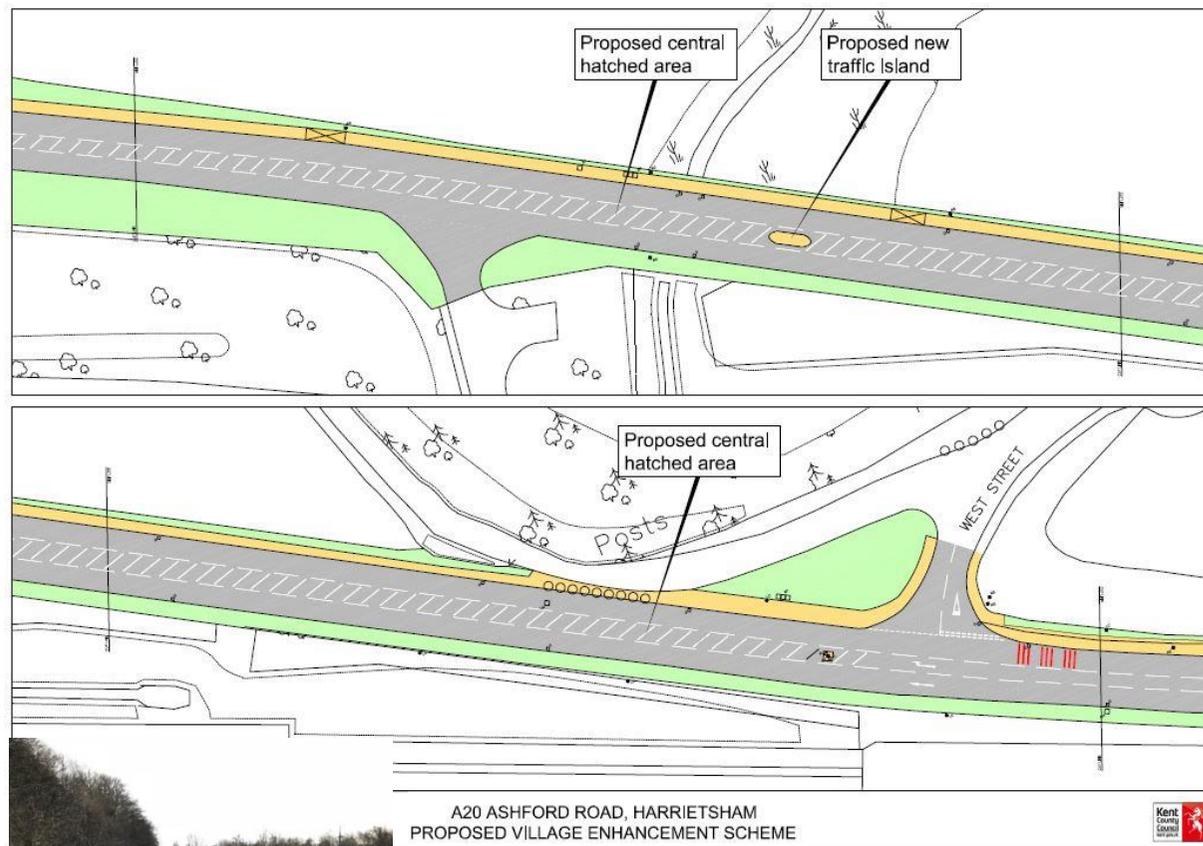
2. Our proposals – vicinity of West Street

Traffic Island

The traffic island is positioned to reinforce the central hatching aiding the enforcement of the 40mph speed limit by narrowing the carriageway width and reducing the possibility of speeding vehicles overtaking drivers at the correct speed.

Red Countdown Markings

The proposed red countdown road markings act as a visual aid to drivers approaching the proposed 30mph speed limit gateway.



2. Our proposals – vicinity of Hook Lane

30mph Village Gateway

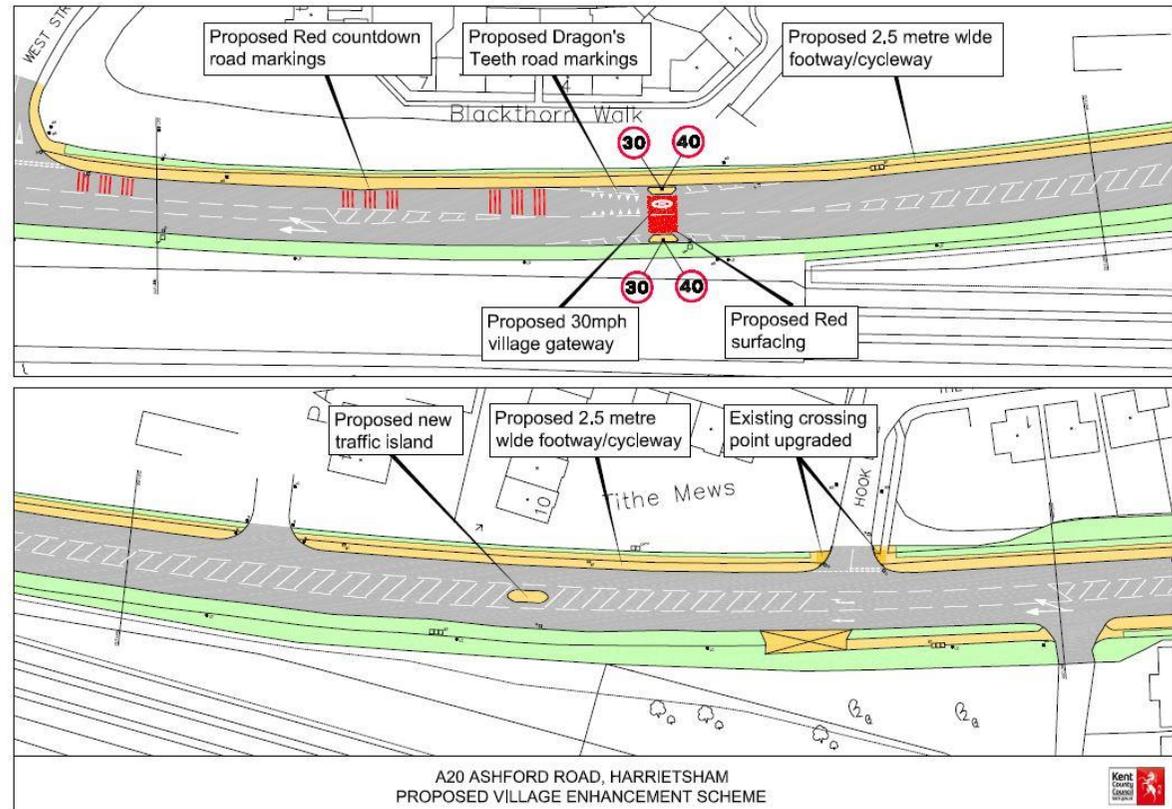
The proposed red countdown road markings act as a visual aid to drivers approaching the proposed 30mph speed limit gateway.

Dragon's Teeth and Red Surfacing

The dragon's teeth markings and red carriageway surfacing are again a visual impression that the road is narrowing and that speed should be reduced as the environment changes to a village scape.

Shared Footway and Cycleway

A shared use footway/cycleway is a wide footpath that has been designated permissible for pedestrians use as well as cyclists. On a shared use facility, all permitted users have equal access; it does not have separate cycle lanes and footways marked out. Existing pedestrian crossing points at each side road adjoining the A20 are proposed to be upgraded with wider dropped kerbs and tactile paving to aid the visually impaired.



2. Our proposals – vicinity of Fairbourne Lane

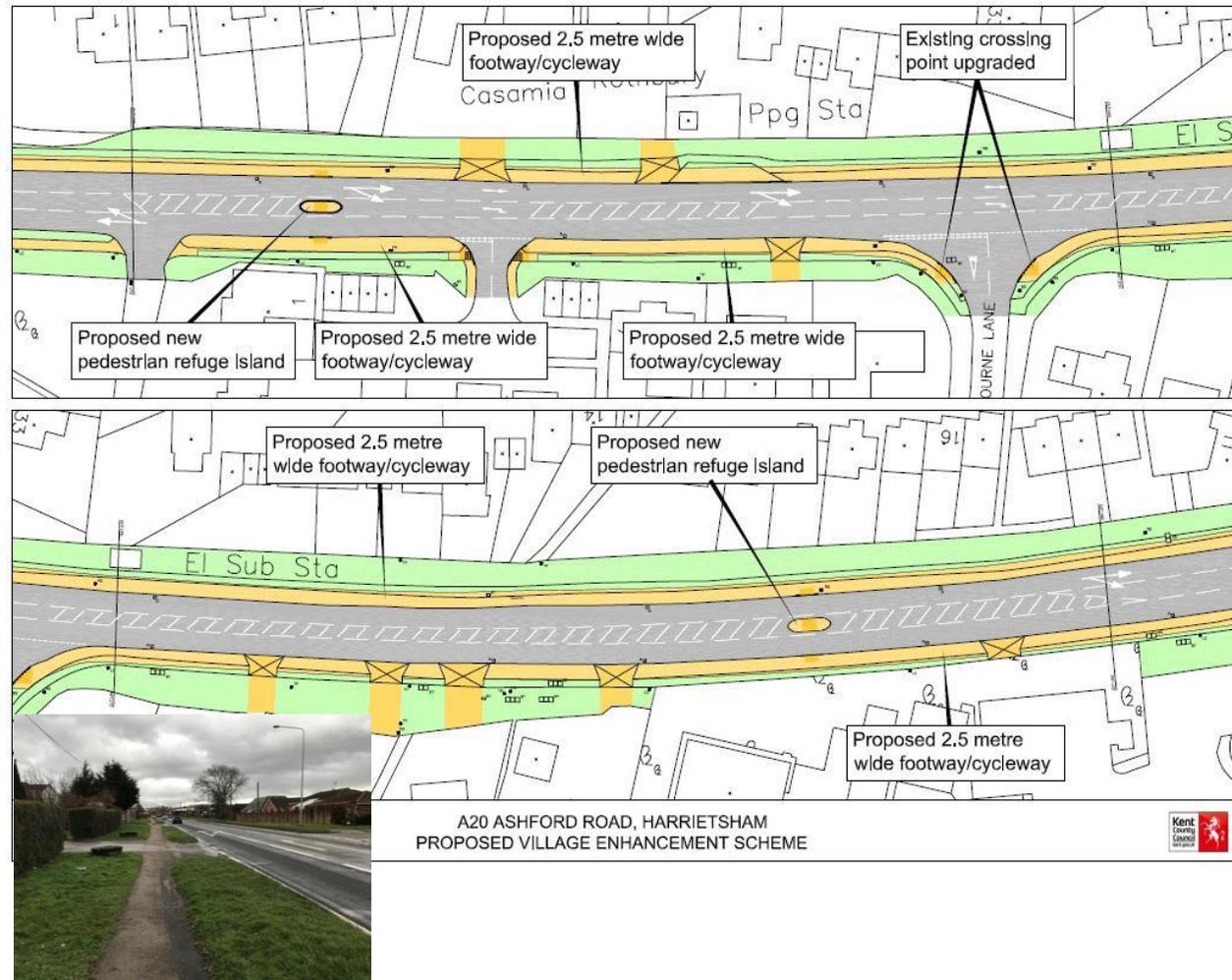
Pedestrian Refuge Islands

The two proposed pedestrian refuge islands will serve as a pedestrian link to the existing housing on either side of the A20.

Shared Footway and Cycleway

The shared use footway/cycleway continues through the village providing a wider footpath for both pedestrians and cyclists to use.

Existing pedestrian crossing points at each side road adjoining the A20 are proposed to be upgraded with wider dropped kerbs and tactile paving to aid the visually impaired.



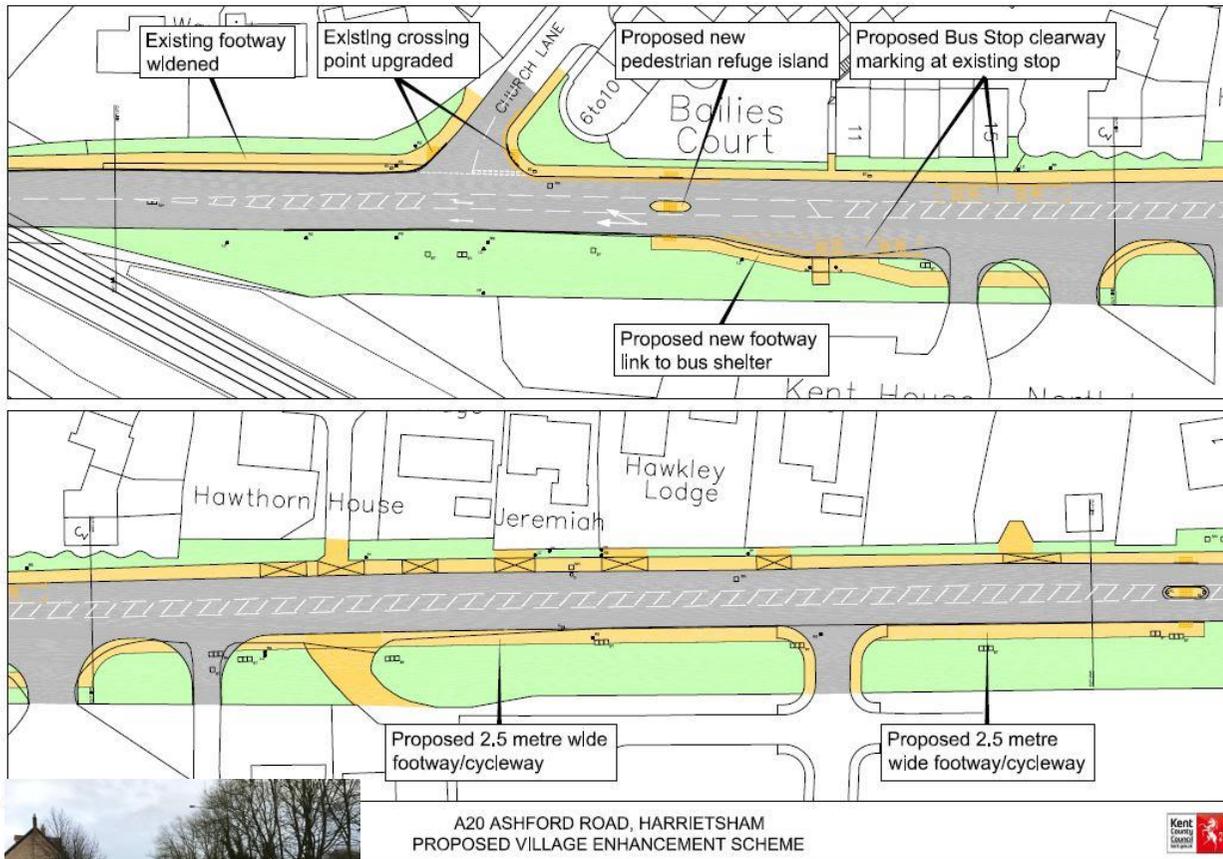
2. Our proposals – vicinity of Church Road



Footway Widening

The existing footway underneath the railway is proposed to be widened to alleviate the pinch-point on the Ashford side which inhibits mobility scooters and double buggies from passing. The existing pedestrian guard railing will be realigned to the new footway.

2. Our proposals – vicinity of Church Lane

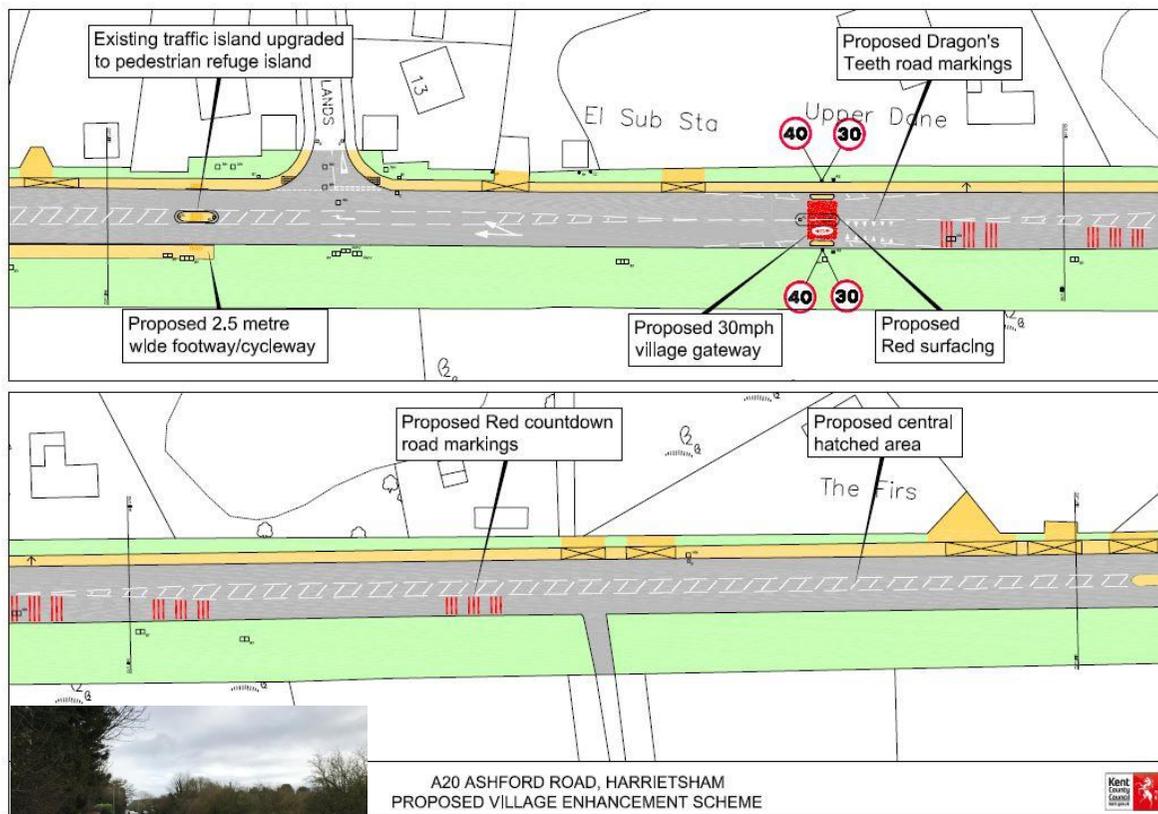


Bus Stop Clearway Markings

The pedestrian refuge island enables pedestrians to cross the road and a new footpath links between the island and the Maidstone bound bus stop.

The clearway bus stop markings enable improved access for public transport users as it allows the bus to pull up flush to the kerb.

2. Our proposals – vicinity of Downlands



30mph Village Gateway

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Dragon's Teeth and Red Surfacing

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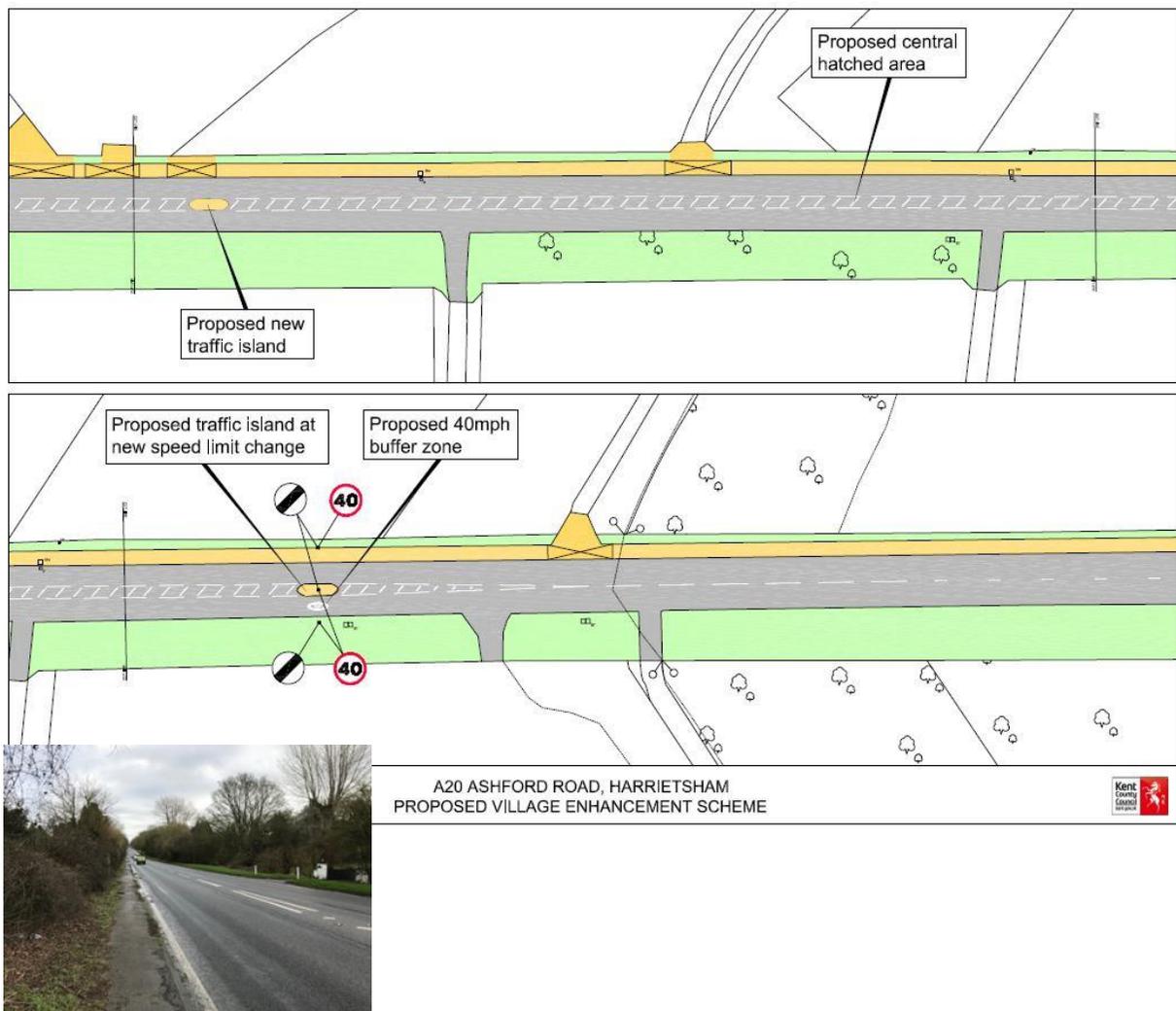
Traffic Island

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Central Hatching

The central hatching aids enforcement of the 40mph speed limit by narrowing the carriageway width and reducing the possibility of speeding vehicles overtaking drivers at the correct speed.

2. Our proposals – vicinity of The Firs



40mph Buffer Zone

Proposed 40mph speed limit buffer zone to give the driver warning that the street environment is changing ahead.

Traffic Island

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Central Hatching

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3. Have your say

Your feedback is essential to help us shape our proposal. Whether you support the proposal or have concerns about it, we want to hear your comments and views.

You can provide your views by taking part in the consultation questionnaire which is available:

- Online at kent.gov.uk/a20harrietsham
- By emailing traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk for a paper copy
- At the consultation events listed on this page

We have prepared an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) which is available to view online at kent.gov.uk/a20harrietsham or on request.

Want more information?

We also have two consultation events taking place at the Harrietsham Village Hall in Church Road, Harrietsham, Maidstone ME17 1AP where you can drop in see the full-size plans and talk to our team.

Consultation Event Venue	Date	Time
Harrietsham Village Hall Church Road, Harrietsham, Maidstone ME17 1AP	Wednesday 21 st February 2018	5pm to 8pm
Harrietsham Village Hall Church Road, Harrietsham, Maidstone ME17 1AP	Monday 26 th February 2018	12 noon to 3pm

Visit the consultation website at:

kent.gov.uk/a20harrietsham

Email us at: traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk

Write to us at:

A20 Harrietsham Public Consultation
Kent County Council
Javelin Way
Henwood Industrial Estate
Ashford
Kent TN24 8AD

4. Next steps

Following this consultation, a report will be compiled summarising the analysis of the responses. This report will be made available to consultees. The consultation responses and Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) will be used to inform the decision on whether to proceed with this scheme.

The proposal and consultation results will be reported to the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board (made up of Maidstone Borough and County Councillors) in April 2018 where the decision will be made whether to progress this scheme. If agreed, KCC will complete the detailed design, addressing as many of the concerns raised as possible, with construction planned for early summer 2018. Residents and businesses will be notified by letter prior to the works commencing.

In order to carry out these works safely, it will be necessary to implement a traffic management plan which will be developed along with the detailed design but it is likely that temporary two way lights will be used for the majority of the work, three way lights may be required at junctions and temporary side road closures may be deemed necessary.

For any alternative formats of the consultation material, please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call **03000 421553** (text relay service number 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

