

Smallfield Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility Scheme – Wheelers Lane and Redehall Road, Smallfield

Statement of Reasons

It is proposed to implement a series of pedestrian safety and accessibility improvement works on Wheelers Lane and Redehall Road in Smallfield; elements of which require TROs. The following paragraphs outline the proposed improvements and provide justification for each measure proposed. The local community have been consulted on the scheme, with majority approval, and the scheme was also subsequently approved by local committee on the 03 December 2021.

The proposed highway measures to implement the pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements on Wheelers Lane and Redehall Road are associated with the conversion of part of a school playing field to a car park for the public to use (located on the western side of Redehall Road). This scheme is being delivered by the Parish Council who are leasing the school playing field and have planning permission to convert this to a car park. The delivery of this car park scheme is fundamental to the proposed highway works on Wheeler Lane and Redehall Road proposed as the improvements will result in removing some on street parking and restricting vehicle traffic on Wheelers Lane, with the expectation that parents associated with Burstow Primary School and others will be able to park in the new off-street Parish car park instead.

Included within the proposed highway improvements is a new zebra crossing on Redheall Road within the vicinity of the local shops. The proposed zebra crossing (that will require a TRO) is being provided in response to concerns over the difficulty and safety of crossing the road between the shops and facilities on Redehall Road. The introduction of this zebra crossing will result in the removal of some on-street parking on the western side of Redehall Road, but this is mitigated for by the presence of the new Parish car park to the south. A new loading bay (which also requires a TRO) is proposed to be provided on Wheelers Lane for delivery vehicles servicing the local businesses.

It is also proposed to install a one-way no-entry point closure at the eastern end of Wheelers Lane at the junction with Redehall Road (which also requires a TRO). This measure will still allow motorists to proceed eastbound and turn out of Wheelers Lane onto Redheall Road in either direction, but Redehall Road motorists will not be able to turn into Wheelers Lane from either direction. Wheelers Lane will however remain two-way, except for the short section at the proposed point closure. A new kerb build out to help physically block the westbound lane on Wheelers Lane is proposed. Exemptions within the legal order will be present for emergency vehicles, cyclists (for which there will be a short length of contraflow cycle lane), and equestrian users. As well as reducing the volume of traffic on Wheelers Lane, this feature will have the advantage of simplifying the vehicle movements at the staggered crossroads junction with Plough Road, Redhall Road and Wheelers Lane, with the aim of also reducing congestion at this location. The existing raised table spanning the Wheelers Lane/Redehall Road/Plough Road will also be amended in length to suit the associated geometry changes at the aforementioned junction (which will require a TRO).

It is proposed to narrow the carriageway and widen the footways along the whole frontage of Burstow Primary School on Wheelers Lane, and to provide an enhanced informal crossing point on a raised table (which will require a TRO) to replace the existing informal crossing point outside the school associated with the priority give way feature and build outs. The wider footways across the frontage of the school will improve accessibility to the school for all pupils, parents and staff. Additional parking/waiting restrictions (which will require a TRO) are proposed on Wheelers Lane, encouraging parents to utilise the new off-street car park instead.