

Proposed Signal Controlled Junction A251 Ashford Road and A2 Canterbury Road

Public Consultation 4 August to 14 September 2020



Introduction

In Spring 2014, Kent County Council (KCC) consulted residents and the wider community on proposals to improve the junctions on the A251 Ashford Road and A2 Canterbury Road in Faversham. Two options, a roundabout and a signalised junction, were presented. The consultation responses favoured a signalised junction.

A signalised junction compared to a roundabout would require the least amount of land from Kent Fire Brigade and the Abbey school and would deliver the best improvements to congestion. A recommendation was made to the Swale Joint Transportation Board (JTB) on 9 June 2014 for this option to be progressed to design.

Several designs have been investigated in the intervening period and fresh funding bids progressed. An updated report was given to the JTB in March 2019 and a further update in June 2019. The JTB have recommended that KCC proceed with the scheme.

We are now consulting on our proposed design for the junction, so that we can gather your feedback to help us finalise our plans.

What are we proposing to do?

We are proposing to introduce signals to the A251 / A2 junctions and to further improve them by creating additional turning lanes on both roads for vehicles turning left. The improvements would include a push button pedestrian crossing. This type of crossing has technology that will cancel the pedestrians request if they move away from the crossing to minimise delay to traffic. The proposal also includes the introduction of a 'left turn only' from the junction of Preston Grove on to the A2 Canterbury Road.

Consideration has been given to providing shared use or a segregated cycleway at the junctions however there is insufficient space to achieve this. Where there is space available the existing pavements will be made wider allowing more space for pedestrians.

Why are we proposing to do this work?

This proposal has been designed to accommodate planned housing growth in the area. This would also help to ease congestion and queuing on the A251 Ashford Road whilst improving turning onto the A2 Canterbury Road. The inclusion of a crossing within the scheme will also make it safer for pedestrians to cross.

A copy of the proposed scheme plan can be viewed at the end of this document.

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What will the scheme involve?

The scheme involves widening the existing carriageway on the A251 Ashford Road to accommodate an additional traffic lane. This lane would filter traffic turning left onto A2 Canterbury Road. The new filter lane would be created by removing some of the existing grass verge and trees that are located on the western kerb line currently owned by The Abbey School and the Fire Station. We are currently in negotiation with both parties to purchase the land that is required for the additional lane.

Whilst we will try and retain the current tree line, we will need to remove some for the purpose of reducing the level of the bank down to road level. Any trees that are removed will be replaced nearby.

We would also widen the southern side of the A2 Canterbury Road to provide an additional lane on the approach to the proposed signals. This would allow traffic to turn left onto the A251 Ashford Road or continue straight ahead along the A2 Canterbury Road.

It is proposed that three sets of signals are installed in this scheme. Two sets on the A2 Canterbury Road. One set heading eastbound, this would include a filter signal that will run separately for those vehicles turning right onto the A251 Ashford Road. The second set heading westbound would have both lanes controlled at the same time. On the A251 Ashford Road, there would be one set of traffic lights with a filter signal running separately for traffic turning left. The introduction of the signals would allow traffic to flow left or right from the junction, easing the current congestion issues.

A new push button pedestrian crossing has been proposed to allow pedestrians to cross the A2 Canterbury Road to continue their route along the designated footpath.

To improve road safety with the introduction of the traffic signals we are also proposing that vehicles would only be able to make a left hand turn from the junction of Preston Grove onto the A2 Canterbury Road.

To improve the current road surface, the proposal also includes the resurfacing of the entire junction, with localised repairs taking place on the A2 Canterbury Road where required. Grey high friction surfacing will be introduced at all three approaches to the signals to increase skid resistance of traffic approaching the signals.

We are proposing that the works would start in October 2020, subject to the required land being purchased. The first stage of the work would be the removal of the grass verge and any trees for the proposed left-hand turning lane on to the A2 Canterbury Road.

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The second stage would be the relocation of the utilities that are currently located within the grass verge. We envisage these works would be carried out between October and December 2020. Once this has been completed the highway works would commence with an expected completion date of mid-2021.

Whilst these works are being carried out, we would try to reduce the disruption to residents and road users as much as possible. However, there may be disruption to traffic when we need to install temporary traffic signals and resurface the road. If a road closure is needed for resurfacing, letters detailing the dates will be sent to residents within the affected area. In most cases, these works take place at night to ease the disruption to the road.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to assess possible impacts, both positive and negative, of this proposed scheme on people with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010. The EqIA is available to view at kent.gov.uk/a251junctionimprovements or on request.

The scheme would deliver positive impacts by providing an improved pedestrian crossing and wider pavements in places, which will benefit pedestrians of all ages. No adverse effects have been identified however the EqIA will be updated after the consultation to consider any relevant information received.

How will this scheme be funded?

This scheme will cost approximately £1.7 million, £900k from the 106-developer fund from nearby housing developments to help mitigate their impact on the highway, £500k from the government's Local Growth Fund and £300k from KCC's Highway Innovation Fund.

Have your say

We would like to give you the opportunity to let us know what you think of the proposed design for this scheme and invite you to complete the consultation questionnaire, which is available on our website kent.gov.uk/a251junctionimprovements.

If you have any questions regarding these proposals or require hard copies of any of the consultation material, please email traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 41 81 81. Please use the reference '**A251 / A2 Junction improvements**' to identify the scheme.

The closing date for this consultation is midnight on Monday 14 September 2020.

Next steps

Following the consultation, a report will be compiled summarising the analysis of the responses. This report will be made available to consultees via the consultation webpage. The consultation responses and EqIA will be used to inform the final design of the scheme.

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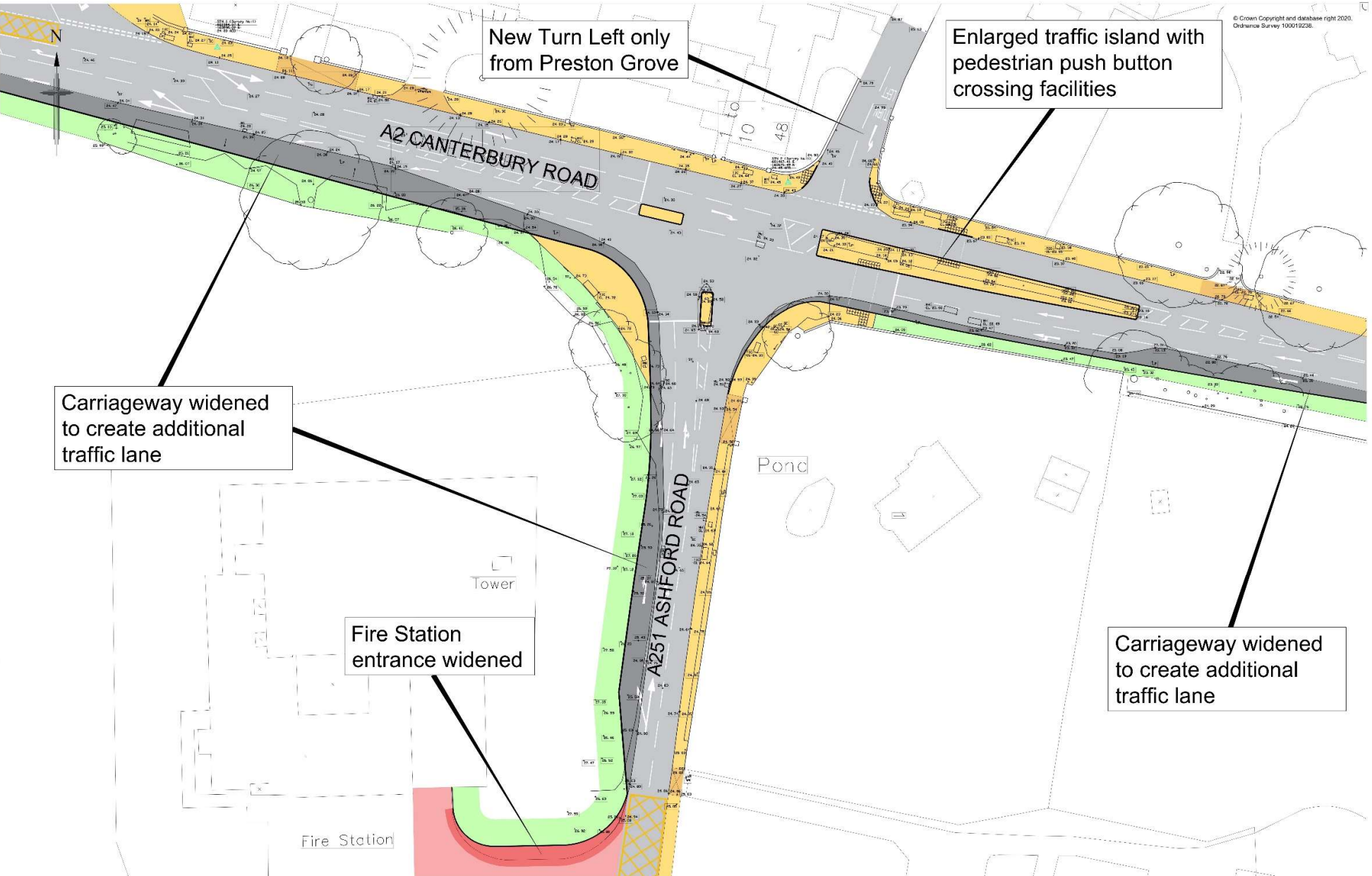
Public Consultation 4 August to 14 September 2020



Before any construction takes place, Start of Works notices would be delivered to local residents and placed at the site. These will advise you of when the works would start and of any changes to the highway that may arise during construction. Large advance notice boards would also be placed at the site to advise passing motorists of the works.

Alternative formats

If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 42 15 53 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 42 15 53). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.



A2 CANTERBURY ROAD/A251 ASHFORD ROAD, FAVERSHAM
PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION