

Proposal for pedestrian crossing – Hermitage Park

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council has been successful in securing a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund for the upgrade and development of Hermitage Park, Helensburgh. Hermitage Park is situated to the east of Sinclair Street. In order to provide improved pedestrian access to the park, it is proposed that a controlled (pelican) crossing is installed. This would be funded as part of the park project.
- 1.2 A signal controlled pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the primary entrance would improve accessibility to the park and hopefully encourage more visitors to walk to the park. The three options considered are as follows:
- Option 1: Pedestrian crossing downhill of West Montrose Street
 - Option 2: Pedestrian crossing uphill of West Montrose Street
 - Option 3: Four way signal controlled junction with pedestrian facility
- 1.3 Option 3 provides the best accessibility for pedestrians in all directions and has additional road safety benefits. It is hoped that the improved park facilities and new café will lead to an increase in pedestrians and vehicles visiting the park. Option 3 has the additional advantage of improving the management of vehicle movements. The estimated cost of £30,000 can be funded from the Hermitage Park Project.
- 1.4 It is recommended that Members approve the proposal to install a four way signalised junction with pedestrian facility on Sinclair Street at the junction with West Montrose Street, including the access into Victoria Halls.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Hermitage Park is located in a residential area and is within a short walk of Helensburgh Town Centre where shops, cafes, local amenities and Helensburgh Central Station are provided. Substantial grant funding has been obtained to regenerate the park and it is expected that visitor numbers will increase. There are plans to extend the existing parking at Victoria Halls to allow additional parking for the park.
- 2.2 To support the increased pedestrian and vehicle movements around the park, a new signal controlled crossing is proposed on Sinclair Street at the junction with West Montrose Road, and includes the access into Victoria Hall and the park.
- 2.3 Funding of £30,000 has been set aside in the Hermitage Park Project for the installation of a signal control junction with pedestrian facilities therefore there will be no impact on the Roads capital budget. There will be a lesser impact on the Roads revenue budget of £600 for on-going maintenance.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members approve the development of a 4 way signalised junction with pedestrian facility on Sinclair Street at the junction with West Montrose Road, and including the access into Victoria Hall and the park.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 Hermitage park currently has a number of entrances, two of which are on the A818 Sinclair Street, which bounds the park to the west. One of these is the primary access to the park. The A818 is a strategic link road and is relatively busy during peak periods of the day.

- 4.2 There is currently no parking provision directly associated with the park although there is on-street parking in the surrounding streets. As part of the project the introduction of 20 additional parking spaces are proposed.
- 4.3 It is expected that many residents will choose to walk to the park and this will often require pedestrians to cross Sinclair Street, possibly with young children. Visitors who park in the surrounding streets may also find they require to cross Sinclair Street to access the park.
- 4.4 West Montrose Street is situated on the west side of Sinclair Street, opposite the boundary of the park and the Victoria Halls. West Montrose Street is a popular through route to the west side of Helensburgh. Although narrow, this can be busy and an awkward road for a pedestrian to cross, exacerbated by the presence of parked cars.
- 4.5 In the vicinity of the park (between Argyle Street and Victoria Road) controlled crossing opportunities are relatively limited. The nearest controlled crossing to the park is located 230m to the south. An uncontrolled pedestrian crossing with refuge island is located immediately before the junction with Victoria Road.
- 4.6 A controlled pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the primary entrance would improve accessibility to the park.

Pedestrian crossing options

- 4.7 Three options have been considered to allow pedestrians to cross Sinclair Street. Refer to Appendix A for a map showing the situation of the park in relation to the surrounding streets.

- 4.8 Option 1 - Pedestrian crossing downhill of West Montrose Street

This option would create a pedestrian crossing downhill of West Montrose Street in front of the Victoria Halls. This has the advantage of being ideal for access to the Halls as well as the park. However, pedestrians walking from the NW of the town would still have to cross West Montrose Street to reach the pedestrian crossing. The crossing itself would have to be carefully sited to avoid confusion with the existing vehicle entrance to Victoria Halls.

- 4.9 Option 2 – Pedestrian crossing uphill of West Montrose Street

This option would create a pedestrian crossing uphill of West Montrose Street nearer to the primary park entrance. Pedestrians from the NW of the town would no longer have to cross West Montrose Street, however, pedestrians from the SW would now have to walk up hill past Victoria Halls cross West Montrose Street and double back to gain access. It is recognized that pedestrians from the SW (town centre) would have the option of crossing earlier at the Sinclair Street at West King Street junction.

4.10 Option 3 – 4 four way Signalised controlled junction with pedestrian facility

This option will create a four way traffic light system at the junction of Sinclair Street and West Montrose Street, and also incorporate the vehicle entrance to the Victoria Halls carpark and the new parking provision within the park, therefore managing the traffic in a controlled manner especially the right turn movements.

This will also provide three pedestrian crossings points, with two on Sinclair Street one to the north and one to the south of West Montrose Street, and on West Montrose Street itself. During the pedestrian phase the facility would be included for pedestrians crossing the access into Hermitage Park/Victoria Hall. This is the only option which serves pedestrians from both the north and the south of the town.

The proposed site for additional car parking would share the Victoria Halls vehicle entrance and would therefore also be catered for in this arrangement. Right turning traffic coming out of the car park and from West Montrose Street would be accommodated.

The vehicle entrance to the Victoria Halls is slightly south of West Montrose Street, this has the effect of creating a staggered junction and a potential delay in vehicle movements. Consideration has been given to re-siting the vehicle entrance to bring these in line, but as it is a listed structure this is not possible. The 4 four way traffic light system addresses this and will remove the current ambiguity about priority when cars approach both junctions simultaneously.

Because of the enhanced accessibility for pedestrians and the additional safety benefit for vehicle movement management this is our preferred option.

Estimated costs for Option 3

Installation of traffic signals and control	£ 22,000
Civils works to alter the footway (drop kerbs and tactile paving) and providing ducting to signal poles	£ 8,000
Total cost	£ 30,000

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Option 3: Four way Signalised junction with pedestrian facility is the preferred option for enhancing pedestrian access to Hermitage Park.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy - none

6.2 Financial – cost of £30,000 to be borne by the Hermitage Park project with an annual cyclic maintenance charge of £600 on the roads revenue budget (the first year would be part of the 12 month maintenance period therefore no immediate burden on the revenue budget)

6.3 Legal - none

6.4 HR - none

6.5 Equalities - none

6.6 Risk - none

6.7 Customer Service – enhanced pedestrian access to a community facility

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APPENDICES

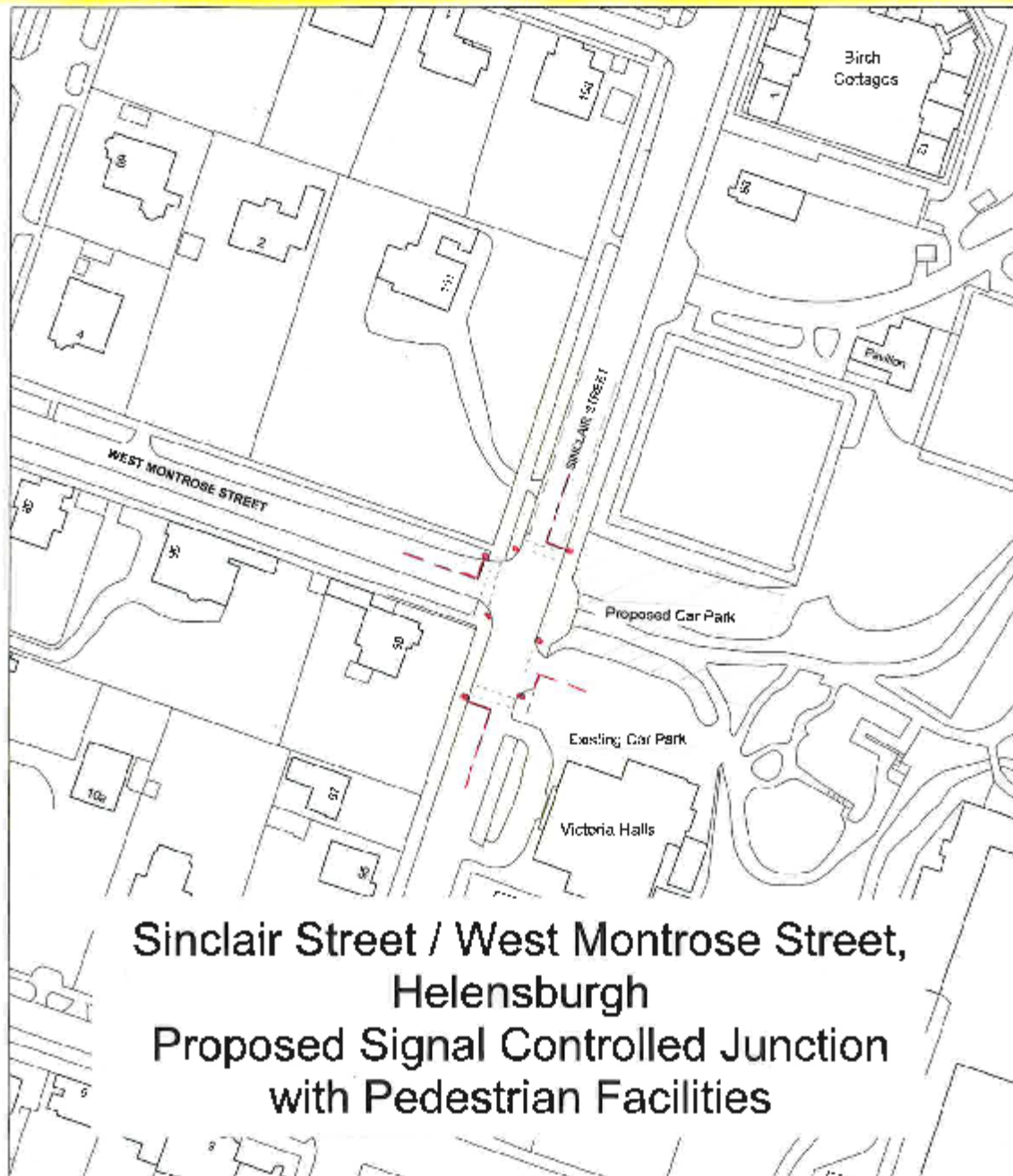
Appendix A Map of general situation of Hermitage Park in Helensburgh

Appendix B Proposed signalised junction

Appendix A – Map of general situation of the Hermitage Park in Helensburgh



Appendix B – Proposed signalled junction



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