

Briefing Note – Update / Provision of footway on A815 at Hunters Quay Holiday Village

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members of the options towards funding the completion of the footway connection between Hunters Quay and Sandbank on A815 as provided in report to Area Committee in February.
- 1.2 To update on progress made since then.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members take note of this report.

3 DETAILS

- 3.1 The footpath connecting Hunters Quay and Sandbank has a gap section of some 507 lin. m. either side of the entrance to Hafton House. This discourages pedestrian use on this section of A815 Coastal road. This area is considered an aspirational route within the Core Paths network but comes with little prospect of development funding in the near future.
- 3.2 Records indicate that there have been four road traffic accidents in the past three years at this location – in the vicinity of the road access into the holiday village. Three incidents involved damage to a vehicle only. However, one incident involved an injury. No pedestrians were involved in any of these incidents. We understand there have been a number of unreported or unrecorded incidents, thought mainly to be due to the speed of approaching vehicles to the junction.
- 3.3 Initial estimates of the cost to provide the completion of the footway on the inland side of A815 is in the order of £240,000. As such, this is in excess of any available internal budget to finance exclusively. As the Roads and Footways Reconstruction budget is allocated to maintenance of the current asset, funding through this avenue is unlikely unless associated with a much larger carriageway maintenance scheme which is not at present required within the scope of the 5 year programme. A bid for 50% funding through Sustrans can be pursued but match funding by the Council's "Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes to Schools" budget would be substantial and likely to require input over several financial years.

- 3.4 Existing landowners, adjacent to the footway, are under no legal obligation to provide a footway on the A815 public road. However, the submission of a recent planning pre-application for this area may allow a proportion of the footway to be provided through the “planning gain” route and so reduce the impact on the overall funding required to complete this project. There has been no further interest on this proposed development since the last report.
- 3.5 The on-going implementation process for the 30mph zone in this area may allow a reduction in the specification of the footpath to a “shared surface” to minimise costs, with the appropriate signing. Currently this process is expected to be completed, with speed restriction signs in place, by the end of October this year.
- 3.6 A site survey has been carried out on the southern end between Hunters Quay Holiday Village and vehicular access serving Hafton House; some 190 linear metres. There is adequate space to provide a narrow footway on the landward side. Along with the survey, other options to improve pedestrian safety will be considered for this area, such as enhancing existing signing and lining. A further update report will be brought to a future meeting of the Area Committee.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The possible procurement of finances to fund this proposal is still being investigated by officers. The remaining some 317 linear metres will be surveyed as resources become available.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy *Assists in the promotion of health and wellbeing.*
- 5.2 Financial *Requires substantial external contributions to complete the works.*
- 5.3 Personnel *None*
- 5.4 Equalities Impact Assessment *None*
- 5.5 Legal *Land acquisition implications*
- 5.6 Risk *none*
- 5.7 Customer Service *Improves local amenity for residents and tourists*

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 A815 Location plan

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