

Standard Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why does this work have to take place?

The request for a signalised pedestrian crossing was received from Petworth Town Council, via a community highways application. Detailed within the application, they highlight the following needs and issues with the current site, "*The southern part of Petworth, south of the Sylvia Beaufoy (SB) car park and to the east and west of the A285, has one of the highest population densities in the town. The A272 has pavement on only one side and this busy road must be crossed by children using the bus service to Midhurst Rother College and for children and adults accessing the key town amenities of the Sports Ground and Petworth Deer Park*". Following detailed site assessments, and moderation of the application, a signalised puffin crossing was decided to be progressed to a detailed design and subsequent public consultation. The crossing is now due to be installed to both improve pedestrian safety and help support sustainable transport links.

2. What work must be done?

In order to install the crossing, civil engineering infrastructure needs to be installed in the footways and carriageway. New ducting throughout the site to carry the traffic signal cables, chambers, retention sockets for the traffic signal poles and more is required.

Resurfacing of the footways surrounding the crossing is required, with full depth reconstruction to ensure a strong surface and achieve the required gradients. Installation of red blister paving to aid visually impaired pedestrians with using the crossing is also needed.

There will be changes to the road surface with an extensive resurfacing programme to ensure vehicles approaching the crossing have adequate grip whilst braking on the approaches to the crossing.

New road markings are to be installed for the pedestrian crossing with local lining surrounding the area also being refreshed.

As an additional design consideration, a new uncontrolled crossing facility will be installed on the corner of Downview Road, to align the footways on the eastern and western side of the road, improving the local connectivity to the bus stop and improving crossing safety for all pedestrians. To achieve this improvement, some of the grass embankment on the eastern side will be removed.

3. What will the benefits be once it is finished?

A puffin crossing will be installed which utilises the latest technology. Above ground detectors will be installed to improve pedestrian safety (the detectors note the presence of pedestrians and this influences the timings of the signals) as well as tactile cones and audible beepers to aid visually impaired pedestrians. LED lamps are to be installed to improve visibility for motorist and keep energy and maintenance costs down.

During the construction of the pedestrian crossing, improvements to the crossing facilities across Downview Road will be made to improve alignment and enhance connectivity to sustainable transport links.

4. Will any road have to be closed during the works?

The current programme allows for completing all aspects of the project whilst maintaining access east to west and to residential side roads. However, WSCC has reached an agreement with Leconfield Estates, to permit use of the layby outside of the Petworth Cricket Lodge Entrance, to keep plant, materials and welfare facilities off the carriageway and preserving local grass lands. Therefore, access to parking will be restricted in this section.

Due to the works requirements and the traffic management plans, both the west and east bound bus stops on the A272 just west of Downview Road will be closed for the duration of the works. Bus service providers were contacted to comment on the proposal with no concerns raised.

5. When will the work start?

The works are due to begin 16/03/2021

6. When will the work finish?

It is expected to be completed by 08/04/2021 but this can be dependent on weather conditions and other external factors.

7. Can works be carried out at evenings or overnight?

No, this scheme will operate during normal working hours.

8. How much will it cost?

The installation will cost about £110,000

9. What disruption can motorists or bus passengers expect?

Due to the extent of the works and the traffic management required, delays are likely. Therefore, road users may be subject to additional delays. Road users are encouraged to find alternate routes where possible.

10. Are there any other considerations people need to be aware of?

Pedestrian movements may also be affected whilst the work is ongoing, however there will be footway access at all times. Every consideration and effort will be made to reduce the impact.