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## SANDWICH TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

To: **Dover Joint Transportation Board - 15 September 2016**

By: **Tim Read, Head of Transportation, Kent County Council**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

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This report is a progress update on the Sandwich Town Improvements

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### 1. Introduction

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Sandwich Town Council voted to allocate up to £80,000 from the S106 fund to develop a number of improvements to Sandwich.

1. Install a 7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction across the Town.
2. Install 3 new village gateway features and multilingual signage (where possible) on the outskirts of the town.
3. Employ an external consultant to holistically look at Sandwich and propose changes to improve traffic flows and the pedestrian experience.
4. Employ KCC to carry out detailed analysis with a view to create a design to install parking chicanes along New Street and High Street (in place of originally proposed traffic tables).
5. Employ KCC to carry out detailed analysis of Breezy Corner with a view to create a design that will protect the pedestrians and historic buildings from damage caused by vehicles.

### 2. Progress update

#### 2.1 Install a 7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction across the Town

The Experimental traffic regulation order was implemented on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The anecdotal feeling is that it appears to have made a positive impact on the number of lorries entering the town.

A local Lorry Watch team is planning to record more data to compare the 'before and after' results at the time of writing.

In accordance with policy if sufficient objections are received, a recommendation may be required by JTB at a later date as to whether to implement permanently.

#### 2.2 Install 3 new village gateway features and multilingual signage on the outskirts of the town.

The Gateways have been installed and Sandwich Town Council have requested extra white lines on all gateways and a gate on the Deal roundabout. This is being paid for from the remaining S106 fund.

#### 2.3 Employ an external consultant to holistically look at Sandwich and propose changes to improve traffic flows and the pedestrian experience.

Rummev Design, the appointed consultant have finished the work and are due to present a final report to Sandwich Town Council at the time of writing.

All information including the consultation report (from 29<sup>th</sup> August) can be viewed at [www.kent.gov.uk/sandwichtownreview](http://www.kent.gov.uk/sandwichtownreview)

2.4 Employ KCC to carry out detailed analysis with a view to create a design to install parking chicanes along New Street and High Street (in place of originally proposed traffic tables).

Sandwich Town Council requested Rummev Design incorporate this as part of their work. In the meantime KCC has gained DDA funds to improve disability access in Sandwich and is designing a Zebra Crossing to link the ropewalk across New Street. This should improve pedestrian access and have the dual effect of calming traffic. A design is being created and the results of the consultation will be brought to a later JTB.

2.5 Employ KCC to carry out detailed analysis of Breezy Corner with a view to create a design that will protect the pedestrians and historic buildings from damage caused by vehicles.

KCC are designing this scheme at the time of writing. This proposes extending the footways and potentially installing bollards to physically prevent Heavy Goods Vehicles from being able to make the turn left on to Strand Street when travelling from Harnet Street.

Extending the footway is deemed necessary as the footway is not currently wide enough to accommodate bollards (which would offer the protection to buildings and pedestrians) without forcing pedestrians into the carriageway.

It is estimated that construction would take place towards the end of the calendar year.

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| <b>Future Meeting if applicable:</b> | A progress report will be presented at a later JTB |
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