

## Benenden Local Plan: Written Response of KCC Highways

1. Following consideration of the Benenden Neighbourhood Plan by the Independent Examiner, a public hearing has been scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to enable discussion on a specific number of key questions. Question 6 requires comments from KCC Highways and the following text constitutes the written response of the Local Highway Authority:

### **Question 6**

*Will the net increase in the number of homes on the two East End allocation sites, beyond those already committed, have a significant impact on the transport network, either in terms of capacity and congestion or highway safety and if it does, can these be cost-effectively mitigated? In particular, will the allocation of the two sites via Policies SSP 3 and SSP4 have a severe impact on key junctions in the neighbouring Biddenden Parish specifically at Castletons Oak Crossroads and at Woolpack Corner?*

2. The parcel of land south of Goddards Green Road received planning permission for 24 dwellings in June 2013 (TW/12/03130). Subsequent to this, KCC Highways has been working closely with TWBC on the new Local Plan. The two sites mentioned in the Benenden Neighbourhood Plan under reference SSP3 and SSP4 (site North of Goddards Green Road, East End and site South of Goddards Green Road, East End respectively) were assessed by KCC Highways under the Regulation 18 consultation under policy AL/BE4. KCC Highways raised no concerns regarding the potential allocation of these sites. The Regulation 19 consultation ran to 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021. KCC Highways has not yet provided comments owing to outstanding data, however it is highly unlikely that KCC Highways would raise objection to the allocation of these sites (AL/BE3 and AL/BE4).
3. KCC Highways is aware of a reoccurring crash problem at the Castleton's Oak crossroads and is proposing to implement a Casualty Reduction Scheme in the 2021/22 financial year (anticipated to be delivered this summer). The scheme will involve improvements and alterations to the surfacing, signing and lining, and if approved, a reduction in the national speed limit to 40mph on all four approaches to the crossroads junction (subject to the TRO process). The scheme aims to encourage reduced approach speeds and provide better junction awareness particularly on the Benenden Road (from Benenden).
4. As required at Regulation 18 and 19, no site-specific Transport Assessment has been submitted or assessed by KCC Highways. Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Plan process is the same: the requirement is for a broad consideration of the impact of the scheme on the highway network in terms of capacity and safety. Considering the small scale of the proposals and the low number of additional trips this site will introduce, KCC Highways has concluded that the two sites in question will not have a 'severe' impact, in line with NPPF paragraph 109. This resulted in KCC Highways having no comments to add to the Regulation 16 consultation in November 2020.
5. KCC do not consider that there will be a 'severe' impact on Castleton Oak Crossroads or Woolpack Corner.