



Westfield Avenue and Westfield Road Proposed Junction Improvements

19 March 2003

KEY ISSUE:

To seek approval for a junction improvement scheme at the Westfield Avenue and Westfield Road junction with Bonsey Lane, Westfield, in conjunction with Safe Routes to Schools and Project Pegasus initiatives.

To also seek approval for subsequent minor improvements to an established pedestrian crossing facility on Westfield Avenue.

SUMMARY:

The proposed scheme has been designed in order to create a safe crossing point for pupils of the Westfield Primary School and other pedestrians over the Westfield Avenue and Westfield Road junction with Bonsey Lane; to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the junction; to allow for the turning movements of refuse trucks and other such vehicles. The Local Transport Programme for Woking 2003/04 to 2005/06 includes this proposal within Annex F.

CONSULTATIONS:

Westfield Primary School was contacted initially as a result of the Project Pegasus initiative with regard to engineering works to be carried out by the Local Transportation Service within a one-mile radius of the school. The school was re-contacted twice by the Local Transportation Service as a result of a request to increase child safety near the Bonsey Lane junction for children travelling to and from school and for the journey to Kingfield Leisure Centre for swimming classes.

Improvements for the crossing facilities at the Westfield Avenue and Westfield Road junction with Bonsey Lane were discussed along with suggestions to improve the existing crossing facility across the northernmost section of Westfield Avenue, near the Westfield Football Club side entrance.

The Police and and Members have been consulted and are in favour of the proposals.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree:

- i) that the proposed junction improvements be approved for implementation, and**
- ii) that approval be given for the improvements to the existing crossing point of Westfield Avenue.**

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. Westfield Primary School was consulted by the Local Transportation Service regarding Safe Routes to Schools as part of Surrey County Council's Project Pegasus initiative.
2. A meeting was held on 17 October 2002 with the Head Teacher to discuss general concerns for child safety within a one mile radius of the school. The Head Teacher was asked to pinpoint locations within one mile of the school that needed engineering measures to be implemented to improve journeys in line with the Safe Routes to Schools initiative. The Schools' main concerns were focused in the area shown within Annex A.
3. The Westfield Avenue and Westfield Road junction with Bonsey Lane was highlighted as a priority area for assessment. It was suggested that alterations to the junction would greatly improve pedestrian crossing movements; for children walking to and from the school, for an accompanied 'crocodile' of forty children walking to and from the Kingfield Leisure Centre every Friday, and for general pedestrian movements of residents.
4. Further meetings were held with the School on 4 December 2002 and 20 February 2003, to discuss the Local Transportation Services' proposals for addressing the issues that were raised by the school. As a result of these meetings, the new junction scheme and improvements to the existing crossing point to the northernmost section of Westfield Avenue, near the Westfield Football Club side entrance have been proposed. [ANNEX B and C].
5. The school stressed that a large proportion of pupils walk to this school: the majority of which have to use this junction.
6. There is also a demand for the Local Transportation Service to implement alterations to this junction from residents and other members of the public.
7. It was also requested that a crossing point be assessed further north along Westfield Avenue to assist in child crossing movements for when the school use the footpath running parallel to Westfield Avenue from Bonsey Lane for access to the Kingfield Leisure Centre.
8. Surrey Police and local Ward Members have been consulted on the proposals and are in favour of the scheme.
9. The residents of Westfield Avenue, Bonsey Lane, Bonsey Close, Hoebrook Glade, Lime Grove, Chestnut Grove and Maple Grove will be consulted before the proposed scheme is implemented.

ANALYSIS and COMMENTARY

10. The proposed junction improvement scheme consists of enlarging the current traffic splitter island to convert it to a standard pedestrian island with a width of two metres. The present layout allows vehicles to turn right into Westfield

Avenue and then left into Bonsey Lane at speed. Therefore the island is also to be extended in length to direct traffic safely through the junction at a reduced speed.

11. It is also proposed that the junction mouth be narrowed to reduce the crossing width and increase visibility for pedestrians, while encouraging lower vehicle speeds into and out of Westfield Avenue.
12. The proposed improvements to the existing dropped kerb crossing point on the northernmost section of Westfield Avenue, near the Westfield Football Club side entrance, consist of the provision of tactile paving.
13. The proposed junction and pedestrian crossing improvements form part of a Countywide initiative to promote sustainable forms of travelling to school, e.g. walking and cycling, which are to be encouraged through the Safe Routes to Schools and Project Pegasus initiatives. The proposed improvements will also improve the crossing facilities for the disabled and partially sighted. The school is in favour of the proposals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The estimated cost of the scheme is £12,000 and is currently programmed for construction in 2003/04. The scheme will be financed from Project Pegasus funding.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

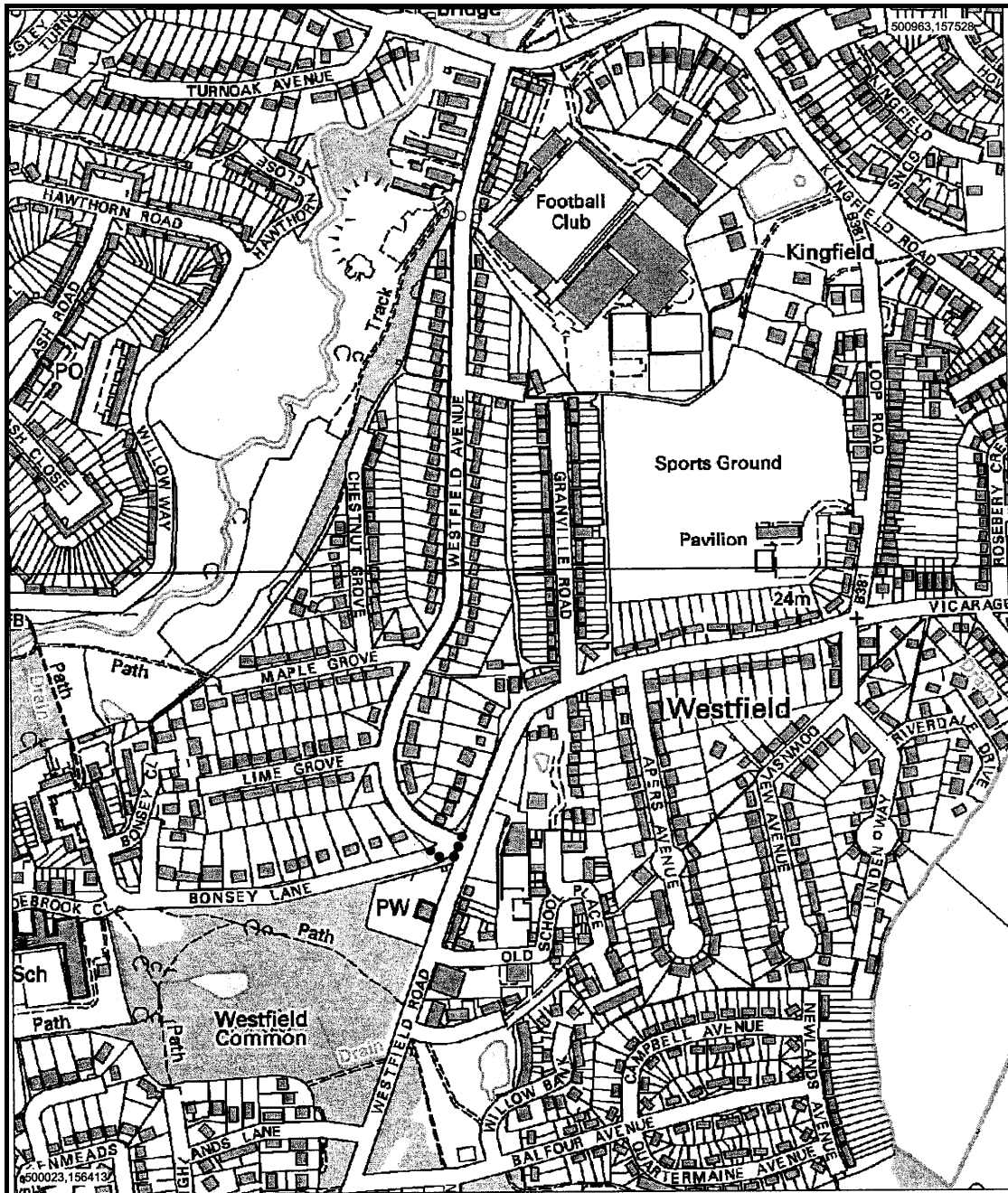
15. The Local Transportation Service has been requested by local residents and the Westfield Primary School to alter the existing Westfield Avenue and Westfield Road junction with Bonsey Lane to address the issue of vehicle speeding and movement through the junction, in order to increase pedestrian safety. The school has also requested that improvements be made to the pedestrian crossing facility to the north of Westfield Avenue to assist the school's walking bus and the general public.
16. Although the improvements are being highlighted under the Safe Routes to Schools and Project Pegasus strategy, to increase sustainable travel, the general public will also benefit greatly from the proposals.
17. Following consideration and subsequent agreement of the proposed junction alterations at Local Committee, it is proposed that the Westfield Avenue and Westfield Road junction with Bonsey Lane and the improvements to the crossing point to the northernmost section of Westfield Avenue be implemented in the next financial year, 2003/04.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Completed questionnaires received from residents

Version No. Five Date: 05.03.03 Time: 11.00 Initials: FMH No of annexes: Three

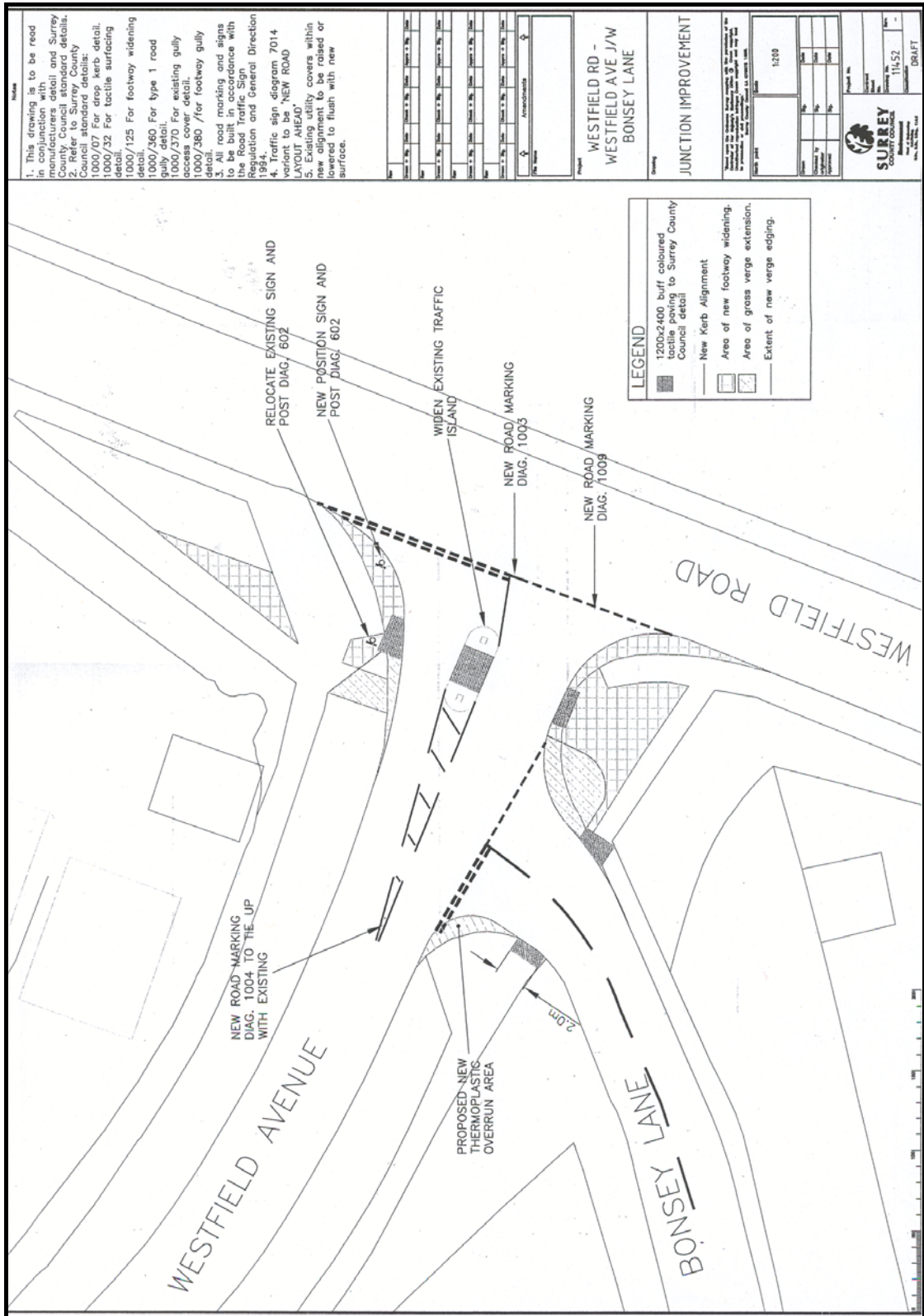
ANNEX A



Westfield Area - Location Plan

	Date: 03/03/2003	Location Plan : ●●●● Junction Improvements [Annex B] ○○○○ Crossing Improvements [Annex C]	*Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Surrey County Council, LA076872, 1996.	 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL Environment
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ANNEX B



ANNEX C

