

Title of meeting: Traffic & Transportation

Date of meeting: 25 February 2021

Subject: Safety Improvements (Safer Routes To School)

Report by: Tristan Samuels - Head of Regeneration

Wards affected: Hilsea (Mayfield Road); Baffins (Moorings Way; Hayling Avenue); Fratton (Moorland Road)

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

To consider the locations suggested for safer routes to school measures as part of the Safer Improvements LTP 2020/21 programme that was agreed in February 2020.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

- 2.1 Approves the spend from the Local Transport Plan 3 - Safer Routes to School Improvements budget to be spent at:
- Mayfield School - junction of Mayfield Road and Kensington Road;
 - At least one other location from;
 1. Moorland Road;
 2. Moorings Way/Warren Avenue;
 3. Hayling Avenue (all locations illustrated in Appendix A).

3. Background

- 3.1 Travelling to education is the most common single purpose of walking journeys but there is huge potential to increase the proportion of children walking to school. A generation ago, 70% of primary school children walked to school but this has dropped to just over half (51%).

The government has a target in its Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) to have 55% of primary school children walking to school by 2025.

Source: www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/promoting-walking-in-primary-schools

- 3.2 The Portsmouth City Council Safer Routes to School programme promotes safer, more environmentally sustainable and healthier ways of getting to and from school, with particular emphasis on walking and cycling through engineered changes to the main walking and cycling routes to schools.
- 3.3 In addition engineered changes Portsmouth City Council also offers a range of behavioural change activities led by "Stomper the Pompey Monster", a monster who will lead a school in a half term of activities that encourage children to walk to school and introduces them to the benefits through his other monster friends who teach children about road safety while en route and the benefits that walking to school has on local air quality,

4. Site Selection

Mayfield School (Mayfield Road/Kensington Junction)

- 4.1 Since 2014 Mayfield School has been an 'all-through school' offering education from 4 to 16 years. The 2019 DfE School Census recorded that Portsmouth City Council had 29,229 children aged 4-16 registered as in full time education with 25,713 registered in main stream Primary and Secondary. At full capacity Mayfield School accounts for 1420 of those pupils, current pupil numbers are 1349.
- 4.2 The existing school building is not fit for purpose and Mayfield staff and governors successfully bid for funding through the governments Priority Schools Building Program to completely rebuild the school at the eastern end of the current site on the junction of Mayfield and Kensington Road. Changes to the surrounding road network were not included in the scope of the scheme.
- 4.3 Portsmouth City Council Safer Travel Team carried out traffic assessment at the areas around of Mayfield School, noting issues around parking, and issues with the current hatched areas at the junction with Kensington Road/Mayfield Road, installed as a part of a previous Safer Routes to School scheme which have not completely solved the problem. Sight lines and visibility at the Mayfield/Kensington junction are detrimentally affected by inappropriate parking at school drop off and collection times. When the new build is complete in September 2021 and the main entrance is situated on this junction will see a significant increase in the number of pupils crossing and a reduction in traffic/increase in walking and cycling to school will work to ensure the area outside the school is as safe as possible.
- 4.2 It is proposed to construct new build outs at the junction of Kensington Road/Mayfield Road, to increase space for pedestrians/cyclists accessing the school site, reduce the ability to park directly outside the school, narrow the carriageway width to provide a reduced crossing distance and safer crossing location for pupils whilst still maintaining 2 way traffic, improve sight lines.

- 4.3 The council has engaged with the school, governors and Copnor ward councillors prior to the publication of this report and the scheme implemented will be in conjunction with all major stakeholders.
- 4.4 Mayfield Road has seen 1 accident in the last 5 years near the Kensington Road junction. To date the entrance of the school has not been located at this junction.

Moorland Road

- 4.4 Portsmouth City Council have complaints from local ward councillors, Hampshire Constabulary and residents about speeding along Moorland Road, and speed has been found to be a factor along one way roads around the city. Moorland Road is also a key route to access St Mary's Road which is used to access Newbridge Junior School, Milton Cross Academy and Portsmouth Academy for pupils and who attend Portsmouth Academy key route with a total of 2,139 pupils attending.
- 4.5 It is proposed to install Vehicle Activated Signs on Moorlands Road to provide a clear visual indication to drivers how fast they are going which would lead to behavioural change of drivers and a reduction in speed. If the speed of vehicles is reduced then confidence in route by pupils and their parents/carers will increase and the desired effect is to see an increase in pupils walking to school. There have been 0 casualty accidents recorded over the last 5 years in the road and 2 damage only incidents with parked vehicles and property being damaged by vehicles travelling over the advertised 20mph speed limit.

Warren Avenue/Moorings Way

- 4.5 Portsmouth City Council have observed heavy pedestrian use of Moorings Way and Warren Avenue at the site of Moorings Way Infant School. The implementation of VAS/Dibond signage along the road(s) to reduce speeds of drivers, provide safer crossing points for pupils and reduced potential for casualties of vulnerable pedestrians would help make the route to school safer. Warren Avenue has seen 6 slight accidents (5 at the junction with Milton Road, and 1 at junction with Moorings Way).

A speed survey was carried out on Moorings Way in March 2020 and the results are below:

Advertised speed limit - 20mph

Average vehicle speed = 23mph

85th percentile = 29mph

The “85th percentile” speed is a speed at which 85% of traffic will be travelling at, or below, along a street or road (under free flow conditions).

Hayling Avenue

- 4.6 Portsmouth City Council have observed heavy pedestrian use on Hayling Avenue with pupils en route to Langstone Infant and Junior Academies and Milton Cross Academy. The schools have a combined total of 1440 pupils attending.
- 4.7 Residents have also given anecdotal evidence of vehicles speeding along Hayling Avenue
The implementation of VAS/Dibond signage along the road to reduce speeds of drivers, provide safer crossing points for pupils and reduced potential for casualties of vulnerable pedestrians.
- 4.8 Hayling Avenue is a very long and straight road, and has seen 12 accidents over the last 5 years; 2 serious and 6 slight directly linked to Hayling Avenue, the other 4 accidents recorded on roads leading to or from Hayling Avenue.
- 4.8 A mobile speed survey was carried out in Hayling Avenue in November 2020 and the results are below:

Advertised Speed Limit 20mph

Average speed = 24.26mph

85th percentile = 29mph

5. Integrated impact assessment

- 5.1 A full Integrated Impact Assessment accompanies this report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The measures proposed within the recommendation are within the Council's statutory powers and duties in relation to traffic management and the management, maintenance and improvement of highways for which it is the responsible authority.

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1 The cost of the improvements is approx. £70,000, which will be funded by the Safer Routes budget allocation within the 2020/21 Local Transport Plan approved by Full Council in 2020.

7.2 A full financial appraisal will be completed before any of the work is commenced to ensure the works can be delivered within this budget.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

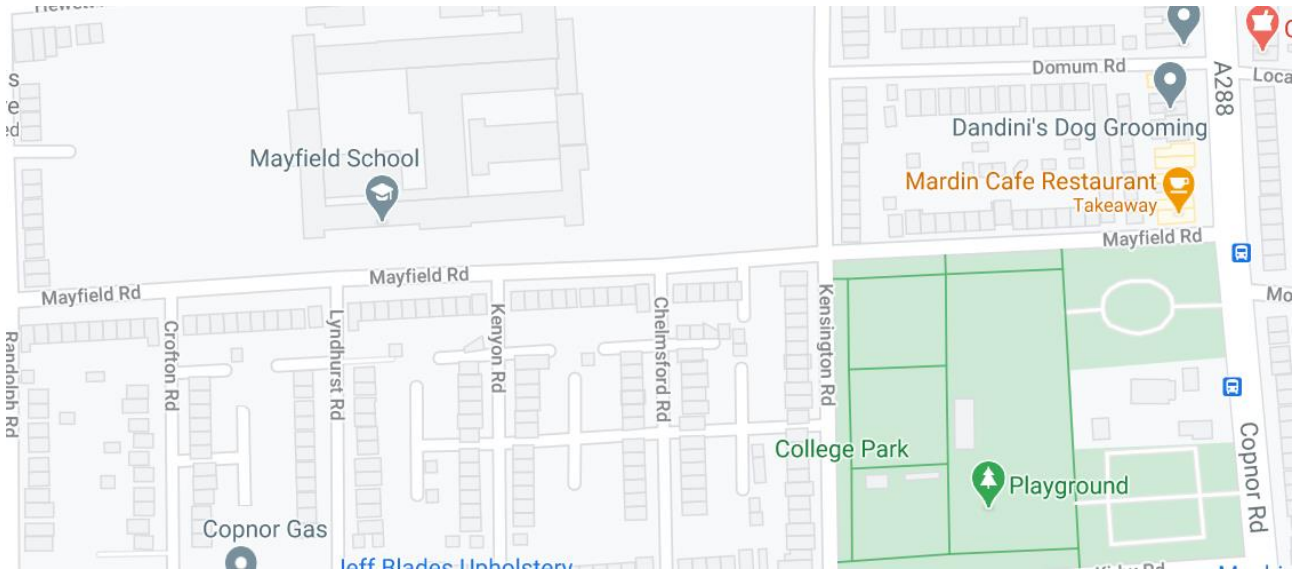
Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

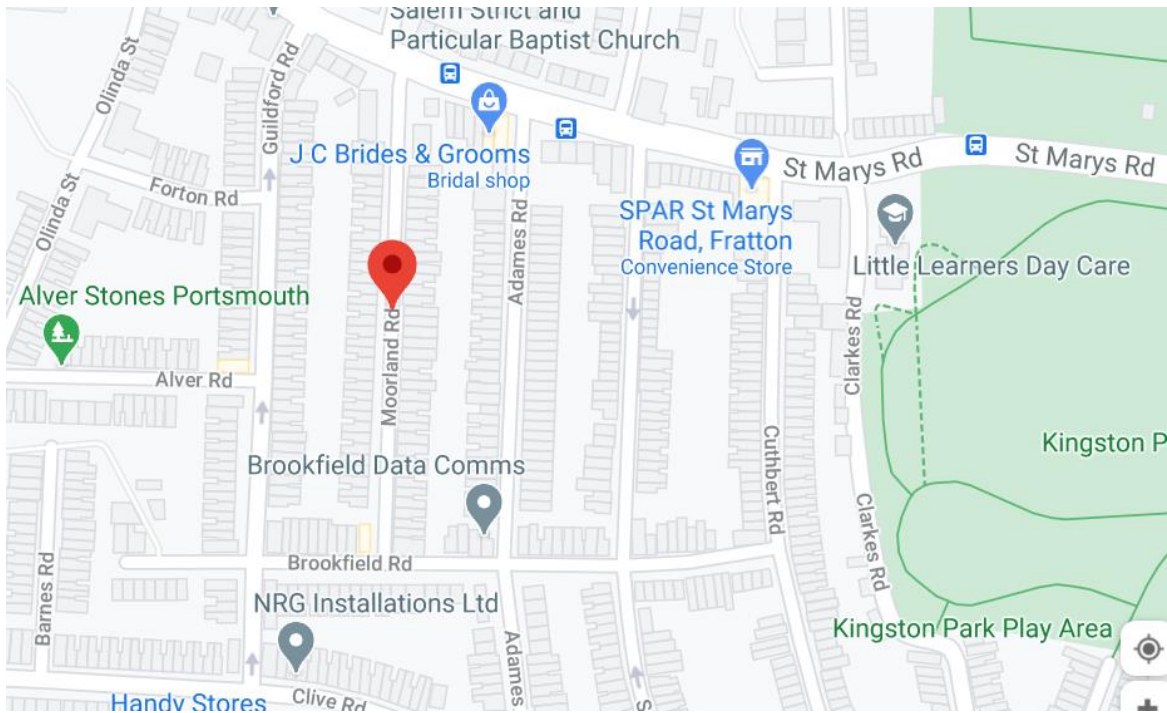
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Signed by:

Appendix 1

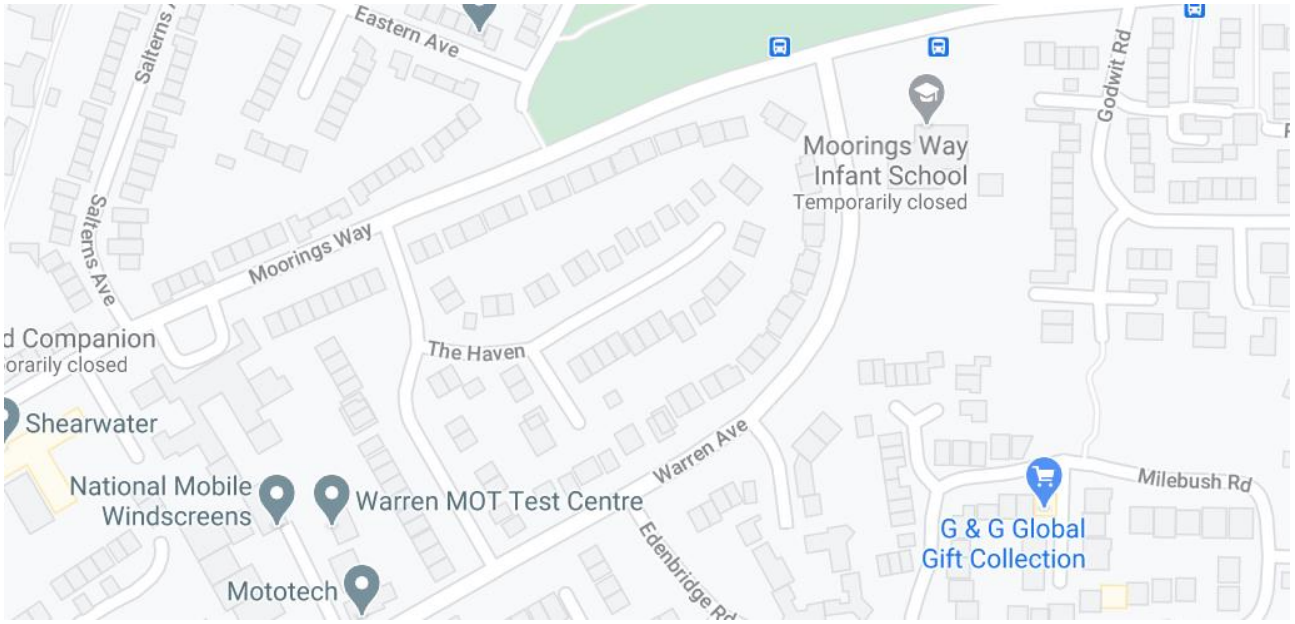
Mayfield Road/Kensington Junction:



Moorland Road:



Moorings Way/Warren Avenue:



Hayling Avenue:

