

Report to: Head of Highways

By: Major Projects & Growth Team

Title: Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package- Phase 2a, Removal of two trees consultation- Langney Road, Eastbourne.

Purpose: To provide an outcome on the felling of two trees on Langney Road, Eastbourne.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) To agree on the felling of two trees on Langney Road, Eastbourne.

1 Background Information

1.1 As a part of the town centre pedestrian upgrade works for Phase 2a, minor improvements will be carried out along Langney Road to convert this from its current one-way traffic flow (southbound) to two-way traffic flow.

1.2 The current Traffic Regulation Order preventing vehicles from entering into Langney Road from Susans Road will be revoked as a part of the proposals, but vehicles will not be permitted to continue along Terminus Road, which will remain one-way northbound. This means that vehicles travelling southwards along Langney Road will be required to turn in order to exit northwards at the Susans Road junction.

1.3 Due to the existing space restraints, it is not possible to provide a formal turning area for vehicles more than 7.5 tonne gross weight. The Traffic Regulation Order will be processed, therefore, to only allow vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes to enter into Langney Road.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 Langney Road is narrow and bounded on both sides with retail development. The only area where there is space to provide some form of turning facility is outside of Domino's Pizza at the southern end, where an existing vehicular access is sited. Swept path analysis has been carried out to determine whether this area is suitable for the turning of vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes but from this it has been determined that a small area of additional carriageway is required. This can only be achieved by widening the carriageway on the eastern side. There is no scope to provide additional turning space on the western side due to the proximity of the Highway Boundary.

2.2 The only option available, therefore, is to widen the road on the eastern side which, in turn, will require the removal of the two, existing, trees situated outside Domino's & 7ply. For reference, if the trees were not removed but the carriageway widened, the distance between the new, realigned, kerblines and the existing trees would measure approximately 250mm. This is significantly less than the minimum 450mm required for street furniture.

2.3 Options to provide a turning area that did not impact on the trees were considered during the design process, including the provision of a turning area without any widening and re-positioning the turning area southwards into the pedestrianised area. From this it was determined that there

was insufficient space available to safely turn a vehicle up to 7.5 tonnes without providing any widening. Options that positioned the turning area within the new precinct would impact on the next phase of the scheme and would also introduce additional conflict between turning vehicles and pedestrians.

2.3 Site visits have taken place with East Sussex County Council Senior Asset Engineer - Soft Estate and the Project Design Team to exhaust all possible engineering solutions to reduce the impact on the tree. Unfortunately, any work carried out to achieve the correct turning area will greatly affect the trees' health and stability and likely cause their failure. The Senior Asset Engineer suggested that provision is made to replant a number of trees as replacements somewhere else within the scheme to increase the urban tree population. The designs for the scheme involve planting three new trees. Therefore, there is a net gain of one tree.

2.4 A public consultation on the felling of the two trees on Langey Road took place from 28 March 2025 – 25 April 2025. <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/removal-of-two-trees-langney-road-eastbourne>

Notices were placed on the two trees in question with a QR code on which directed people to the consultation web page. A contact email address was also provided on the notice. There were a total two responses received to the consultation, one which was supportive of the tree felling and the other did not leave any comments/feedback.

1 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The conclusion was that in order to provide a turning facility for vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes, it would be necessary to widen the road on the eastern side which, in turn, would require the removal of the existing trees.

3.2 Images 1, 2 and 3 show the space required to turn a 7.5 tonne vehicle in this location:-

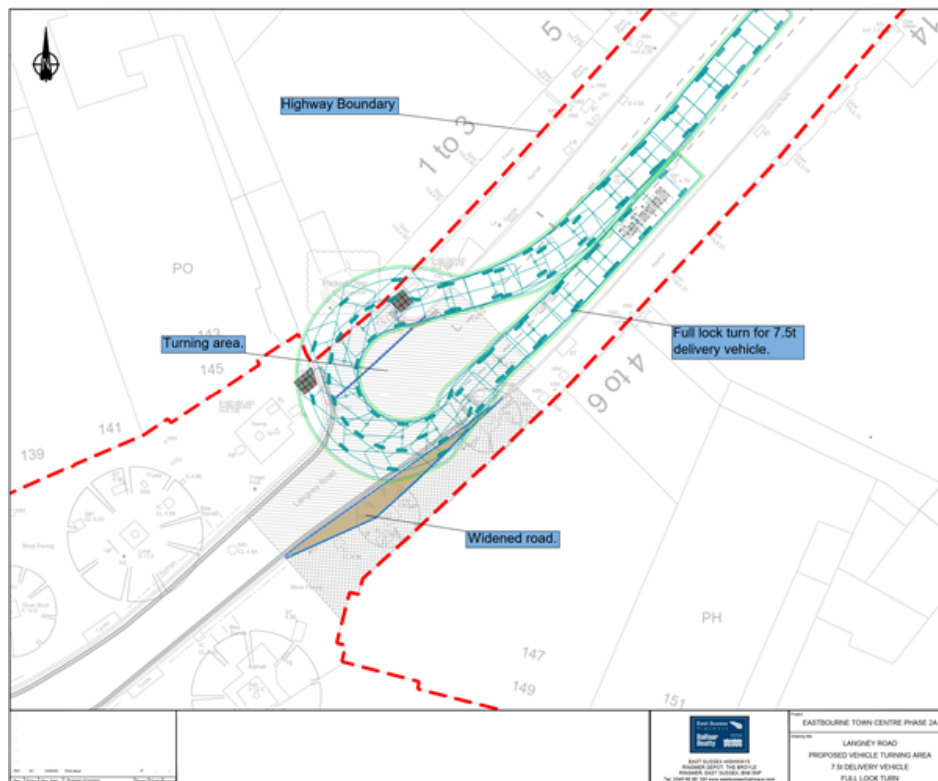


Image 1:- Full Lock turning with no reversing

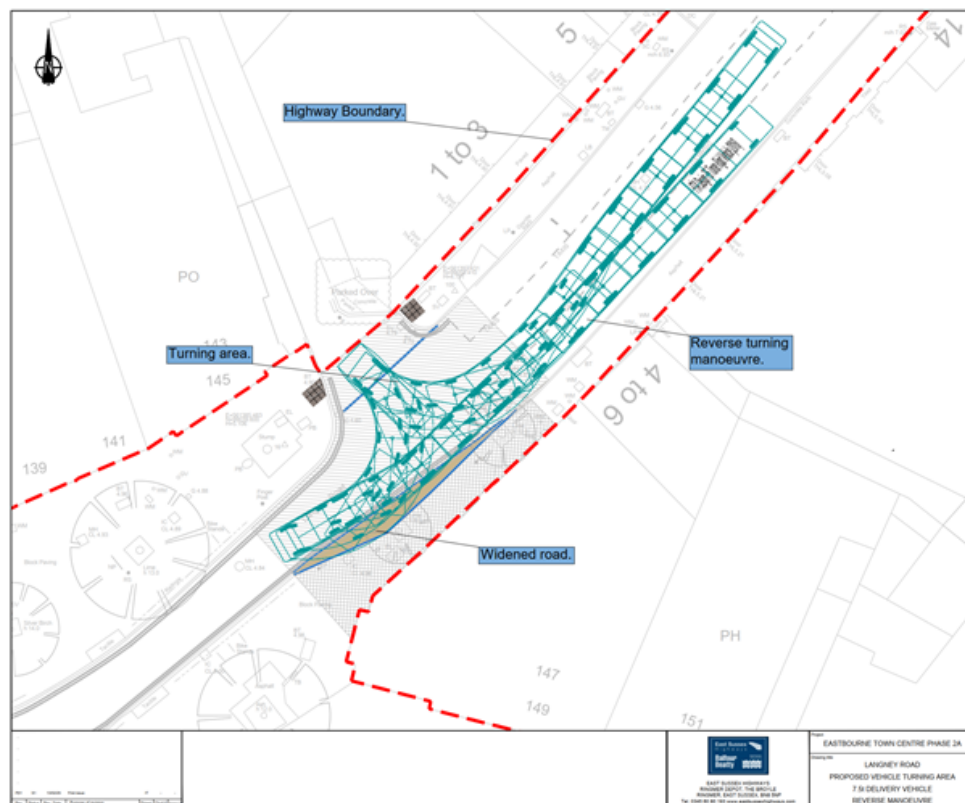


Image 2:- Reverse turn using side access (5 manoeuvres)

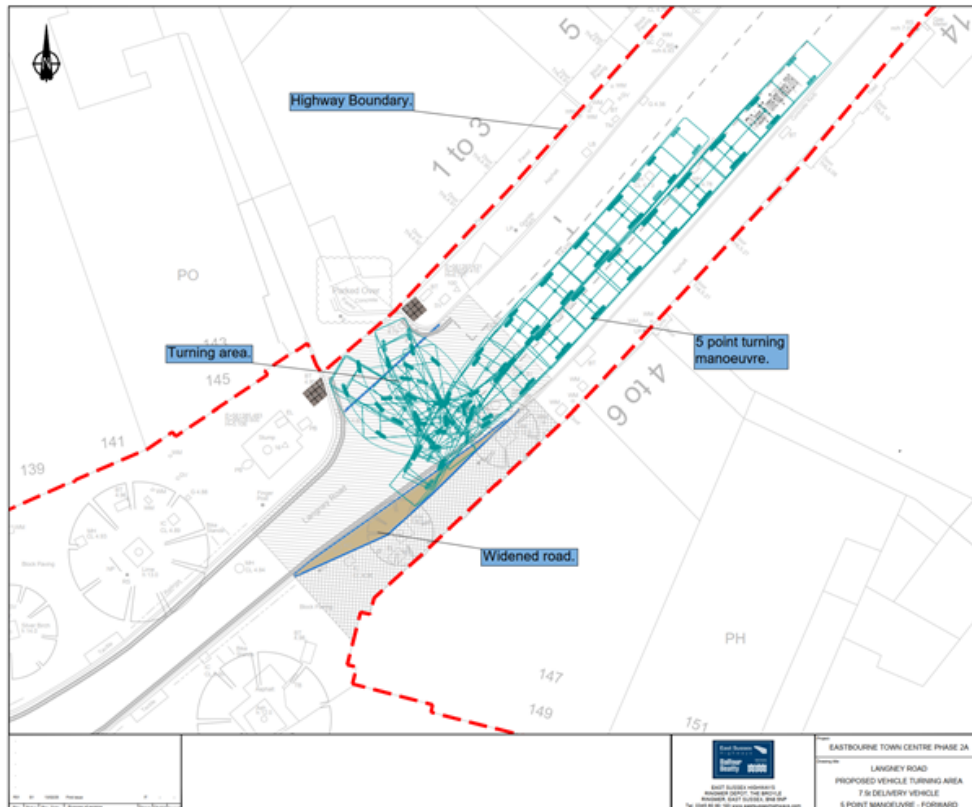


Image 3:- Forward turn using side access (multiple manoeuvres)

4 Mitigation

4.1 As mitigation for the removal of the two trees, three new trees will be planted within the town centre as a part of the scheme. Two of these new trees will be planted at the western end of the scheme outside Boots. The third tree will be planted outside the entrance to the Beacon, opposite the northern end of Bolton Road.

The trees will be planted in new, underground, planters using a product provided by GreenBlue.

Construction of the project (including tree removal) would be managed by East Sussex County Council's Highways contractor Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP). BBLP would be instructing a subcontractor to carry out these works. Image 4 shows the construction detail that would be included in the contract data and provided to the sub-contractor as part of the tender process.:-

