Improving Access to Tonbridge Station
Consultation Booklet

Have your say!
Find out about our proposals for improving access to Tonbridge Station and tell us your views.

Consultation period: 31 October to 11 December 2016  kent.gov.uk/tonbridgestation

NetworkRail  southeastern  TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL  Kent County Council  kent.gov.uk
Kent County Council (KCC) has secured funding of £500,000 from the Local Growth Fund, allocated by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership to improve the area outside Tonbridge Station.

Tonbridge Station is the busiest station in Kent in terms of footfall, with over 4 million customers using the station in 2014/15. The ticket office itself has been improved in recent years but the area directly outside the main entrance, which is used by many school children, commuters and leisure users on a daily basis, is no longer fit for purpose. At peak times, the area does not have the capacity to serve the large numbers of people using the space.

Working with our partners, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC), Network Rail and Southeastern Railway, KCC is aiming to improve the space available for customers at the station, provide more room for pedestrian movements and to link the design to the recently improved High Street.

The scheme aims to improve the safety of pedestrians, particularly when crossing the roads at peak times and encourage more sustainable modes of travel such as use of the train, buses, cycling or walking.
Activity to date

DHA Transport consultants were commissioned to survey the area and produce an initial design. They have made a number of site visits to the area, and recorded traffic and pedestrian movements to gain evidence on which to base their initial proposals.

Additionally KCC officers met with young people at the Tonbridge Youth Hub to discuss their use of the station, what they feel works and what doesn't and their ideas for how it might be improved. Their views were fed back to DHA Transport to inform their initial proposals.

The draft proposals were presented at the Tonbridge Joint Transportation Board (JTB) on the 26th September 2016.

We have carried out an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) on the proposals to identify how people may be impacted. The EqIA is available to view at kent.gov.uk/tonbridgestation. We will use the feedback gathered from the consultation to update the EqIA before the outline design is finalised.

New traffic signals would help pedestrians to cross the road safely.
What are we proposing?

The proposals relate to the area directly outside the main entrance to Tonbridge Station and South to the bus stops on the East side of Quarry Hill Road. They relate to land owned by Network Rail and the public highway but do not include the station entrance on Barden Road or the taxi rank on Waterloo Road.

- Bus lane/stop removed and larger pedestrian area created in front of station entrance. Bus stops relocated to outside Lidl.
- Central island amended to accommodate new traffic lights.
- New controlled crossing.
- Guardrailing removed.
- New central islands to accommodate traffic lights.
- Quantity and location of telephone kiosks to be considered.
- Removal of right turn in to Priory Road making junction left in, left out only.
- Existing bus layby removed and converted to new pedestrian area. New bus stops for three buses (36m).
- General traffic lane layout amended to allow extended bus stops.
- Station entrance.
- Six short-stay drop off bays.
- Stop line set back to allow space for HGV's to exit from Waterloo Road.
- 3m wide diagonal pedestrian crossing. No tactile paving to be provided, but coloured surface edged with single row of grey block pavours installed to indicate crossing route. 50mm kerb to maintain defined kerb edge for visually impaired.
- Existing junction markings to be removed.
- Wider central island to enforce left in, left out traffic movements.
- Existing bus stop extended to allow three buses to stop (36m). Footpath alignment amended.
1. **Bus Lane/Stops Removed and Larger Pedestrian Area Created in Front of Station Entrance. Bus Stops Relocated to Outside Lidl.**

2. **3 Metre Wide Diagonal Pedestrian Crossing. Coloured Surface Edged with Single Row of Grey Block Pavours Installed to Indicate Crossing Route. 50mm Kerb Upstand for Visually Impaired.**

3. **Central Island Amended to Accommodate New Signal Heads. New Controlled Crossing.**

4. **Existing Bus Layby Removed and Converted to New Pedestrian Area. New Bus Stops for Three Buses (36 Metres).**

5. **Extend & Improve the Existing Bus Stop on the East Side of Quarry Hill Road (Not Shown on Illustration).**
Proposal 1

Increase pedestrian space directly outside main station entrance

The proposal is to relocate the bus stop that is currently directly outside the station entrance and use this space for a large and welcoming pedestrian space. The space could house cycle stands and tourist information signage, give greater space to the station café customers and provide a meeting place fit for the numbers of people accessing the station or passing through.

This would mean that the primary northbound bus stop serving the station would use the existing stop outside Lidl on Quarry Hill Road. The six short-stay drop off bays outside the station would remain, as this is seen as a popular and important facility, particularly for people with impaired mobility.

Pedestrians currently have little space to use outside the station entrance. The improved area outside the station would provide a more welcoming environment for visitors to Tonbridge.
The designers explored the option of maintaining a bus stop outside the station but it was felt that creating dedicated bus stops in one place was a good opportunity. Furthermore with limited space directly outside the main station entrance there isn’t room to accommodate a wider pedestrian space, buses and the drop off bays.

The improved surface materials, including new paving, in this area would visually link the station with the improvement works undertaken on the High Street.
Create a new pedestrian crossing from the station to the East side of Quarry Hill Road

The proposal is to create a new crossing directly from the station to the East side of Quarry Hill Road. This proposal will be of greatest benefit at peak times when large numbers of school children cross the roads – often travelling along the shortest distance possible. In recognition of this the proposal is to create a 3 metre wide, angled crossing, potentially on a count-down timer, for pedestrians to use while the traffic is held safely back on traffic lights in all directions. Similar crossings have recently been installed successfully in London at busy junctions with high footfall.

Traffic does not always flow effectively and pedestrians undertake a series of crossings to reach the station.

3m wide diagonal pedestrian crossing. No tactile paving to be provided, but coloured surface edged with single row of grey block pavours installed to indicate crossing route. 50mm kerb to maintain defined kerb edge for visually impaired.
The proposal is to install traffic lights at the junction of Waterloo Road with Quarry Hill Road. This would allow pedestrians safe movement, particularly at peak times such as before and after school.

The lights would be controlled to allow for optimal pedestrian and vehicle flow within the space and would be responsive to changing traffic conditions throughout the day.
The result of this improvement would be the removal of the right turn into Priory Road. This is necessary so that vehicles turning right in to Priory Road don’t block the traffic on Quarry Hill Road when the lights are green. It also enables us to put in a wider central island on Priory Road to aid pedestrian crossing movements.

To aid traffic flow on Quarry Hill Road, this junction will be altered to ‘left in, left out’ traffic movements.

The traffic survey undertaken by the designers found that there were 18 right turns an hour into Priory Road in the morning peak, compared to hundreds of movements in both directions along Quarry Hill Road.
Proposal 4

Extend and improve the existing bus stop on West side of Quarry Hill Road (outside Lidl)

The proposal is to create a longer bus stop outside Lidl with space for three buses to stop at a time. The pavement would be widened to create a larger pedestrian waiting area, less cluttered by street furniture, and some of the existing road space would be used for the bus stops. This would address the impact of removing the bus stop outside the station.
Proposal 5

Extend and improve the existing bus stop on East side of Quarry Hill Road (outside Quarry Hill Parade)

The proposal would use some of the road space to create a longer bus stop on the east side of Quarry Hill Road for bus users travelling South. This would increase the space for buses allowing three buses to stop at a time which should aid the flow of traffic travelling South.

Existing bus stop extended to allow three buses to stop (36m). Footpath alignment amended.

There is room to increase the length of the bus stop to accommodate an extra bus.
How to get involved and have your say

The proposals are still at an early stage of development and your feedback is essential to help us shape the final detailed design. Whether you support the proposals or have concerns, we want to hear your views.

The consultation runs from **Monday 31 October to Sunday 11 December 2016.**

You can provide your views by completing the questionnaire which is available:

- Online at [kent.gov.uk/tonbridgestation](http://kent.gov.uk/tonbridgestation)
- At the consultation events
- From any Tonbridge Library or the Gateway (Castle Street)
- By emailing tonbridgestation@kent.gov.uk for a paper copy

Alternatively take part in our Online ‘Sticky World’ Forum, which is also available on our website.

### Consultation events

We have organised four consultation events where members of the team will be available to answer your questions. These events are being held in the Council Chamber at Tonbridge Castle on the following days:

- **Saturday 12 November** 11am – 3pm
- **Saturday 19 November** 11am – 3pm
- **Thursday 24 November** 2pm – 7pm
- **Monday 28 November** 3pm – 8pm

Additionally, the exhibition material will be available on our website: [kent.gov.uk/tonbridgestation](http://kent.gov.uk/tonbridgestation)

If you have any queries regarding the proposals or the consultation please contact us by email at tonbridgestation@kent.gov.uk
Next steps

A report, summarising the results of the consultation will be made public in early 2017.

The consultation responses will be used to finalise the outline design. If this design gains the support of the Tonbridge JTB and the approval of KCC’s Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, then work will commence to draw up a detailed design which will be made available to the public during 2017 or early 2018.

The construction work will not take place until 2018/19 when the majority of the funding is available. This gives us time to engage with stakeholders, refine the design and plan the delivery programme during 2017/18.
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