Pilgrim's Hospice and Highways England

M20J10a Introductory Leaflet

The M20 is a strategic south coast national transport corridor and as an international route is used by a large volume of heavy goods and holiday traffic to and from the Channel Tunnel and Channel Ports. The M20 Junction 10 is a major junction on this strategic corridor, with a peak traffic inflow in the order of 5,000 vehicles per hour (vph) and high turning movements from the M20 to the A2070 conflict with high peak time local traffic creating heavy congestion.

It has been projected that the existing M20 Junction 10 will suffer from heavy congestion and long delays in the future if additional capacity is not provided, in addition to the fact that Ashford has been recognised as a major growth area for the South East in the Sustainable Communities Plan published by the Deputy Prime Minister on 5th February 2003. As a result of this plan it is projected that there will be provision for 31,000 additional homes and 28,000 new jobs in the Ashford area by 2031. The M20J10a scheme has been identified as a key transport requirement to enable this development and is essential to the future of South Ashford community.

As part of the works to create the new junction 10a on the M20 the existing A20 Hythe Road has to be altered from the entrance of the Pilgrims Hospice to the new junction at Highfield Lane and the A20 will have to be realigned which will bring it temporarily closer to the Pilgrims Hospice while the Swatfield bridge is altered and strengthened. Naturally this has raised some concerns for the residents, families, volunteers, visitors and staff of the Pilgrims Hospice whilst this work is taking place. In anticipation of any anxiety this scheme may cause to what is termed a highly sensitive receptor, Highways England and their appointed contractors VINCI/JACOBS have been talking with the Pilgrim's Hospice Trust and Management since January 2017 about how the works can be achieved with minimal disruption. In January the outline of the scheme and the particular requirements and concerns of the Hospice were explored, with the main focus being on 24 Hr access, noise, privacy and retention of trees. HE's contractor VINCI JACOBS undertook to investigate the possibility of adjusting the temporary alignment of the A20 to move the roadway away from the Pilgrims Hospice which would help with the retention of as many trees as practicable to retain visual screening from the A20, although some may still need to be removed.

In May there was a follow up meeting with the Pilgrims Hospice Management team to introduce the alternative layout design for the temporary alignment for the A20. VINCI JACOBS have adjusted the plan for the A20 whilst Swatfield Bridge is altered and strengthened and at the cost of an increase in construction time the main concerns of the Hospice team about the trees, pedestrian access, security and lighting have been satisfied. Also discussed were the concerns over works at the Hospice entrance and a way forward was agreed to enable the Hospice to operate with minimum disruption. At no time will access for Emergency Vehicles be obstructed, even if the works have to be re-done at a later date.

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

VINCI JACOBS will maintain close contact with the Pilgrims Hospice team and wider community of Ashford and have a dedicated community liaison team for the duration of the works:

Matt Orchard   **07778 674 458**   **matt.orchard@taylorwoodrow.com**

Abbey Reid   **07701 278 774**   **abbey.reid@taylorwoodrow.com**

Please contact Abbey or Matt if you would like to know more about the scheme and how VINCI JACOBS will carry out the work adjacent to the Hospice.

For detailed information on the whole scheme and the latest updates from Highways England please view the M20 junction 10a project webpages:

www.roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m20-junction-10a