



**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 20 September 2006

**DEPARTMENT:** Development Services

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Head of Transport  
*(John Burton)*

**SUBJECT:** **Hookstone Road – Pedestrian Footbridge**

**WARD/S AFFECTED:** Pannal, Stray and Hookstone

**FORWARD PLAN REF:** N/A

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**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the construction of a new footbridge across the railway line on Hookstone Road, Harrogate.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

2.1 That approval be given to construct a new footbridge on Hookstone Road, Harrogate and the Director of Development Services be authorised to let a contract for the procurement of the footbridge.

**3.0 RECOMMENDED REASONS FOR DECISIONS**

3.1 To improve road safety and access to local schools, the Hornbeam rail halt, Harrogate College and the commercial and leisure developments at Hornbeam Park

**4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR**

## **REJECTION**

- 4.1 Not to provide a footbridge on Hookstone Road.

## **5.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Hookstone Road is of insufficient width to accommodate a footway where it passes over the railway line. A footbridge has previously been provided on the northern side of the road to cater for the pedestrian demand. However, pedestrian facilities are lacking on the southern side.
- 5.2 Pedestrian activity on Hookstone Road is substantial as it provides access to four schools, Harrogate College, the rail halt and the numerous commercial and leisure developments on Hornbeam Park.
- 5.3 Rather than use the footbridge on the north side of Hookstone Road many pedestrians choose, instead, to walk in the road in direct conflict with traffic.
- 5.4 The Cabinet Member (Resources) gave approval to the submission of a planning application for the bridge and the Planning Committee approved the application on 29 August 2006.

## **6.0 PROPOSED FOOTBRIDGE**

- 6.1 Consultants have been commissioned to design the footbridge, a plan of which is shown at Appendix 1.
- 6.2 The proposed bridge is of a standard design for bridges over the railway and is similar in form to the recently constructed Dragon bridge.
- 6.3 On the western approach to the bridge it is proposed to construct a new footway from Beechwood Grove. This footway will be at a higher level than the gardens of the adjacent residential properties and, to afford the residents privacy, it is proposed to erect a close-boarded fence at the rear of the footway. It is also proposed to improve the access road in front of these properties.
- 6.4 On the eastern approach it is proposed to create a series of ramps and steps to provide access to the rail halt and to Hornbeam Park and the College. Links will also be provided to the existing pedestrian crossing on Hookstone Road.
- 6.5 In order to construct the ramps and steps a number of trees will have to be removed but most of them are either self-seeded or are showing signs of serious decay. A new planting scheme is being prepared by Parks, which will double the number of trees that are being removed.

## **7.0 FUNDING**

- 7.1 Funding is in place for the construction of the bridge, which it is estimated will

cost £440,000 including fees. The Hornbeam Park Development Company has contributed £150,000 through a Section 106 agreement and the remainder will be met from the NYCC Local Transport Plan allocation.

## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The provision of a new footbridge on Hookstone Road will provide a much needed facility that will improve pedestrian access in the area and address road safety concerns.
- 8.2 Funding is in place to construct the bridge, which has been secured from the County Council's LTP and Hornbeam Park Development Company.
- 8.3 Approval is now being sought to construct the new bridge.

### Background Papers -

**OFFICER CONTACT:** Please contact John Burton, Head of Transport if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at the Department of Development Services, Knapping Mount, West Grove Road, Harrogate HG1 2AE, by telephone on 01423 556606 or by email – [john.burton@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:john.burton@harrogate.gov.uk)

## SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT / POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

		Implications are		
		Positive	Neutral	Negative
A	Economy		✓	
B	Environment	✓		
C	Social Equity			
i)	General	✓		
ii)	Customer Care / People with Disabilities	✓		
iii)	Health Implications	✓		
D	Crime and Disorder Implications		✓	

If all comments lie within the shaded areas, the proposal is sustainable.