

## **FAQ's**

### **Why are the crossings staggered?**

There is evidence from the crashes that have occurred that pedestrians become 'stranded' in the central reservation and do not have the benefit of signals to tell them when it is safe to cross. This is because they have to cross both sides of the road in 'one go'. Less mobile people may not be able to achieve this, leading to conflict occurring between pedestrians and vehicles. The new design will allow pedestrians access to push buttons in the central reservation and a safer opportunity to cross.

### **What will be the effect upon traffic flow?**

The revised traffic signal layout has been assessed using computer software. Although no predictions can be 100% accurate, the indications are that traffic queues should reduce on all roads leading in to the junctions. This should be most noticeable on Somerset Road (Eastbound in the mornings and Somerset Road (Westbound) in the afternoons.

### **Why will congestion reduce?**

At present the layout of the pedestrian crossings means that all traffic has to stop to allow pedestrians to cross. With the revised layout pedestrians will be able to cross one half of the road whilst traffic is moving elsewhere.

### **What consultation has been done and where can I get updates?**

Initial scheme consultation was carried out in May 2014 and reported to the Ashford Joint Transportation Board in June 2014. The scheme was approved for construction at that stage but, due to the initial cost of the BT diversion works, there were insufficient funds to continue with implementing the scheme. Since then the scheme has been tweaked, the BT cost reduced and alternative funding found.

A webpage will be provided with scheme information and progress updates. Visit [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) for more information during the works.

*If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language please email [alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk](mailto:alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk) or call 03000 421553 (text relay:18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine which is monitored during office hours.*