

## **Somerset Road / Mace Lane, Ashford**

### **Proposed Junction Improvements**

#### **Introduction.**

Proposals have been drawn up to improve the layout of the traffic signal junctions at Somerset Road and Mace Lane by widening the existing pedestrian crossings, installing additional push buttons on the central reservations and 'staggering' the crossing points.

#### **Why do we want to do this work?**

To improve road safety following a number of injury crashes at this location, with a large proportion involving pedestrians and cyclists. The proposals will also have the effect of increasing the capacity of the junction to deal with the amount of vehicles that use it and thus improving traffic flow at the busiest times of the day.

#### **When will this take place?**

The improvements to the Somerset Road / North Street junction (Phase 1) will start on April 9<sup>th</sup> and will run for up to 10 weeks. Improvements to the junction of Mace Lane with Wellesley Road (Phase 2) will run for a further 10 weeks after completion of the North Street works.

#### **How will the works be carried out?**

Due to the residential properties nearby it is not feasible to work at night.

Lane closure will be required 24hrs a day on each approach to provide a safe working area. This means the existing turning movements will need to be amended as all waiting traffic would be queued within one lane. The right turn from Somerset Road in to North Street and the right turn out of North Street on to Somerset Road will be prohibited during Phase 1. North Street will also be closed from Hardinge Road for southbound traffic for the last two weeks of Phase 1. The right turn from Somerset Road in to Station Road will be prohibited for the Phase 2 works. Diversion routes will be clearly signed.

A modern system of temporary traffic lights, which can incorporate pedestrian crossings, will be used for this scheme and the traffic lights set up to mimic the existing system as much as practical. The traffic light red/green times can be adjusted with greater flexibility than that of 'traditional' temporary traffic lights.

The workforce will be on site for extended hours to maximise the work carried out during daylight. Works will also be carried out on Saturdays. Due to the additional expense of accessing materials it is not practical to work on Sundays.