

Southend on Sea Borough Council

Department for Place – Analysis of Members Request

Maya Close

Background

An accident occurred in 2015, which sadly resulted in the death of a motorcyclist. The motorcyclist was travelling along Ness Road when a vehicle exited Maya Close. Councillors have requested consideration be given to introducing a mandatory left turn from Maya Close into Ness Road to prevent future accidents at this junction.

The accident data compiled by the Police states that the driver of the vehicle failed to look properly. There are no indications that the rider of the motorcycle was travelling at an inappropriate speed.

Observations

The junction is a staggered crossroad layout with junction protection on all arms of the crossroads. A small convenience store is located on the eastern side of the junction and a planter area to the boundary of this property could be impeding visibility of approaching traffic.

A further issue noted during observation was short term parking on the area of double yellow lines outside the convenience store.

Recommendation

There appears to be little benefit in restricting traffic movement from this junction. Vehicles exiting left into Ness Road from Maya Close will still require visibility of southbound traffic therefore restricting the movement to left turn only would not prevent future similar accidents.

Consideration is being given to build outs bringing the junction further into Ness Road and preventing illegal parking. Ness Road is a Primary Distributor Route accommodating large vehicles throughout the day and there are concerns that any narrowing of the carriageway could impede traffic flows. Proposals are being designed and will be assessed by an independent safety auditor.

It is recommended that pending the outcome of the independent assessment, officers discuss the planters with the convenience store and request that any foliage is maintained at a minimum level to maintain visibility.

Appendix 3 – Members Request List

In the event that a build-out would not impede larger vehicles and the safety assessment indicates it is appropriate to do so, the build-out will be programmed for the coming financial year.