

The Safer C7 Project

Safer C7 Project – October 2025 Update

Making the C7 safer for everyone

The Safer C7 Project is working to make the Lewes–Newhaven road safer for all who use it; drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, and residents alike. Since 2019, 48 accidents have been recorded along this 6.5 mile stretch, including 15 accidents so far this year, one of them fatal.



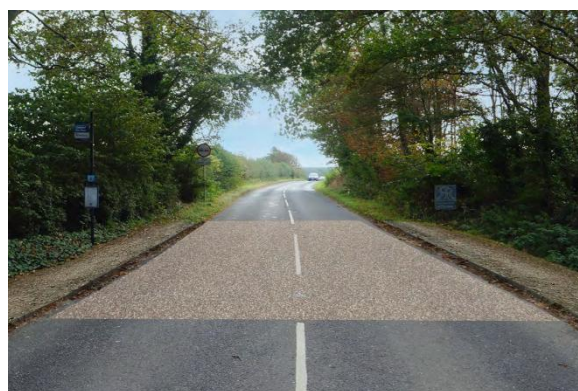
Thanks to community donations, parish contributions and charitable grants, we raised **£47,000** to commission transport consultants **PJA** to assess the C7 and design safety improvements that respect the road's rural character. Their final report and detailed design plans are now published on our website. <https://www.thec7road.co.uk/safer-c7-project>

What's planned

The improvements are designed to **reduce speeds**, **raise driver awareness**, and **make the C7 safer for everyone** — all while preserving the rural character of the road.

Phases 1–2: Building awareness and safer connections

- **Village gateways** at each settlement to remind drivers they're entering lived-in areas, not just a through route.
- **New crossing points** and **school signage** to alert drivers to people walking, cycling, and children travelling to school.
- **Better bus stop access** and **footway links** so pedestrians no longer have to walk in the road.



These early measures will help drivers naturally slow down, be alert for concealed junctions and recognise where people live, walk, and cross — creating the conditions for speed limit reductions.

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Phase 3: Physical traffic calming

- **Pinch points** and **junction upgrades** at key locations to break up fast, continuous traffic flow, and reduce speed at junctions and crossings places. These features will make it safer to cross the road and encourage steady, lower speeds through the most accident-prone stretches.

Lower limits can only be approved once average speeds fall — so these changes build the foundation for lasting, enforceable safety improvements.



Phase 4: Speed limit reductions

- Apply for speed limit reductions once earlier measures have reduced vehicle speeds.

Funding and next steps

The South Downs National Park Authority has allocated **£81,105** in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for Phase 1a (village gateways) and Kingston Parish Council have made a contribution from their CIL funds. We've also submitted a bid for CIL funds to **Lewes District Council** for Phases 1b, 2 a and b, supported by 40 letters from MPs, councillors, schools, residents, local groups and businesses.

We are applying for charitable status and will be appointing a project manager.

If all goes to plan, **work will begin in summer 2026**.

Get involved

View the full report, maps and design plans on our website, and look out for upcoming opportunities to comment on the final details. <https://www.thec7road.co.uk/safer-c7-project>

Come along and hear about the plans

Monday 17th November. 7.30pm – Stanley Turner Clubhouse, Kingston Rd, BN7 3NB.

Thursday 20th November. 7.30 – Rodmell Village Hall, The Street, BN7 3HF.