

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Road Safety Group	
Meeting Date & Venue: Monday 6 th November 2023, 10am @ office	
Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman	
Report	
<p>Present: A Sharp (AS), M Alesi. M Buller (MB) Speed Watch Rep.</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u> – none</p> <p>1. <u>Highways Improvement Plan</u> – Please note MBC only allow us to have 2 'live' projects – our other projects / wish list are 'archived'. <u>Team leaders:</u> Michelle Norris & Greg McNicholl. We discussed the amendments on HIP - see notes.</p> <p>HIP 1. (NEW) <u>Double yellow lines (DYL) on main road A229, single lines (SYL) on Cornforth Close and Chestnut Avenue</u></p> <p>SPC consultation with residents showed a large majority in favour. Kent Highways now need to do their work on this. Note KH seemed to have had some confusion on their part with the previous Gybbon Rise DYL now done. NP parking policy DM23 1.5. Action: AS ask KH about progress.</p> <p>HIP 2. <u>The Quarter - Bus stop / crossing & 30mph HIP item 3</u></p> <p>Clerk and PR are meeting with Kent Highways (KH) team to look at the site. Feedback when its happened. Reiterated we can get funding, so KH don't need to fund it.</p> <p>Action: We await feedback of the meeting. AS to amend HIP merge 2&3 as related</p> <p>Reasons KH have turned down our request for a crossing are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * It's a 40mph area – We would like it to be moved back to at least Pinnock Lane, ideally moved back a bit further maybe to the convent. (See our HIP4) * Footfall is considered too low, only accessing the garage shop or the bus stop. * a crossing can not be near the entrance / exit of the garage/ Pinnock lane * no footpath from Frittenden Road to garage nor on to the bus stop. There is only a tiny bit of footpath that the bus stop is on. <p><u>In answer we :-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * There is no cost to them as funding is there via the developers, Kent Highways do not have to foot the bill. S106 funding £350,000 for improvements & station CIL money redirected for road crossing. * We feel that the very fact that pedestrians are crossing at a dangerous point on the A229 is an accident about to happen. 	

* nowhere suitable for a crossing there, (if this was the only criteria used, there would be no crossing at the parade by the chemist. It does have a desire line and more footfall but not ideal).

* KH installed the bus top there (historical?) 'in a dangerous place' so its disingenuous to ignore that there is no issue to address.

30mph huge poster – AS asked SCC if it could go on the hedge at front of SCC- agreed.

MB had put some “30mph it’s a limit not a target” posters up but have since been removed or blown away.

Please let KCC know that on the free 30mph kit posters, the red fades rapidly.

2. SID – MB reported back

We have permission to use on Headcorn Road, Marden Road, Bathurst Road sites.

Batteries last 5 – 11 days depending on traffic going past i.e. they run out quicker on the Headcorn road as 2,500 cars each way every week.

Currently Jean changes the battery weekly and sends the data. Recommendation is that the camera does not stay in the same location longer than 3 weeks.

Quick Analysis - Started on Headcorn Rd 11 days battery 11 days. Then mainly 7 day change due to batteries.

We are inundated with data! MB has given us volume of traffic going by. Headcorn Road indicates 2000+ on a weekly basis. Marden Road 1000+ weekly. Marden West – 93% stick to speed limit. Roundabout seems to do a good job of slowing most traffic. MARDen East.

SID now back to Headcorn Road for the planning application on that road. Home Farm

Headcorn East comes into the village towards the crossroads. Still average 40% speeding.

Headcorn West, leaves the village also speeding. 70mph highest recorded in the 30mph area.

We need to ensure that it is not in the same place for more than 3 weeks in line with county policy. MB will draw some TOR / guidelines for SID to bring to next council meeting for recommendation.

Quick thoughts are 1 week Headcorn East, 1 Headcorn West, 1 Bathurst, 1 Marden East, 1 Marden West – repeat. Bathurst term and non term to compare – not done Bathurst Road yet. Data is showing the roundabout on Marden road slows most traffic and also that there is less traffic in that direction.

Some anomalies in early hours with a flurry of activity obviously not human traffic – MB will enquire from company.

Action: Change to Headcorn East as we think its been Headcorn West for 5 weeks.

Please ensure there are two people to change batteries – one to hold ladder – any councillors able to assist?

Auto SID reset as had a fault but speeding has reduced so its had an effect. Automatic letters go out.

3. Sainsburys shuttle bus

Although we thought this was all sorted, it seems the proper route is regarded as a change / amendment so must be MBC agreed. MB will chase as we still have no shuttle bus. Route agreed, MB with driver on the route, that was all ok. Hams seem to do their own version of the route, not quite what is meant to be done. Sainsburys need to implement the shuttle bus through Hams. Also has to be signed off by MBC and KCC again. **Action: MB will chase.**

4. Crossroads

A parishioner raised a complaint about the safety of the crossroads with traffic trying to overtake stationary vehicles and mounting the kerb.

Action: We recommend the following - SPC contact Kent Police and Kent Highways to suggest installing cameras on the traffic lights, redoing of the white lines, and the possibility of wooden bollards on the high street turning into Marden Road (chestnut tree side) all other sides the pavement is too narrow for this possibility.

5. Hawkenbury Bridge HIP 3

We have asked Kent Highways for a FOI about the bridge a) how many 'official' accidents and b) costs incurred by Kent Highways for repairs (last 5 years).

Having been mucked about by KH (its not our bridge it's network rail , contacting them, no its not ours), we are once again awaiting KH response. Clerk also registered a complaint that the answer we did get did not answer our questions.

Previous suggestions

Traffic lights – solar ones are not possible as they fail during the winter and to put in electricity ones there, estimated £60,00. Is it costing them more than that each year for repairs, temporary traffic lights etc / or Network Rail?

Mirrors – Concern that they would be smashed very quickly. KCC won't install as people rely on them!

Action: Clerk chasing the FOI and complaint re Kent Highways.

6. Sainsburys roundabout –

The Sainsburys roundabout needs repainting. This should be a regular Maintenance issue and not need a reminder by residents to KCC.

Action: ask the clerk to contact KCC.

7. Hedges

AS has delivered 2 on main road. MB will deliver to near the Sainsburys roundabout. It's that time of year so if we see any overgrown hedges let office know if a letter has been delivered.

Action: deliver letters if needed

8. Speedwatch - Not been out recently.

Auto Speed watch - Auto speedwatch records cars 46mph – 69mph

Still with us but may go soon.

September – largest number of speeders 557 x 46-49mph, 735 x 46-59mph, 19 x 60-69 mph
- all will get letters – by officer for persistent offenders.

18 no tax 22 no MOT DVLA will contact them.

October – less hours of daylight so less time 403 x 46-59mph, 16 x 60 – 69mph, 13 tax, 13 MOT

There is a number of persistent offenders. Higher than last year.

9. Accidents/incidents reported – staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com – none reported

AOB

- MB parish update crossing info for blind. Large print available at the office
- Recent road incidents
- Main road closed due to tree down
- Bus at crossroads managed to go through a cable that caused issues.
- Butchers Close – bins check by AS

Dates of forthcoming meetings: Mon 4th December 9am SPC office

Notes on HIP items not activated as far as Kent Highways work:

* Fishers Road - bottom - car parking - filling in ditch area to make rear access to gardens
- sounds like an MBC planning enforcement issue. **No further info**

* Market Street / Winches Garth - an access made into Fishers Road at rear & parking on green at bottom of road.

* bins not collected before people go to work due to too many cars. They will be doing them later in the day which may solve that. **clerk to check if MBC own the green** - suggest they either protect it or grass crete it. left into Wiches garth into . . . some parking bays and then

double yellow line - could be parking area as no purpose to double yellow line and we are sure no one enforces it. MBC need to investigate this area.

Selling cars down there too, even though police have done a check. Have they moved to Fishers road? **No further info** Action : Has MBC looked into?

Archived HIP items as can only have 2 things live on HIP. **AS will tweak HIP**

HIP 6. Hawkenbury Bridge work – archived as Kent Highways felt that as they had put signs and painted road marking it was completed.

HIP 8. Narrow paths Cuckolds Corner / crossroads - Greg felt road might yield 20cm nothing significant. MB emphasised that the junction is already above capacity and pedestrians have to step into the road to pass each other. Too narrow for wheel chairs and buggies. - **archived**

9-14 Michelle returned to the only 2 priorities per year - remaining items are 'archived'

Broken edges of country lanes should not be on HIP but be reported via 'report a fault' on website. The Marden Rd roundabout misuse is a police matter.

New contacts at KCC Highways - email addresses on file for ease of access by all

Kent Highways contacts

west.highwayimprovements@kent.gov.uk

the new system (since 6/6/22) of a team instead of one local person (Jennie Watson) who knew us personally and visited Staplehurst so knows the roads!

Claremarie.Vine@kent.org

Marden Road projects ref. Hen & Duckhurst aka Dickens Gate estate

Elizabeth.Bineham@kent.gov.uk

Assistant Engineer @ Highway Improvements (West Kent) | Design & Delivery | Road Safety & Active Travel Group | Highways & Transportation | Kent County Council | Doubleday House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford, ME20 7BU | 03000 41 81 81 | www.kent.gov.uk

Toby.Donlon@kent.gov.uk

Overseeing the surveying of sites in co-operation with Claremarie, to install an interactive SID system, to be paid for by Hen & Duckhurst development

Sainsburys contact? Gary ?

Note – kept on minutes FYI

'The Quarter' High street down the hill towards Pinnock Lane (Garage & Morrison shop)

Costs: Zebra crossing = £17,000 , puffin crossing £38,200.

We would need to lobby for the 30mph to extend to past Pinnock Lane, Iden Manor, as they have to be installed in a 20 – 30 mph area to have a crossing. **Action:** On the HIP

* current 30mph starts at Frittenden Rd area. On that side of the road (East) is the Cricket Lodge, which flows onto to the garage / Morrison shop / car wash site

* Bus stop on both sides of the road - opposite the garage & on the garage side it's past the Pinnock Lane turn off towards Cranbrook.

* This is used by children in the properties (West) who have to cross this busy main road during rush hour to be able to go to school in Cranbrook. We are all concerned about potential fatalities.

* Our suggestion would be to:

a) extend the 30mph at least to Pinnock Lane where the built up properties extend to, ideally to where the 50mph threshold is (Fuller House) and

b) install a crossing between the Hallwards pedestrian walkway and the bus top (West side)

