

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Road Safety Group

Meeting Date & Venue: Thursday 9th June 2022 at 6.30pm via Zoom

Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman

Report

Present were: A Sharp (AS), J Buller (JB), Cllr Paddy Riordan (PR). M Buller (MB) Speed Watch Rep K McClean (KM).,

Apologies: C Bowden (CB).2

Matters Arising

* Pot Holes / road surface – 24th June 10am PR taking CC L Parfitt - Reed round the estates. R Oakley has done a report showing some of the issues. In contrast Hurst Close and Newlyn Drive were resurfaced and look lovely. Pagehuirst Rd to Marden Thorn being done next week although, it seems as a country lane its in better condition than some of the ones on our estates.

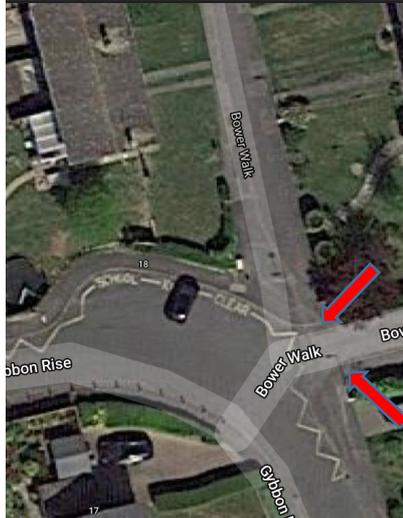
* The tree blocking the KCC footpath at the bottom of Bell Lane, just before pond on right is being dealt with. KCC are liaising with the landowner now. Watch that space.

1). 16a 16b Bower Walk garden, parking space appeared at end of garage area, railings.

Enquiry by a resident concerned about the appearance of a parking spot at the end of the garages. No 16 resident who built 16a has now sold 16b. Building is per the planning application, but the garden area does not seem to be as original it was meant to be an open garden. Parking seems to have changed as well. When the 16a dropped curb was done, one of the three sections of railing at the end of Bower Walk was removed and has not been reinstated.

Recommendation – Ask clerk to write to planning officer re this application as work has now been completed and it may need retrospective planning for parking changes and a check to see if conditions have been implemented such as porous drive at 16a as well as garden layout.

2). Gybbon Rise / End of Bower Walk - dropped kerbs - yellow lines – consultation



We did our consultation and await Kent Highways to do theirs. This seemed in hand but Kent Highways have had a restructure and Jenni Watson has been assigned to the West Kent Team and so we have to establish new contacts. MB is on the case. It was also noted J Watson had commented that dropped kerbs were not on our HIP and we should add them. It seems our updated HIP was not sent to her. Group updated the HIP during the meeting and MB will send to the new contact we have.

3). Hen and Duckhurst Gateway & dragons teeth

The cross roads are dangerous and we are keen to make it safer.

ClareMarie (KCC Highways officer for site) will inform us when this work will be happening, hopefully soon. Reminder that the decision was made to retain the Staplehurst sign where it is (rather than moving it further out of the 'envelope' into rural Staplehurst area).

4). Marden Rd verge (N side)- eroded verge & pathway beside Maxted close houses, mud potholes - suggestion -tarmac pathway to link Maxted close and Hegarty Way Or if not that, add kerbstones. Half is already kerb stone and there are driveways so not too much work to do

Group agreed that MB would send his suggested letter via the office / clerk for added authority-

Since the construction of the roundabout, the traffic has eroded the verge between it and the made pathway beside the Maxted Close houses. This has spread the mud and created potholes, causing difficulties for residents.

Pedestrians do walk along the mud and grass edges. Is it possible to make this area safer by tarmacking a pathway to link Maxted Close to Hegarty Way?

If this is not possible, could a kerb stone be fitted along this stretch of road to delineate the roadway and stop the creation of potholes? The soil and grass could then be reinstated.

MB sent this to the residents who had raised the issue who were pleased.

Recommendation – PR to contact C.C. Parfitt-Reid about this. And for the clerk to send to ClareMarie (KCC Highways officer for site). MB

Sainsburys shuttle bus

PR is in the process of agreeing a date to meet with Sainsburys end June / July?

Suggested that in the meantime he send them their plan that they signed and suggest they add Cross at hand, Frittenden and KnoxBridge. Currently seems to still be travelling empty.

Mini SID – (Dickens Gate developers offered to pay for it).

Toby had directed an engineer to look at our suggested sites. Rejected all sites on the Marden side of the roundabout as the verges are too narrow and it would conflict and be confusing with the other signage already there or planned. The site on the Village side of the roundabout has a wide verge, site is suitable in both directions. Can't use the redundant pole.

Headcorn Rd end of Poyntell or Slaney Rd, verge wide but drainage channels mean not safe. But close to Slaney where path ends would be ok. We need a third one. MB Suggested a site identified as a possible Speedwatch site on Bathurst Road on the green where Pope Drive joins, Southwards. Full council gave the group the green light to go ahead with this. **MB to sort with Toby.**

Speedwatch report – MB

Been out twice (2 x half an hour) 29 at 35 and above Station Rd 2 letters 2nd offence

Accidents/incident reported – staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com

Listed Bridge Charthill road, a car went over on its side by the river.

An accident at the Hawkenbury Bridge when a car went through the railings, again, was not reported.

HIP

Group updated the HIP in meeting to sent to Kent Highways. **MB**

20 Plenty initiative2

JB contacted Harrietsham following KCC turning us down for the pilot scheme, to see if they could advise us. Transpires they had been saving up the money for this for a while to implement in a small but busy train station area, costing £5-6,000 from their own funds. Kent Highways paid for the traffic regulation order. We would probably need more money and the police might not enforce it.

Hedges – bird season so no cutting currently. Bower Walk brambles belong to No 12 MB & JB contacted them and MB did some gardening to clear it away. Current tenants were unaware it was their garden and responsibility. MB and JB will ask again if they can trim to garden edge to avoid them getting a letter.

AOB

* Subsided drain was reported to Kent Highways

Maidstone road Dragons Teeth South of Village complaining not on North of village. MB explained why not there! Good question about dragon's teeth on A229 but Maidstone road has least speeding there. Maybe add to HIP next time we update.

* Automatic number plate recognition from Police 24 June respond. Criminal offences not speeding and we would not get any feed back but we would support it. **AS** to respond that we support all efforts to reduce criminal activity.

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr

PR cllr Paddy Riordan

CB Colin Bowden cllr

MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

KM Kelly McClean cllr

* JB email from resident just into April due to highway safety, but Lime Trees is so bad its encroaching the path. Replied explaining nesting season but will talk to resident to trim little bits and ask them to cut back in September. Add to RSG Annual report in July to trim hedges in September.

16 Dates of forthcoming meetings

suggested dates: Th 14 July, Th 18 Aug, Th 15 Sept 6.30pm Zoom

Meeting ended 8.20pm

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Note – kept on minutes FYI

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

: 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

* Picture below (courtesy of Google) 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)



Red shows where the 30mph is (top / North) and could be (bottom / South).

White = suggested crossing placement

Note the 2 bus tops

Fisher Road. We do not recommend closing off this road due to it being the only 'bypass' should the high street between the crossroads and Sainsburys be blocked (e.g. RTA). Speed bumps and chicanes seem little help as it's quite a winding road with parked cars already. It seems to be the last section of Hurst Close to Headcorn Rd that is where the concern about speeding traffic has originated from. More evidence is needed of this so we invite the residents to join Speedwatch, train and log the concerning traffic.

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