

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Road Safety Group

Meeting Date & Venue: Thursday 1st April 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman

Report

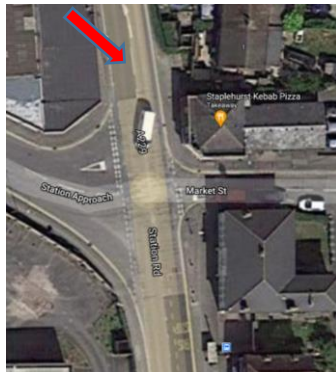
Present were: A Sharp (AS), J Buller (JB) , M Buller (MB) Speed Watch Rep ,

Apologies: Cllr Paddy Riordan (PR), (?) C Bowden (CB).

The report of 4th March 2021 was agreed.

1. Parking by kebab shop

A resident has raised the suggestion of having bollards (& / or a planter) outside the kebab shop to prevent parking there. A number of efforts have been made by the clerk to emphasise this should be happening but this has not resolved the issue. In order to have bollards there are regulations / measurements to adhere to. **Action:** PR will measure for distances and contact Sue Laport. Carried to next meeting.



2. Bower Walk – Bower Walk at the Gybbon Rise end by post box

Dropped kerb at the end of Bower Walk and other side, (because of the amount of footfall there, especially with pushchairs). **Action:** JB tried to access KCC but encountered unhelpful advisor who seemed to think we were a householder requesting a dropped curb. JB will try again and will ask E Hotson about it. **HIP?**



3. Speedwatch – Resumed 29th March. MB and JB went out but crossroads snarled up with roadworks as tail backs and no speeding. Equipment all in working order though.

2nd April pm booked with 7 volunteers in Headcorn Rd. Road side training taking place too.

4. Sainsburys

There was someone standing on the traffic island and watching people negotiating the roundabout initially. Highways are looking at it for safety. We await to see the impact of traffic at the roundabout area in general, now Sainsburys has opened. Some concern about the bus stop as no bus layby. We will also monitor the box outside Gresham house for the puffin crossing - narrowed pathway.

5. Marden Rd / Clapper Lane crossroads / Hen & Duckhurst development - Nothing to report

6. Headcorn pedestrian crossing

They were meant to do a crossing near Sainsbury, but of course Sainsbury have done one now. Clerk spoke to Richard Timms planning officer, doesn't hold out much hope for more than the dropped curbs that have been put in by Bovis at Headcorn Rd. RT suggested that SPC contact Bovis and ask as a good will gesture would they put in a Puffin crossing.

Action: JB will propose to full council at next available SPC meeting.



Note -The Marden Road pelican crossing up and running correctly now.

7. SPC Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – priorities – MB feedback from Jennie MBC:

7.1 Hawkenbury Bridge HIP item 10. Accidents. staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com

Listed bridge – we recommend that this should be two bridges or traffic lights.

No further reports to date. We will continue to collect data and lobby on this matter.

7.2 Church Hill Gateway works / Cranbrook Rd at 30mph threshold

“Works are due to take place from 1 April.” Hopefully they mean now! Report when done.

7.3 Gybbon Rise parking issues - on hold due to COVID.

8. ‘The Quarter’ High street down the hill towards Pinnock Lane (Garage & Morrison shop)

There are two connected issues here: 30mph & pedestrian puffin / pelican crossing.

HIP item 4 Quarter Cranbrook Road - Increased pressure from residents regarding the change to 30mph along The Quarter, Cranbrook Road. JW's response, *“I am aware of this as I have received an enquiry from one of your residents who wanted the speed limit to be lowered as part of the upcoming works through the village, which obviously wasn't possible. As soon as lockdown lifts and traffic flows get back to normal we can arrange speed surveys to see what the mean speeds are which is the first step. However, 30mph limits are usually on roads where there are properties both sides of the road. On this stretch there are properties only on one side so 40mph is normally considered the appropriate speed limit.”*

She also sent us information about Crossing and costings: *“I sent you an information sheet about zebra crossings and this provided costings and points to consider. Is this something the parish council would be willing to fund? The first step would be a pedestrian/traffic survey to see if a crossing point is justified and we would also need to ensure there is enough land to accommodate this.”*

This was a 42 page report from MBC, but basically a Zebra crossing would cost £17,000 (not convinced that would be sufficient), puffin crossing £38,200. It has to be installed in a 20 – 30 mph area to have a crossing.

Action: We feel the following needs to be communicated to MBC & Kent Highways:

- * As per the picture below (courtesy of Google) the current 30mph starts at the Frittenden Rd area. There is the Cricket Lodge on that side of the road, which flows onto to the garage / Morrison shop / car wash site i.e. there are properties on that side of the road (East).
- * There is a bus stop on both sides of the road, opposite the garage and then on the garage side the bus stop is actually 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:

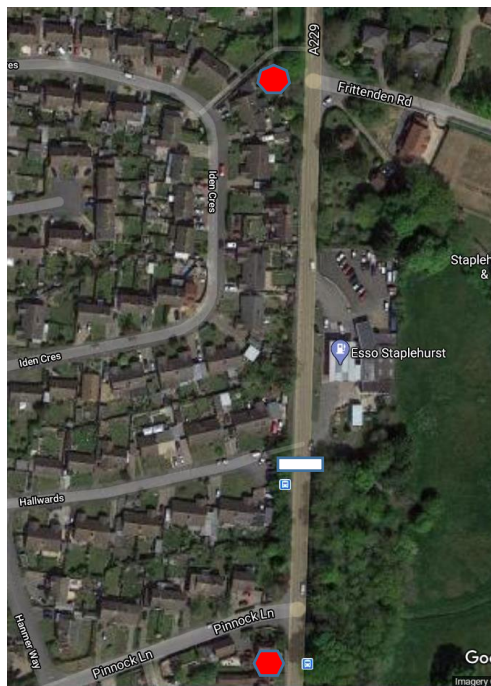
Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr
CB Colin Bowden cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr
MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

PR cllr Paddy Riordan

- a) extend the 30mph to Pinnock Lane where the built up properties extend to 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

MB's visual plan (to be added to our HIP) is at the end.

Eric wanted to say well done to the RSG members for all the hard work and achievements made.

He also wanted to let us know that, regarding the crossing at the garage / quarter, he is happy to make a contribution towards surveys and speedchecks that may be required in order for the crossing happen.

Parishioners obviously want speed reduction measures and cameras (unlikely), but the programme of works about to happen should help with some safety concerns.

Eric has sent the clerk the recent information and one particular resident who he has been lobbied by and been in conversation with - She's very pleased and impressed with how speedily we have got things happening. Obviously she is not aware of how long all this takes, but we will take the admiration! Everyone seems pleased that there is some improvement to speed on that side of the hill! A crossing by the garage must surely slow traffic down in the future and would be a positive addition. Crossings are part of our neighbourhood plan. **Action:** MB will do a write up.

9. **Homeleights** - Parking on pavements - ongoing problem.

10. **Narrow paths** – nothing to report today.

A.O.B.

* Cutting back of hedges / tidying – Autumn job now due to nesting birds.

* Headcorn Rd opposite houses where everyone parks could do with a tidy up or made into a proper parking layby. It looks and could easily be made to look nicer and safer.

Action: Ask clerk if it can be established who owns the land (land search?). Is it private land? Highways? Abandoned by developers from years ago? AS to ask Clerk

* Item 'accident report' to be added as regular item to agenda in future- see above.

Date & venue of next meeting: Thursday 13th May 2021 7pm Zoom

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr

CB Colin Bowden cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr

MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

PR cllr Paddy Riordan

A229 Cranbrook Road a safer crossing

The A229 Cranbrook Road is a straight stretch which encourages excessive speeding by too large a proportion of drivers, many well in excess of the 40mph limit.

The location of the bus stop on the eastern side (travelling south) is very poor as it is on a narrow strip of land with no connecting pavement. Passengers have no option but to cross the road at this point.

The bus service here is used by Secondary-aged schoolchildren and many residents of the estate which includes many bungalows occupied by more elderly people.

The recent expansion of the range of goods on offer has made the garage shop's attraction even greater for all local residents as well as passing motorists.

The installation of three crossing points along the Marden Road and the expected one in Station Road has highlighted the need for one on the Cranbrook Road. Ideally it would be by pedestrian-controlled lights to serve both the shop and bus service.

Proposed

The siting of a crossing to the south of Pinnock Lane has already been dismissed as unjustifiable as it would serve no residential properties on the eastern side.

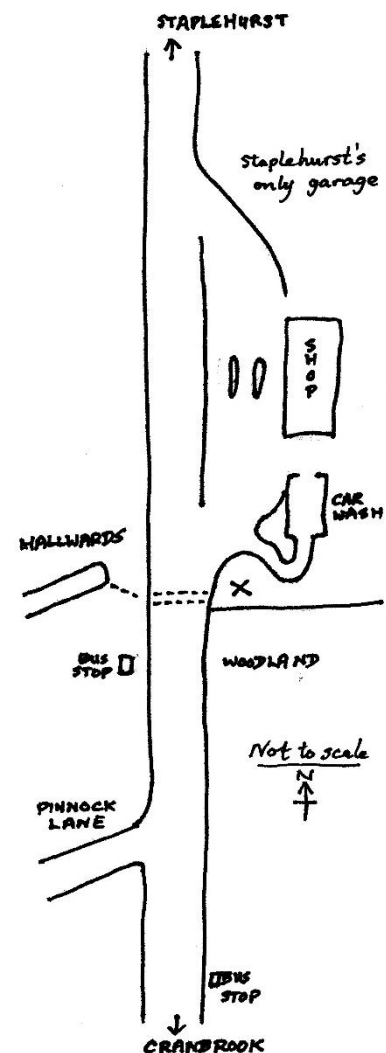
A site to the north of Pinnock Lane is possible with some imagination. (X marks the spot!)

The financial benefits to the shop on the east side of a safe connection to the housing on the west side is enormous and should be a great incentive.

This proposal can be achieved by the gift of the unused grassed-area bounded by the A229, the garage exit, the slip-road to the carwash and the southern boundary. By tarmacking this space, a bus shelter could be installed and a safe surround for pedestrians waiting or accessing the shop and crossing. A further pedestrian painted walkway-route would further encourage customers to safely negotiate the garage forecourt.

Local residents would all benefit from an enhanced infrastructure.

Road Safety would be greatly improved and motorists given more visual reminders that they were negotiating a residential area and not a race track.



Malcolm Buller January 2021

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CB Colin Bowden cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr
MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

PR cllr Paddy Riordan