

**Committee, Group or Sub Group :** Road Safety Group

**Meeting Date & Venue:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 10am @ office

**Report Author:** Adele Sharp - Chairman

## Report

**Present:** A Sharp (AS), M Alesi. M Buller (MB) Speed Watch Rep.

**Apologies:** Cllr Paddy Riordan (PR).

Matters Arising –

1. Highways Improvement Plan – Please note MBC only allow us to have 2 'live' projects – our other projects / wish list are 'archived'. Team leaders: Michelle Norris & Greg McNicholl. Time to tweak our HIP for the forthcoming year - **AS**

**HIP 1.** Double Yellow Lines by school entrance, Gybbon Rise. Finally done. **Action: archived**

**HIP 1. (NEW)** Double yellow lines (DYL) on main road A229, single lines (SYL) on Cornforth Close and Chestnut Avenue

Council agreed to consultation with residents which showed a large majority in favour.

Kent Highways now need to do their work on this. There seems to have been some confusion on their part with Gybbon Rise. NP parking policy DM23 1.5. **Action: AS tweak HIP as HIP 1**

4. item 4 on agenda moved to here (see note at end for previous suggestions)

**HIP 2.** The Quarter - Bus stop / crossing & 30mph HIP item 3

Clerk and PR are meeting with Kent Highways (KH) team to look at the site. Feedback when it happened. Reiterated we can get funding, so KH don't need to fund it.

**Action: We await feedback of the meeting. AS to amend HIP merge 2&3 as related**

Reasons KH have turned down our request for a crossing are: -

\* 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.

In answer we :-

\* 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.

**2. SID – was HIP7 - archive HIP 7 as done**

Installed on Headcorn Road or Marden Road, Bathurst poles. Changing batteries weekly so don't run out. Cameras must be moved within 8 weeks but can be sooner to keep on toes!

*MB quick analysis from weekly data Headcorn facing East 29179 vehicles over 11 days. Over 2000 were doing under 20mph . . . does that include people, bicycles, tractor, foxes? under 30mph 16,00 30mph+ 12,765 = 40% speeding 6 over 60mph*  
*Marden West 2,1768 in 7 days 1,490 speeding 8 above 45mph*  
*This doesn't include partial days ie when batteries changed*  
Numbers and speed data is interesting and evidence of traffic in Staplehurst.  
Auto SID reset as had a fault but speeding has reduced so its had an effect. Automatic letters go out. **Action: Turn Marden Road one to face East for 2 weeks next and include partial days.**

### 3. Sainsburys shuttle bus

Finally HAMs have agreed to a Staplehurst Shuttlebus. 9am Tuesday, 22 minute journey going round the estates picking up residents.

9am Thursday is a figure of 8 rural route Stile bridge, Marden, Curtisden Green, Pinnock Lane, almost Wilsey Pound, Frittenden, Headcorn outskirts, Hawkenbury, Staplehurst = 1 hour. Then a quick shuttle round Staplehurst and back out X3 each. As many left turns as possible for safety. Passengers will need to 'flag it down'. MB is going out 5/9/23 on the route to define stopping places when not an actual 'bus stop'.

Its good to get here, but disappointing its taken 2 years. **Action: suggest it is advertised in the Village Update, social media and throughout village and neighbouring parishes.**

### 5. Hawkenbury Bridge HIP 6 change to HIP 3

As the FOI to Kent Highways came back saying it's the Railway's bridge, the clerk has requested a FOI from Network Rail. We've registered a complaint with Kent Highways that the information from then did not answer our questions about how many 'official' accidents and call outs to repair the bridge have occurred.

Also complain to Kent Highways that the response is not accurate as Kent Highways would have paid for the signage on the river bridge.

### 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 to Network Rail and complaint re Kent Highways.**

### 6. Sainsburys roundabout – residents raised a concern about safety

We have previously raised this with MBC & KH. The roundabout is merely painted on, not an actual bump in the road presumably as it's a primary route.

When a bus stops it blocks the roundabout. A Bus stop layby was rejected by KH as too dangerous to pull out of them. We don't have data for accidents there but are aware of anecdotal events there.

**Action: ask the clerk to respond to the resident explaining that the RSG have previously made recommendations which KH, MBC, and bus companies have declined to act on. Please do lobby them as well as your Borough councillor and County councillor. Please give contact details for them.**

7. Hedges – Sept – March Checked the letter and tweaked it. We will await to hear from residents and keep an eye open for problems. **Action: letter tweaked.**

8. Speedwatch - Not been out recently.

Auto Speed watch - Had a fault end of August and been reset. Numbers are greatly reduced from last year. Auto speedwatch records cars 46mph – 69mph - Still with us but may go soon.

9. Accidents/incidents reported – [staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com](mailto:staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com) – none reported

#### AOB

\* 30 mph bin stickers – MB noted that the red colour has faded drastically to yellow!

Not put up big banner. AS will ask SCC trustees about putting it on hedge.

Big poster in Bus stop ‘30 limit not target’ lasted about 6 weeks before ‘removed’

\* Crossing at the traffic lights. Partially sighted can’t see the green man. No beep on those lights as ‘its multi junction’ ? Turns out that underneath the button area is a revolving cone which rotates when green man flashes. MB will write an article for the update. AS will do Parish Update

\* Gybbon Rise School gates – PR requested some Police presence for Tue 5<sup>th</sup> to help departure from the Primary school

\* Butchers Close – car parking on green area – privately owned so can park their car there. Bins on other area – will do a check on Thursday AS

**Village Update** – MB will do

#### Deferred items:

\* 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 dble yellow line - could be parking area as no purpose to dble 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 7. Roads near school - plan to install SID in Bathurst Rd - **done**

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.

**Action:** Amend HIP as soon as No1 done ready to submit September 2023

Dates of forthcoming meetings: Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> October 9am @ office, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, 4<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Discussion about times and availability.

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

[west.highwayimprovements@kent.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Claremarie.Vine@kent.org)

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

[Elizabeth.Bineham@kent.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

[Toby.Donlon@kent.gov.uk](mailto: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)