

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Road Safety Group

Meeting Date & Venue: Monday 17th July 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).

1. Matters Arising –

2. 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.

HIP 1. Double Yellow Lines by school entrance. We have been noting that this has been agreed by KH since the new year and it should be off our HIP, however we are keeping an eye on it as it's still not been done.

Action: We have been assured it should be done in the next 3 months. – still waiting.

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

Awaiting further developments.

Action: We await result of communication between Michelle and PR in March.

4. New SID HIP 7

The SID equipment was handed over and installed on Headcorn Road. The pole will be moved a metre as it's not quite in the right position. The SID is about to be moved to the Marden Road pole. We have 5 options. Note - *Paid by David Wilson homes*

Action: MA will email RG / Toby about possible fault – camera 'clocking' both directions not one.

5. Local Plan – Parking

Consultation re DYL (double yellow lines) along the high street and SYL (single yellow lines) for side roads results were presented to full council and agreed to take forward. NP parking policy DM23 1.5.

Action: Awaiting to hear from KCC. Ask clerk RG to chase.

6. Sainsburys shuttle bus

HAMs appear to have agreed a route using left turns (safer) through Staplehurst.

In theory on Tuesdays, every half hour from 9.30am until 1.30pm (then releases buses for school run). we can flag them down but not had a definitive answer. Route also shows some dangerous manoeuvres out of Church Green / Bell Lane area. MB has pointed out to

Rural route Hawkenbury, towards Headcorn but turns right to Frittenden, almost to Sissinghurst, back onto A229 back to Sainsburys, cross at hand , Stilebridge, left to Marden, Marden Thorn, Pinnock Lane back to Sainsbury's. We get 3 figure of eights and 3 Staplehurst shuttles. Current route says 9am but HAMs can't do 9am! Need clarification on times, the Staplehurst shuttle in between and make sure going same way as safer doing left turns etc.

Council to agree hopefully in Full meeting tonight. IT will need to go back to MBC as a variation of condition and then Kent Highways so September!
Gary at Sainsburys is under the impression that SPC signed off on the current route that had been happening, which is too long and has almost no passengers – not as far as we are aware!

Action: Clerk to ask Sainsburys to allow us to do a trial run with HAMS to give them local knowledge about where they can stop safely etc. Push for September start date.

7. Hawkenbury Bridge HIP 6

The broken Kent Highways signs by the river is back up.

FOI which came back saying it's the Railways. We mean the one over the river but Kent Highways claim it too is the Railways responsibility.

Other 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. Possible suggestion to KCC? Clerk will contact Network Rail for FOI to find out exactly how many 'official' accidents have been logged and how much has been spent on repairs to date.

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

Action: Clerk is going back about the FOI.

8. Hedges – 1st March – August bird nesting season. Note and leave until Autumn.

Discussed not sending letters during nesting season be on TOR. Not considered a TOR item but is well known re KCC policies and within RSG minutes.

Action: All to keep an eye and ear out ready for potential problems.

9. Speedwatch

Group out on Tuesday and Thursday Marden Rd and Station Rd. Batches along Station Road due to road works. About 4% speeding as following queue – 32 into Police Data base. Marden Rd about 10% speeding past Oliver Road, nothing excessive.

Auto Speed watch (46 – 69mph) still working = 13 months. June figures a lot lower than last year.

2023 May – 133 letters, 7 were over 60mph, 3 no tax, 2 no MOT.

2023 22nd June - 141 speeders, 3 at 60mph+ 4 no tax, 9 no MOT.

Up to end of March over 2000 letters sent. Persistent speeders get a visit after 5 letters.

In July 2022 - 595 got letters! This has slowly reduced. Less in winter as solar powered.

Auto speedwatch records cars 46mph – 69mph - Still with us now over a year, so may go soon.

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

Police chase re the egg throwing car vehicle along Frittenden Road, through 2 fence panels into a house on Iden Crescent.

Friday / Sat 15th car in ditch near Hawkenbury -no tax mot insurance

AOB

RE: Contractors Parking issues at Cornforth Close, Staplehurst, Kent. TN12 0BP

There are no parking restrictions, so unless parking is a danger, nothing they can do.

Action: Ask clerk to email contractors **“As part of the MBC planning conditions, the contractors site manager contact phone number should be displayed but is still not in evidence. We would ask this to be remedied immediately.”**

Annual Report – MB did the last one for the group.

Seems to be more than up to March 2023, i.e. includes a lot of March – June 2023.

Defer to next meeting:

* Fishers Road - bottom - car parking - filling in ditch area to make rear access to gardens - sounds like an MBC planning enforcement issue.

* 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?

Action : Has MBC looked into?

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

Currently the issues for KH causing them to turn 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.

Our Hip 3 is to make this area 30mph – As HIP 1 DYL at the school has been agreed, we should activate Hip3 with KH although, it is part of the whole scheme relating to HIP2.

We suspect they will say only 2 improvements a year and their restructure occurred in September 2022 so they may argue we can't activate it until September 2023 – who knows!

Archived HIP items as can only have 2 things live on HIP.

HIP 6. Hawkenbury Bridge work – archived as Kent Highways felt that as they had put signs and painted road marking it was completed. – see item 7 below

HIP 7. Roads near school - plan to install SID in Bathurst Rd - see item 4 below

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: Aug no meeting, Mon 4th September 10am @ office

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)