

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

**Meeting Date & Venue:** Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

**Report Author:** Adele Sharp - Chairman

**Report**

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

**Apologies:** Kelly McAtee (KM)

Minutes from August accepted

1. Matters Arising - none

**\* Crossings**

Headcorn Rd (Bovis) - Instead of a proper crossing there is a dropped curb and tactile paving -

we would have liked to see a proper crossing. Bovis have complied with legal requirement.

Traffic survey Nov 2021 provides evidence that 53% 54% are speeding.

We will be using SID evidence to show that a 'controlled lights' crossing is really required there.

**Action:** Add to our HIP as an archived 'controlled lights' crossing ( = belisha beacon or push button

crossing NOT pedestrian crossing as MBC & developers regard a dropped kerb with tactile paving

sufficient). Revisit if there are further housing developments along that road.

**\* The Quarter - Bus stop / crossing**

We were due to have a meeting 28th October but KCC Dan Bruce requested it be rescheduled.

Awaiting a new mutually possible date (from August!)

This follows the discussions with Lottie Parfitt Reed (CC), Louise Brice & John Perry (BC) and

KCC officers in relation to S106 money (£350,000 for improvements ) / Station CIL money redirected

for road crossing. We need it allocated rather than returning to the developers.

**Action:** Await confirmation of CIL applications from MBC. Arriva should attend the meeting.

**\* HIP –** Meeting set for 27th September finally happened on October, MB attended.

**Team leaders:** Michelle Norris & Greg McNicholl.

The recent restructure includes the HIP, we are informed tha now we are only 'allowed' 2

top priority issues, all others should be archived; no wish list.

1. Dropped kerbs by school entrance, both sides buggy / wheel chair friendly paving for safety.

Will be done.

2. Gybbon Rise yellow lines round bend. Despite much work by the groups with Jenni to get this done,

the new team denied any knowledge of scheme, and doubted the value as enforcement hard to achieve. Current road traffic order cost £2,500 with additional design and labour costs which KCCH would not fund.

**Action:** PR explained we have an email trail and is happy to do a letter and send email trail

**showing they should honour previously agreed action.**

### 3 & 4. The Quarter crossing

Much discussion looking at the areas and discussing the siting of bus stops pedestrian lines, traffic

behaviour, accident records. Auto speedwatch reports June to September surprised them, MB

forwards Nov survey results.

A pedestrian controlled light system costs £41,000 = survey and design team costs.

We still believe that the speed limit should be 30mph at least to the bus stop, due to the many

accidents and incidents on that stretch of road.

It is believed we do not need written evidence of cooperation of land owner (garage) as there is

plenty of room for Kent Highways to install without bothering the landowner.

PR spoke to owner in the shop and keen May / June 2022 and they seemed keen to have a crossing.

**Action:** We need confirmation of funding for design and implementation of crossing before the project is formally

**assessed. We need the CIL money and S106 - awaiting answer**

5. A229 speed limit to Cranbrook = too complex to consider at present

6. Hawkenbury Bridge work completed - signs etc. Doubtful it will help.

7. Roads near school - plan to install SID in Bathurst Rd

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.

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.

Lorry parking - better dealt with as members of lorry watch.

**Action:** amend HIP sent 10th October by email from Michelle to MB forwarded onto RSG members

**Lorry watch - add ourselves to this. MB to investigate if there is a cost for us to join**

### 6. New SID - Progress and new survey responses

MB had used the recommended format for a survey letter and delivered 70.

SPC agreed to SID in full council meeting. The clerk RS informed Toby and Clair Marie including a

copy of the survey letter sent. Toby has replied

a) the letter is no good (even though we used his recommended version) and

b) we need more responses (4 so far)

**Action:** MB will be meeting with the clerk Monday and we may have to do the survey again.

**Ask clerk for update about sites**

**Include high street as parked cars cause a real blockage**

#### 7. Local Plan –

DM23 1.5 inadequate – Parking

**Action:** Request RG clerk to lobby network rail about cheaper carparking for train £5.50 a day.

**JB is in process of writing a parking policy for NP and will ask SNPRG to add a parking policy.**

#### 8. Sainsburys shuttle bus

PR has been trying to resolve this since June, requesting to meet with Sainsbury's to discuss the

route currently in use which, in short, is overlong and visits too many places. MB had provided an

alternative route to resolve this as currently the 2 hour bus route is running with no passengers.

PR had a positive meeting. In MArden there are 2 regulars and Sainsburys will be providing a private

taxi for them!

MB said we need to put the nearly finished new estates on the map (Bovis & Redrow)

**Action:** Await outcome and hopefully more helpful route.

#### 9. Hawkenbury Bridge

Jobs are on the Kent Highways list (HIP) yellow backed signs to help. Solar powered traffic lights

deemed too expensive .

**Action:** Keep an eye out for further accidents -

#### 10. Hedges – 50 letters ready if required.

Bower Walk was a concern but has now been cleared. Sadly they leveled the tree there as well.

#### 11. Speedwatch

Been out once about 20 speeding. None excessively.

Auto speedwatch working as numbers reducing - the word may have gotten out!

Repeat offenders get a hand delivered letter. Also discovered MOT and tax offenders.

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

RTA near Bumbles, Knoxbridge pedestrian

5 oak Lane / Goudhurst junction / pinnock Lane near collision + hedges and white lines need doing

MB reported to Kent Highways. Suggested needs signage to warn there is a sharp blind bend

5 Ash Lane car clipped motorcyclist, paramedics attended

not reported one near Sainsbury roundabout and one on crossroads a few days ago

AOB

Dates of forthcoming meetings: Th 8th December 2022, 6.30pm Zoom

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

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[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?**

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)