

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

**Meeting Date & Venue:** Monday 27th February 2023, 10am @ office

**Report Author:** Adele Sharp - Chairman

## **Report**

**Present were:** A Sharp (AS), J Buller (JB), M Buller (MB) Speed Watch Rep, Kelly McAtee (KM).

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

1. Matters Arising - none

2. Crossings

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

MB reported back from his zoom meeting with Michelle Norris.

Kent Highways - to put in a Puffin crossing. Need to meet the need ie linking residential properties

not just a bus stop / garage. There is no safe place in that area to put a crossing either at entrance

of garage (!?) or at the junction.

Can't justify and not safe enough. Statistics from our traffic surveys show most traffic is less than

40mph but that does include bicycles, tractors with tail backs etc.

KH (Kent Highways) are not interested in high end speeders only mean / average speed.

KH informed us that we can't have a puffin crossing an 40mph + area. They are reluctant to install as there are other things they then have to do.

As a committee we do not agree that there is no where suitable for a crossing somewhere there.

If this was the only criteria used, there would be no crossing at the parade by the chemist.

Sadly, we only got the one there after a resident was killed. We do not want to have this happen at

the quarter.

We remind Kent Highways that they are the ones that have installed the bus top there 'in a

dangerous place' and that the funding is there via developers so Kent Highways do not have

to foot the bill. S106 funding £350,000 for improvements & station CIL money redirected for

road crossing.

**Action:** Need to lobby CC Parfitt Reed / MBC John Perry / Louise Brice to reconsider this. Need to have Kent Highways visit the site as photos don't show it clearly.

### Correspondence

We recieved suggestions from a resident to improve the traffic crossroads.

Sadly these were all things that we have investigated in the past but we will answer.

\* Suggestion to change area and move Martyrs monument to provide more pavement space.

This is private property installed in 1905 and not within SPC ability to do anything to. It would also only make the corner area slightly bigger were we to move the monument.  
\* Metal guard rails at all four corners /pedestrian crossing areas to protect pedestrians. This would make the pavement areas too narrow for disabled users. These guard rails are now considered dangerous street furniture and are being removed elsewhere.  
Worth noting that we previously investigated the possibility of compulsory purchasing land but discovered it would a) be extremely expensive b) not legally allowed  
The Chestnut Avenue side houses a number of utility 'things' and again won't be moved. Also this would not help a little further along where the path is even more narrow.  
**Action: reply to resident as above**

**3. HIP – Please note MBC only allow us to have 2 'live' projects - wish list is 'archived'.  
Team leaders: Michelle Norris & Greg McNicholl.**

HIP 1. Double Yellow Lines by school entrance, agreed but still not done. . . . .

HIP 2. Crossing at the quarter see above

**Action: Write to Kent Highways explaining we want alternative ideas from them as it is dangerous**

#### Archived HIP items

HIP 6. Hawkenbury Bridge work completed - signs etc. - archived as can only have 2 things live on HIP

HIP 7. Roads near school - plan to install SID in Bathurst Rd - [see item 4](#)

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.

**Lorry parking** - better dealt with as members of lorry watch. MB investigated about joining but

needed SPC details. It was felt it would be better for the office to 'officially' join.

**Action: Amend HIP. Ask office to officially join SPC to lorry watch.**

**4. New SID** - David Wilson homes have agreed to pay for the SID and have asked KCC to send the

invoice to them to pay direct. Toby agreed the 3 sites suggested.

SPC agreed to SID in full council meeting. Can't include high street as traffic too heavy.

Battery would drain rapidly also would need to consult high street residents.

**Action: Await payment and installation. MB chased 2 weeks ago, Claire marie has chased for invoice**

**to go to David Wilson Homes . MB will chase again**

#### 5. Local Plan – Parking

JB wrote a parking policy for SNP and added by SNPRG DM23 1.5.

Due to Texaco garage development it was suggested the RSG might consult residents along the

high street for dble yellow lines along the high street and single lines for side roads.

Currently Station Road is DYL crossroad to Homeleigh, SYL the rest of Station Road.

Action: To be agreed at council 27.2.23 6.7.

#### 6. Sainsburys shuttle bus

RG had request from Sainsburys to confirm we have been liaising with them.

SPC need to ensure that we have agreed to whatever Sainsburys have come up with.

MB had suggested a route through Staplehurst to Sissinghurst, Frittenden, Headcorn, Hawkenbury,

Staplehurst. AND Cross at hand, Marden , Pinnock Lane and back.

Questions for Sainsburys:

\* Is that the route noe?

\* How long does that journey take to know how long people had to wait to go home?

\* How do residents 'flag the bus down'?

Action: Ask clerk to chase

#### 7. Hawkenbury Bridge

Kent Highways completed their work yellow backed signs to help. We still have concerns.

Action: asking for FOI re accidents and KH £ spent to date.

8. Hedges – 1st March is start of bird nesting season. Note and leave until Autumn.

#### 9. Speedwatch

Not been out. One new person has done initial training. MB chasing who it is! GDPR.

Auto speedwatch January it caught 6 February 9.

In July the camera caught 595. Numbers are down - Nov 14, Dec 2. Worked?

Action:

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

None reported via incident email.

One at Hawkenbury Bridge from staplehurst over river bridge, 2 cars stopped other side, truck and

trailer pulled round them causing a temporary roadblock.

Another resident reported a driver to police for aggressive behaviour.

#### AOB

\* RG clerk 30mph blue stickers on bins. - are now allowed although need MBC permission to do so.

Kent Highways have a 'free' tool kit 30mph signs - yes please.

Action: Just let residents know here they can get them from if they ask.

\* Butcher Close

Further investigations show bins are left on road or in alley.

**Action:** Ask office to ask MBC for their compliance letter and we can give to residents.

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 - back access made into Fishers Road. parking on green at bottom

\* bins not collected as due to too many cars - before people gone to work. So they will be doing them later in the day so that may well 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 as no purpose to dble yellow line and we are sure noone enforces it. MBC need to investigate this area.

Selling cars down there too, even tho police have done a check. Have they moved to Fishers road?

**Action :** All need to look at for next meeting

Dates of forthcoming meetings: Mon 27th March 2023, 24th April, 22nd May, 26th June, 17th July, Aug no meeting, 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](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?**

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)