

<b>Committee, Group or Sub Group :</b> Road Safety Group
<b>Meeting Date &amp; Venue:</b> Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023, 10am @ office
<b>Report Author:</b> Adele Sharp - Chairman

**Report**

**Present:** A Sharp (AS), M Alesi.

**Apologies:** Cllr Paddy Riordan (PR), M Buller (MB) Speed Watch Rep.

The meeting started with a big thankyou to Joan Buller and recognition for all her hard work as she has decided to stand down from this Group on her retiring as a councillor. We are sad to lose her and noted that if she wanted to stay on the group, we would be happy to exchange her for MB! 😊

**1. Matters Arising –**

**Crossroads RG** (clerk) received a reply to the letter sent in response to a resident’s suggestions for the Crossroads. We had attempted to explain many of the issues SPC had encountered but they were not happy with our response; RG has now referred them to Kent Highways.

**Butchers Close bins** - AS delivered letters to residents and will continue to monitor to see if issue is resolved.

**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. **We have been assured it should be done in the next 3 months.**

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

**We await an update from PR who was unable to attend this meeting.**

Michelle Norris and PR were to have a phone meeting to discuss. We would prefer an onsite visit but she is based in East Kent. PR was going to make it clear that we have guaranteed funding (from developers) so it would not come out of Kent Highways budget. Then there would need to be surveys done by KH & agree where to put survey strips.

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!

**Action:** Still seeking clarity on this as we are getting mixed messages, LPR (county councillor) seems to think its possible, but KH Michelle says no, as it doesn't meet the criteria. We await result of communication between Michelle and PR. From March

#### 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.

**Action:** Amend HIP as soon as No1 done.

**4. New SID** – Background - *David Wilson homes have agreed to pay for the SID and have asked KCC to send the invoice to them to pay direct.*

*Toby has previously agreed to the 3 sites suggested & SPC agreed to SID in full council meeting. Can't include high street as traffic too heavy and the battery would drain rapidly also would need to consult high street residents.*

**Action:** Await payment and installation. Did KCC send them the invoice? **Still no news as of February minutes.**

#### 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:**

#### 6. Sainsburys shuttle bus

Still trying to get some clarity on this issue. Sainsburys asked SPC to confirm that we have been liaising with them, which we are but they want us to support their changes but they are not following the written condition to supply a shuttle bus for Staplehurst, So difficult to say we support their changes!

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 now?
- \* How long does that journey take to know how long people had to wait to go home?
- \* How do residents 'flag the bus down'?

Changes to the No5 timetable with less coverage make this even more important.

**Action:** Clerk chases this on a weekly basis. Gary at Sainsburys seems very positive but doesn't seem to action anything agreed. **Still no news as of February minutes.**

#### 7. Hawkenbury Bridge

One of Kent Highways new signs either side of the river bridge was knocked over – not sure if back upright yet.



We are keen to find out exactly how many 'official' accidents have been logged and how much Kent Highways have spent on repairs to date and therefore did a FOI in April.

**Action:** No response as of today.

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

Frittenden Road onto High street over grown hedge – residents CAN cut hedges as long as nesting birds are not disturbed. Difficult to direct that. Is it a Kent Highways issue? Top church green Golding Homes hedge opposite parish rooms, briars coming out of the hedge onto pathway up the hill.

**Action:** Ask clerk to contact MBC / Kent Highways and Golding Homes.

#### 9. Speedwatch - MA expressed an interest and will contact MB to be trained.

Auto speedwatch- Now the sun is shining, the camera can better record vehicles speeding.

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

Cuckold's corner two van, road closure and Crowther Close lost control through house wall.

AOB

\* Newlyn Drive / Hurst Close – PR raised the concern about speeding – residents concerned. This has been discussed by the group in the past. We appreciate the concerns and have previously invited residents to join the speedwatch. This would enable us to build up evidence of numbers speeding and the speeds reached. Knowing the road layout that has many bends in it, slightly sceptical anyone can do over 30mph but happy to see evidence otherwise.

Action: PR suggest respond to resident as above.

\* Bower Walk parking - PR had been approached by a resident in Bower Walk about selling some land adjacent to the school to provide more parking there. We had a look at the area via Google maps. As there are no details of exactly what is being considered it is difficult to comment.

- It is difficult to see how either side would help regarding parking, possibly making it worse.

- If SPC bought land, they would then be in charge of parking, which is outside SPC remit.

- presumably KCC and the school would have some opinion if there was some planning put forward and would be able to be in charge of parking.

Action: Suggest PR find out more information to enable us to consider it further.

#### **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 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 : Has MBC looked into?

Dates of forthcoming meetings: 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? 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)