

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Road Safety Group

Meeting Date & Venue: Thursday 3rd September 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman

Report

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

Apologies: none

The report of 24th June 2021 was agreed.

1. Dropped Curbs - Bower Walk – Bower Walk at the Gybbon Rise (HIP No.6) end by post box 12 School drive - Dropped kerb at the end of Bower Walk and other side, (because of the amount of footfall there, especially with pushchairs). Added to HIP. Double yellow lines outside No 19. Have they been consulted?

Action: Ask Alison if HIP was sent. await a response from Jennie Watson. **Need to chase this.**



2. Speedwatch – will be deployed Sunday 5th and Monday 6th September 2021

3. Sainsburys

Residents have complained that overtaking down church hill and on the roundabout has been dangerous. We need times so that we can advise police of the best time to do spot checks. **Action:**

4. Headcorn pedestrian crossing

SPC agreed to ask for a better crossing and Chair PR contacted Bovis. As far as we are aware we are awaiting a response. PR They will pass it onto their higher up people. PR chased but not received anything further. **Action:** PR will chase.



5. SPC Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – priorities – MB feedback from Jennie MBC:

Discussed the idea of solar traffic lights £1000 each and not regarded as permanent lights. Also easy to steal. CB volunteered to look into. K Martin may be able to advise.

AS sent the updated prioritised version of the HIP for comments / amendments as recommended by Jenni Watson to do.

Decided to swap item 4 behind item 5 + 6.

Action: clerk to send this onto Jennie Watson.

Note: 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

* Picture below (courtesy of Google) 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

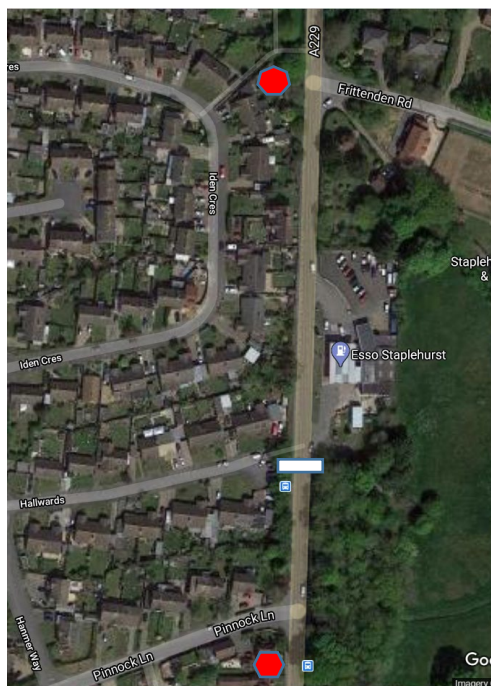
* Bus stop on both sides of the road - opposite the garage & on the garage side it's past the Pinnock Lane turn off towards Cranbrook.

* 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)



Red shows where the 30mph is (top / North) and could be (bottom / South).

White = suggested crossing placement

Note the 2 bus tops

MB's visual plan (to be added to our HIP) is at the end.

6. Hedge letters – In the South Bank area there were 4 delivered plus others elsewhere.

Golding homes have done theirs as well.

July 2019 hedge cutting repeatedly

Third meeting previous letter

KCC highways advice at that time

Advisory process Clare Twil

Unofficial letter first, gentle request – courtesy to avoid Kent Highways becoming involved.

If no luck then official letter which residents don't like. 28 days to sort

This means there is a minimum 2 months from their letter so could be 3 months before any action is taken as we give a month as well!

It appears the interim clerk between MW and current clerk may have 'adjusted' the wording at the end to something more blunt than we previously agreed.

7. Accident / incident report – MB None to report .

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr

CB Colin Bowden cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr

MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

PR cllr Paddy Riordan

8. AOB

Streetlights obstructed by foliage - > report to Kent highways
AS will do a facebook post to try and gather information.

Date & venue of next meeting:

Thursday 30th September 2021 6.30pm Zoom
Thursday 28th October 2021 6.30pm Zoom
Thursday 25th November 2021 6.30pm Zoom
Thursday 30th December 2021 6.30pm Zoom

The meeting ended at 8.00pm.

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr
CB Colin Bowden cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr
MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

PR cllr Paddy Riordan

A229 Cranbrook Road a safer crossing

The A229 Cranbrook Road is a straight stretch which encourages excessive speeding by too large a proportion of drivers, many well in excess of the 40mph limit.

The location of the bus stop on the eastern side (travelling south) is very poor as it is on a narrow strip of land with no connecting pavement. Passengers have no option but to cross the road at this point.

The bus service here is used by Secondary-aged schoolchildren and many residents of the estate which includes many bungalows occupied by more elderly people.

The recent expansion of the range of goods on offer has made the garage shop's attraction even greater for all local residents as well as passing motorists.

The installation of three crossing points along the Marden Road and the expected one in Station Road has highlighted the need for one on the Cranbrook Road. Ideally it would be by pedestrian-controlled lights to serve both the shop and bus service.

Proposed

The siting of a crossing to the south of Pinnock Lane has already been dismissed as unjustifiable as it would serve no residential properties on the eastern side.

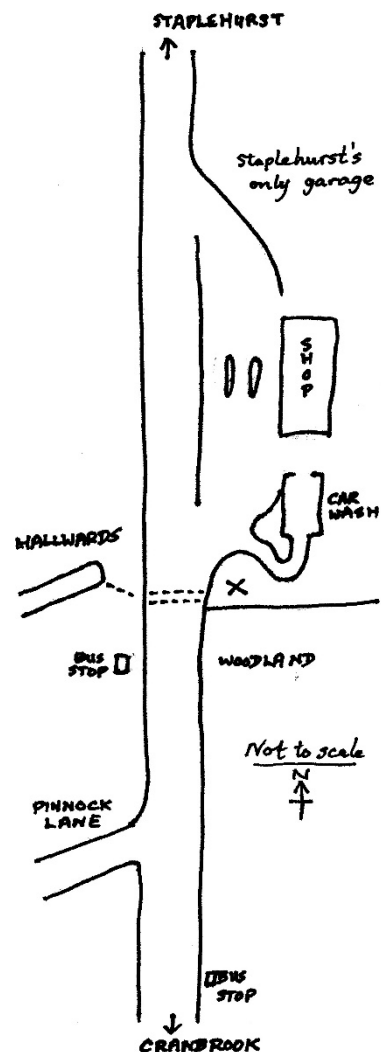
A site to the north of Pinnock Lane is possible with some imagination. (X marks the spot!)

The financial benefits to the shop on the east side of a safe connection to the housing on the west side is enormous and should be a great incentive.

This proposal can be achieved by the gift of the unused grassed-area bounded by the A229, the garage exit, the slip-road to the carwash and the southern boundary. By tarmacking this space, a bus shelter could be installed and a safe surround for pedestrians waiting or accessing the shop and crossing. A further pedestrian painted walkway-route would further encourage customers to safely negotiate the garage forecourt.

Local residents would all benefit from an enhanced infrastructure.

Road Safety would be greatly improved and motorists given more visual reminders that they were negotiating a residential area and not a race track.



Malcolm Buller January 2021

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr
CB Colin Bowden cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr
MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

PR cllr Paddy Riordan