

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Road Safety Group

Meeting Date & Venue: Thursday 28th April 2022 at 6.30pm via Zoom

Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman

Report

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

Gybbon Rise - dropped kerbs - yellow lines – consultation

Our consultation was positive for this work. School seemed keen for the double yellow lines.



We now await Kent Highways consultation. J Watson commented that dropped curbs not in hip and we should add them. Should be able to get this into the new financial year so chase next meeting.

Hen and Duckhurst Gateway & dragons teeth

ClareMarie (KCC Highways officer for site) will inform us when going to do the work, hopefully soon.

The cross roads are dangerous and we are keen to make it safer.

Reminder that the decision was made to retain the Staplehurst sign where it is (rather than moving it further out of the 'envelope' into rural Staplehurst area).

Marden Road layby proposal to make the north layby in Marden Road into pavement and kerbs. J Watson confirmed this has been unsuccessful. She offered the advice to include it in our HIP to add weight for future bids.

Marden Rd verge (N side)- eroded verge & pathway beside Maxted close houses, mud potholes - suggestion -tarmac pathway to link Maxted close and Hegarty Way Or if not that, add kerbstones.

MB suggested a letter -

Since the construction of the roundabout, the traffic has eroded the verge between it and the made pathway beside the Maxted Close houses. This has spread the mud and created potholes, causing difficulties for residents.

Pedestrians do walk along the mud and grass edges. Is it possible to make this area safer by tarmacking a pathway to link Maxted Close to Hegarty Way?

If this is not possible, could a kerb stone be fitted along this stretch of road to delineate the roadway and stop the creation of potholes? The soil and grass could then be reinstated.

Half is already kerb stone and there are driveways so not too much work to do. Recommended to contact ClareMarie (KCC Highways officer for site). Also to contact Lottie about this. **MB / PR**

Sainsburys shuttle bus

This has so far not managed to fulfil its remit. SPC had hoped to promote it, but the timetable was so full of errors, they couldn't. It seems to have no passengers, we believe because the route taken has so many stops it takes hours to reach Sainsburys. It includes stops that the No 5 bus has on its route – pointless. Seems little point to pickup at Kilndown as they will surely use the Co-op in Cranbrook, and Hawkhurst has Tesco.

Decided to have a meeting with Sainsburys to try and fix – **PR** to write and ask

Mini SID – (Dickens Gate developers offered to pay for it).

Toby emailed and had a phone call with MB – Concerns raised about scheme re manpower required to change Sid round and data handling; who will be responsible?

Following the phone call, reassured as we are first on the list for an engineer to come and survey Marden and Headcorn rd and suggest siting. They will install a post if we do not have a suitable one in situ.

Bracket is put parallel to the pole so SID can slot into place and be padlocked.

When we move SID, we have to download data at that time – laptop needed doesn't take long. SID displays speeds between 20 – 40 mph, not above 40 so it's not an inducement for senseless drivers to regard it as a challenge to see what speed they can do! It does record data if above 40mph.

Recommendation that this is discussed at full council that councillors are happy for RSG to continue with obtaining the SID as no cost involved at this point, bearing in mind that there is a cost in time and maintenance in the future. Who will be responsible for downloading data, moving SID? (caretaker / volunteers / councillors?) Where does data go / what we use it for? Repairs if required?

Speedwatch report –

Five half hour sessions implemented: 2 in Marden road; considered a good idea to monitor before roundels and dragons teeth are put in. Just after crossroads, pinged thirty five cars over 30mph, two got 'repeat offender' letters, two doing 40+mph. Outside Homeleights area, Forty six speeding, four received repeat letters, (2nd or 3rd offenders), three 45+mph.

Police Cluster meeting – enforcement for speeding in Headcorn caught a lot. PR stated our speed reports at the meeting and asked if we can have police in Staplehurst. Allegedly we are on the agenda for a speed purge.

No new volunteers. 2 trained last summer. Bank of 20 trained volunteers but none prepared to set up and organise the group. Gadget gun a bit tricky to set up.

Accidents/incident reported – staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com

A229 - Car flipped upside down on the hill – Police attended. No one reported on our email link though.

HIP

Group updated the HIP in meeting. Will send round and tweak before sending to J Watson to update.

Contact Harrietsham speaker to advise us how to get designated "20 is plenty" sign area **MB & JB**

DBle YL outside 17 – 19 KCC about to advise residents its to be implemented - **MB** email J Watson for update

Item 4 on HIP – contact Lottie about supporting us with this matter - **PR**

Hedges – bird season so no cutting currently. Bower Walk brambles belong to No 12 MB & JB contacted them and MB did some gardening to clear it away. Current tenants were unaware it was their garden and responsibility.

AOB

* Pot holes South end Surrenden near Thatcher road end - no repairs there but other small pot holes have been done. PR keep chasing about it.

* alerted to tree issue blocking footpath bottom of Bell Lane, just before pond on right. Reported to KCC footpath - allocated to team to be done. Route ball blown over and lodged on tree opposite and could fall on someone. We think its KCC not SPC responsibility but we'll see what their response is.

* Thatcher road pedestrian lights not working – reported to Kent Highways– by lunch time done!

* 16a 16b Bower Walk and parking space appeared at end of garage area. Land is owned by houseowner.

Have they put in for retrospective planning? Is the surface 16a drive porous?

Recommendation – Ask clerk to write to planning officer re this application as work completed and they changed parking layout .

* **Ashdown walk in dark for tree blocking streetlight at some point. Advised to tell complainant to contact neighbour direct in first instance as they have done a lot of work.**

16 Dates of forthcoming meetings

suggested dates:

W 1.6.22, Th 30.6.22 (note change of dates)

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr

PR cllr Paddy Riordan

CB Colin Bowden cllr

MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

K? Kelly cllr

Note – kept on minutes FYI

Fisher Road. We do not recommend closing off this road due to it being the only 'bypass' should the high street between the crossroads and Sainsburys be blocked (e.g. RTA). Speed bumps and chicanes seem little help as it's quite a winding road with parked cars already. It seems to be the last section of Hurst Close to Headcorn Rd that is where the concern about speeding traffic has originated from. More evidence is needed of this so we invite the residents to join Speedwatch, train and log the concerning traffic.

'The Quarter' High street down the hill towards Pinnock Lane (Garage & Morrison shop)

: 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

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