

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

**Meeting Date & Venue:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.



### 2. Speedwatch – Zero action due to other committeeman's and health

### 3. Sainsburys

Last snag jobs have been completed (dropped curbs etc)

Roundabout sign at an angle currently and a bollard knocked over. KCC – check on it by next meeting. No further accidents reported. **Action:** PR will email KCC.

### 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: -

Need to update HIP as previously stated– We recommend to full council, that they forward to Jennie for her comments. **Action:** check with Alison that it's been passed onto Jennie Watson. Do we now need to prioritise it? All in the group look at the HIP to be able to do this please.

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

PR met with JW lower speed limit and lights on the other side of the road could lead to development . . . . KCC own the verge on that side. 1.7 to the hedgerow, plus a bit to the barrier – very overgrown. Plenty of

room for a pavement to be put in which would be safer for those on the buses, dropped curb and crossing? Should KCC be doing more of a job at keeping this area clear?  
JW felt the likelihood of speed reduction is unlikely, so would need a Pelican crossing £60,000 in 40mph area. A road survey audit, traffic and pedestrian audit would be required.

**Action:** Notify KCC to cut back and clear the hedge area / grass verge. PR will do.

**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

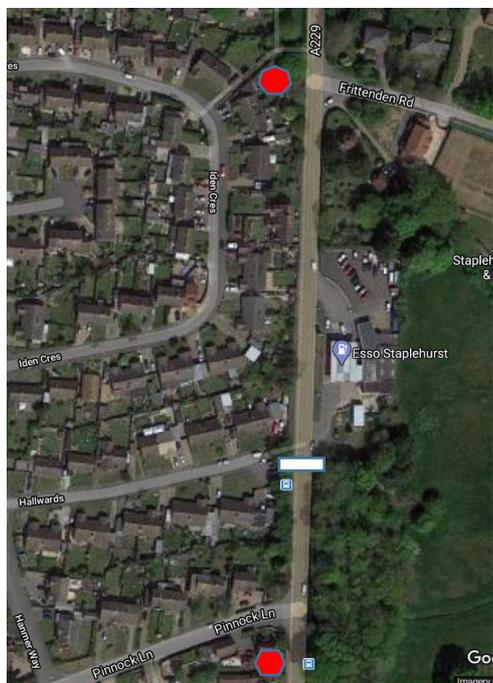
\* Bus stop on both sides of the road - opposite the garage & on the garage side it's past the Pinnock Lane turn off towards Cranbrook.

\* 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.**

7. Request regarding an overgrown hedge. Agreed to send a RSG letter JB & MB will check and deliver.

8. Accident / incident report – MB None to report officially. FB chatter there was a 2 car crash on corner by Jubilee field, police called out.

9. Parish update – report accidents please, Highways safety improvements need evidence.

[staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com](mailto:staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com) We have a HIP that the RSG constantly push, all down to money! AS

Date & venue of next meeting: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021 6.30pm Zoom

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 6.30pm Zoom

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 6.30pm Zoom

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 6.30pm Zoom

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021 6.30pm Zoom

#### Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr

CB Colin Bowden cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr

MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

PR cllr Paddy Riordan

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.

### **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.

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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.

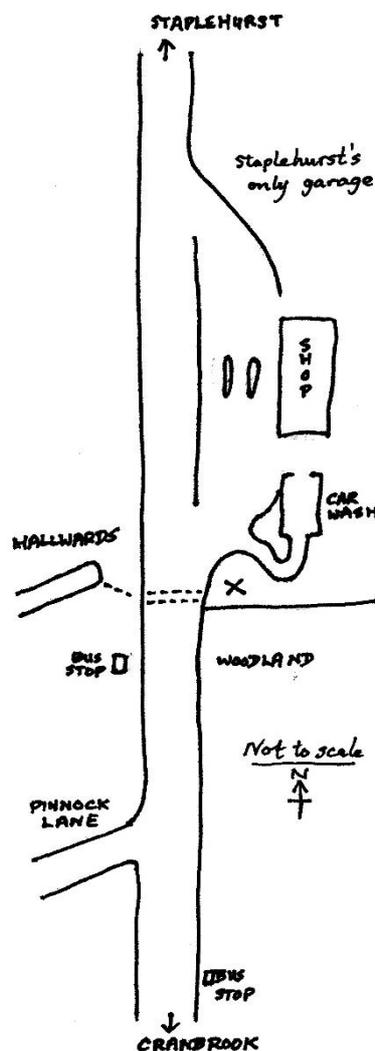
A site to the north of Pinnock Lane is possible with some imagination. (X marks the spot!)

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

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