

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Road Safety Group

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

Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman

Report

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

Apologies: Cllr Paddy Riordan (PR), K McClean (KM).

1. Matters Arising - none

2. Sainsburys shuttle bus

In June PR was in the process of agreeing a date to meet with Sainsburys end June / July?

It was suggested that in the meantime he send them their plan that they signed and suggest they add Cross at hand, Frittenden and KnoxBridge. Currently seems to still be travelling empty.

No further information as PR not available **Request PR to email any updates.**

3. New contacts at KCC Highways - email addresses on file for ease of access by all

Kent Highways contacts

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

Marden Road projects ref. Hen & Duckhurst aka Dickens Gate estate

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

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

Ask RG (clerk) to add Sainsburys contact (or does PR have this?) and circulate to RSG members (AS to add to minutes).

4. HIP (amended June 2022) - progress reports on 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 14_

We sent our updated HIP to Kent Highways – Jenni Watson but they have had a restructure – now East Kent Team, so there is a bit of readjustment taking place.

1. School entrance dropped curbs – MB lobbied for them to get on with during school holidays as the survey was done ages ago, so don't know why not being done.
2. Dble yellow lines



6. Hawkenbury Bridge - jobs are on the Kent Highways list
 7. The 20 mph not happening as we didn't get onto the pilot scheme.
 13 Commuter parking on estates due to train parking fees
 14. Local Plan - DM23 1.5 inadequate – JB will look at. Also lobby network rail about cheaper carparking for train £5.50 a day. **Ask RG clerk to do. Ask SNPRG to add a parking policy. AS to MA and RO**
 We now seem to be communicating with Elizabeth Bineham.
 Michelle Norris was going to discuss it with us but has replied that she is now away until 12th September.
 Liz (Elizabeth Bineham) 21st June raised jobs for Hawkenbury designs to be done.
 It seems that they have a new template for HIPs and we think Liz has put it on the new template, Geoff overseeing and reviewing.
 We have had an invite for a virtual meeting on 27th September 11- 12 am if its us and not Stockbury! We await to hear after 12th September!
 Team leaders: Michelle Norris ? Jennie Watson & ? Geoff?

5. Hedges – bird season so no cutting currently but we are approaching the end of the nesting season.

RG (clerk) sent us the 2021 letter – agreed that version is correct to send out, **just need RG to update with his name instead of Alison.**

No 12 Bower Walk's young tenants now aware that the area is their garden and responsibility but have made no attempt to minimise the brambles growing onto the pathway (JB keeps snipping bits off when passing) so they would need a letter end of August.



6. New SID Progress and survey responses

MB delivered 70 letters last week – 4 replies so far, 2 in favour, 2 hostile waste of money should be spent elsewhere. Whilst we agree their frustration, they have misunderstood it's a small amount of money (not enough to sort out Hawkenbury bridge for example), and is ring fenced. **MB with RG (clerk)** will draft a letter to explain to those who wish the money could be spent elsewhere. We feel their pain.

7. Hen and Duckhurst Gateway & dragons teeth

The cross roads are dangerous and we are keen to make it safer. Awaiting for Claremarie to tell us when its going to happen – no news yet!

8. 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.
 Half is already kerb stone and there are driveways so not too much work to do. All on hold while Highways are sorting themselves out. Not sure previous clerk sent email so **MB will chase / send.**

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr

PR cllr Paddy Riordan

MB Malcolm Buller speed watch rep

KM Kelly McClean cllr

9). 16a 16b Bower Walk garden, parking space at end of garage area.

MBC were checking the parking spaces for 16a & 16b (raised as 16b being sold and parking on deeds should be accurate)– no feedback.

10. Speedwatch report – MB - Hoping to get out more in August.

11. Accidents/incidents reported – staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com

There was one incident reported at the Crossroads. Lady on Headcorn Rd about to go across when a HGV (Fridays) came through and nearly hit her. Caught it all on her dashboard camera and sent to police.

AOB

* Tree in Martyrs memorial area was a concern. Notice appeared informing public it is to be removed.

* June complaint that Dragons Teeth South of Village bit not on North of village. This is because Maidstone road has the least amount of speeding. Keep in mind to maybe add to HIP at next update.

Dates of forthcoming meetings: Th 18 Aug, Th 15 Sept 6.30pm Zoom

Meeting ended 8pm

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Note – kept on minutes FYI

'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

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.

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