

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

**Meeting Date & Venue:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

**Report Author:** Adele Sharp - Chairman

**Report**

**Present were:** Adele Sharp (AS), J Buller (JB) , M Buller (MB) Speed Watch Rep , S Forward (SF)

**Apologies:** Colin Bowden (CB). Cllr Paddy Riordan (PR)

The report of 10th December 2020 was accepted.

1. **Speedwatch** – Again, we can't currently do any speedwatch due to Covid, no matter how keen we are to survey the Cranbrook Road.

Another person has completed their online training – we now have 2 that need to do their road side training but, due to Covid, over 70's are not allowed to do 'Speedwatch' at present so MB will do asap when allowed.

The Sainsburys area now seems to be flowing well. Re the previous issues with the pathway and pedestrians endangering themselves going into the road, MB contacted the police, Kent high ways and Sainsburys as there was only one crossing on North side. A second one has been put in now. Good result.

2. **Marden Road / Clapper Lane crossroads** – As previously stated MB contacted Jenni Watson @ Kent Highways. No change since the telephone conversation when she agreed that she would come out when allowed to – Due to Covid there have been no chance of a visit yet.

**Action** – Need to keep this on the agenda to contact Jenny Watson at Kent Highways to do a site visit when Covid restrictions allow. (ask MBC to cut hedges for safety, need 30 MPH put back to where it said they would

3. **Lodge Road - increased traffic** - Development site

We have advised SPC Planning to keep an eye on this potential development site

It seems the owners of the site may have mothballed development as they are advertising the fields for rent on a 6-month basis.

Main point is that a link road is required to allow development there. Light vehicles only, not HGV use. If this is granted we need to make sure that they put the infrastructure in place before permission for the housing.

**Action** - Advise planning to be aware, remind Hen and Duckhurst of the requirement of the link.

4. **SPC Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) is now on the SPC website - priorities:** -

4.1 **Hawkenbury Bridge** item 10 on HIP. Accidents.

We requested the clerk to put the email address for reporting accidents on the SPC website and Facebook page to be more easily visible. [staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com](mailto:staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com)

There have been zero reports / contacts since our last meeting of any accidents.

We know there was an accident in Station Rd carpark as per FB chatter, but not reported.

4.2 **Church Hill Gateway works** – **Still should be happening soon.**

4.3 **Gybbon Rise** parking issues - on hold due to COVID.

4.4 **Road damage** – Some have been done Jaggard Way & Marden Road. Need to keep an eye on Bathurst Road. Been done randomly but no more done.

4.5 Government parking on pavements consultation (making it illegal to park on pavements). MB encourages us all to do it online.

4.6 **Homeleights** & parking. PR not here to report

5. **Narrow paths** - Again all on hold due to Covid.

5.1 Due to overgrown hedges A resident in Station Road had a hedge letter, 3/4 days later it was cut back and the thank you slip was posted.

5.2 Homeleights, narrow path from the crossroads, on the Homleights side towards the station. It is in the Local Plan review about pavements which must be 1.5 minimum.

New provisions regarding private space for all new housing and private flats - balcony or private space suitable for two people to sit on.

It would be good to pursue a 'correction' to the road there in order to make the pavement functional. No room in front of the 2 cottages where the pavement is thinnest so it would need to encroach into the road, also unlikely and KCC clearly have other priorities.

6. Garage & Morrison shop - puffin / pelican zebra crossing crossing on the High St between the Hallwards Path and Pinnock Lane

Previously, we discussed where would be a safe place to put a crossing.

Triangle of green between woodland area and roadway into car wash could be tarmac which would allow bus stop and crossing to go in?

It was thought that a safer place would be by the garage exit, but that would require the cooperation of the garage. Also suggested that the 30mph speed limit be extended further in the South direction to end of the quarter (already in our HIP 4). We shouldn't have to wait for a RTA or worse mortality before we get taken seriously. The area has become quite a bit more popular.

Action – MB has produced a visual plan of the ideas to add to our request for this to be added to our HIP. Ask clerk to send this to J Watson @ Kent Highways.

7. A.O.B.

\* Cranbrook Road amendments – keep being pushed back – hope it's still going to happen. Worried about end of financial year as works were due to be done in November 2020. MB will contact J Watson for an update.

Headcorn pedestrian crossing We have 3 pedestrian crossings on Marden Rd, 1 on Station Rd, why no crossing on Headcorn Rd? Technically there is one by Bovis – a drop kerb and raised tile but no push button crossing! We think it is worth pushing to improve it.

Action: Ask clerk to contact MBC making the point that we feel this work by Bovis is the bare minimum required to comply with the requirement to have a crossing and is inadequate for the area. Remind MBC that not only are there all the residents but also a a busy preschool nursery there (Poppies). Is there any 106 money left that could be use?

\* Also note Bovis need to do 2 bus boarders as well and Sainsburys need to do 2 bus borders but they have not been told where to put them yet

\* Marden rd crossing – MB spoke to contractors resurfacing the road with anti skid surface. They have done a good job so far – almost finished, just awaiting light to be finished. Noted that they had to shut Northdown to be able to do this work. Example fo how inconvenient cul de sacs are when something like this has to be done and residents become trapped!

\* Kebab shop saga - Vehicle parking in front of shop blocking path. Alison has been doing a fab job talking to them and has let Pete Gardner know too.

\* Hen & Duckhurst site – advise SPC Planning to keep an eye on the Hen and Duckhurst conditions – A recommendation for speed humps at various points in Marden Road has resurfaced. As before they are inappropriate on country lane, this is not an estate. All sorts of reason not to have them as : against Kent and govt policy which is to remove speed humps not make new ones, too close to current crossings and drainage culverts.

8. Date & venue of next meeting: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 7pm Zoom

The meeting ended at 7:50pm.

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp cllr  
CB Colin Bowden cllr

JB Joan Buller cllr

SF Sue Forward cllr MB

PR cllr Paddy Riordan

Malcolm Buller speed watch rep