

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Road Safety Group
Meeting Date & Venue: Monday 27th April 2023, 10am @ office
Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman

Report

Present were: A Sharp (AS), M Buller (MB) Speed Watch Rep.
Apologies: Cllr Paddy Riordan (PR). Kelly McAtee (KM), J Buller (JB).

1. Matters Arising - none

2. HIP – Please note MBC only allow us to have 2 'live' projects - wish list is 'archived'.

Team leaders: Michelle Norris & Greg McNicholl.

- AS did a letter for the office to send to the resident regarding their suggestions for the Crossroads. RG sent.

- AS delivered letters to Butcher Close and will check to see whether issue is resolved.

HIP 1. Double Yellow Lines by school entrance, agreed but still not done. . . . **Agreed by KH, should come off our HIP but still not done so we need to remind KH it needs doing!**

HIP 2. The Quarter - Bus stop / crossing & 30mph HIP item 3

MB explained that Michelle Norris is asking to set up a phone meeting with PR to discuss. We would prefer an onsite visit but she is based in East Kent.

We need to make clear what guaranteed funding there is (from developers).

Then there would need to be surveys done by KH & agree where to put survey strips.

Currently the issues for KH causing them to turn down our request for a crossing are:-

- * It's a 40mph area – needs to be moved back to Fullers House entrance (the Tudor house) where orchards and farmland begins, where current 40mph / 50mph is.
- * footfall is considered too low, only accessing the garage shop or the bus stop.
- * a crossing can not be near the entrance / exit of the garage/ Pinnock lane
- * no footpath from Frittenden Road to garage nor on to the bus stop. There is only a tiny bit of footpath that the bus stop is on.

In response:-

* There is no cost to them as funding is there via developers, Kent Highways do not have to foot the bill. S106 funding £350,000 for improvements & station CIL money redirected for road crossing.

* We feel that the very fact that pedestrians are crossing at a dangerous point on the A229 is an accident about to happen.

* nowhere suitable for a crossing there, (if this was the only criteria used, there would be no crossing at the parade by the chemist. It does have a desire line and more footfall but not ideal).

* KH installed the bus top there (historical?) 'in a dangerous place'

Our Hip 3 is to make this area 30mph – As HIP 1 DYL at the school has been agreed, we should activate Hip3 with KH although it is part of the whole scheme relating to HIP2.

We suspect they will say only 2 a year and their restructure occurred in September 2022 so they may argue we can't activate it until September 2023 – who knows!

Action: Still seeking clarity on this as we are getting mixed messages, LPR (county councillor) seems to think its possible, but KH Michelle says no, as it doesn't meet the criteria. We await result of communication between Michelle and PR. Note – we are about to have elections on 4th May.

Archived HIP items

HIP 6. Hawkenbury Bridge work completed - signs etc. - archived as can only have 2 things live on HIP

HIP 7. Roads near school - plan to install SID in Bathurst Rd - see item 4

HIP 8. Narrow paths Cuckolds Corner / crossroads - Greg felt road might yield 20cm nothing significant.

MB emphasised that the junction is already above capacity and pedestrians have to step into the road to pass each other. Too narrow for wheel chairs and buggies. - archived **9-14** Michelle returned to the only 2 priorities per year - remaining items are 'archived' Broken edges of country lanes should not be on HIP but be reported via 'report a fault' on website. The Marden Rd roundabout misuse is a police matter.

Action: Amend HIP as soon as No1 done.

4. New SID – Background - *David Wilson homes have agreed to pay for the SID and have asked KCC to send the invoice to them to pay direct.*

Toby has previously agreed to the 3 sites suggested & SPC agreed to SID in full council meeting. Can't include high street as traffic too heavy and the battery would drain rapidly also would need to consult high street residents.

Action: Await payment and installation. Still no news

5. Local Plan – Parking

Due to Texaco garage development, SPC agreed our suggestion to consult residents along the high street about having double yellow lines (DYL) along the high street and single yellow lines (SYL) for side roads. Letter done and results coming in.

Currently Station Road is DYL crossroad to Homeleigh, SYL the rest of Station Road.

JB wrote a parking policy for SNP and added by SNPRG DM23 1.5.

Action: Results were collated and sent in and is **on the next Full council agenda** for consideration to recommend the DYL. Looking at the 'nays' there is a case that some consideration about delivery vehicles needs to be made. Single yellow line or simply a sign 'deliveries only'

6. Sainsburys shuttle bus

Still trying to get some clarity on this issue. Sainsburys asked SPC to confirm that we have been liaising with them, which we are but they want us to support there changes but they are not following the written condition to supply a shuttle bus for Staplehurst, So difficult to say we support their changes!

MB had suggested a route through Staplehurst to Sissinghurst, Frittenden, Headcorn, Hawkenbury, Staplehurst. AND Cross at hand, Marden , Pinnock Lane and back.

Questions for Sainsburys:

* Is that the route now?

* How long does that journey take to know how long people had to wait to go home?

* How do residents 'flag the bus down'?

Changes to the No5 timetable with less coverage make this even more important.

Action: Clerk chases this on a weekly basis. Gary at Sainsburys seems very positive but doesn't seem to action anything agreed.

7. Hawkenbury Bridge

Kent Highways completed their work yellow backed signs to help. MB confirmed that there is no signage on the approach to the railway bridge, but there are signs on both approaches to the single track river bridge where accidents occur. We still have concerns. Also noted that one of the signs has already been knocked over and is laying in the hedge.



Action: AS reminded RG to request FOI re number of accidents and how much money Kent Highways have spent on repairs to date.

8. Hedges – 1st March is start of bird nesting season. Note and leave until Autumn.

9. Speedwatch - Two new volunteers have been trained and one been out. Three road side sessions on quieter roads for training Headcorn Road.

Auto speedwatch more vehicles coming past at 46mph + so getting letters and figures being recorded. Letter number 5 /6 is hand delivered by an officer.

10. Accidents/incidents reported – staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com – none reported

AOB

* RG clerk 30mph blue stickers on bins. – on investigation with environmental services, officially not allowed although KCC are providing them! www.smartwheelie.co.uk
Kent Highways 'free' tool kit 30mph signs – delivered. There is a large poster banner but we don't know where best to display it.

Action: If residents ask, let them know where they can get them from. Personal choice.

Defer to next meeting:

* Fishers Road - bottom - car parking - filling in ditch area to make rear access to gardens - sounds like an MBC planning enforcement issue.

* Market Street / Winches Garth - an access made into Fishers Road at rear & parking on green at bottom of road.

* bins not collected before people go to work due to too many cars. They will be doing them later in the day which may solve that. clerk to check if MBC own the green - suggest they either protect it or grass crete it. left into wiches garth into . . . some parking bays and then dble yellow line - could be parking area as no purpose to dble yellow line and we are sure noone enforces it. MBC need to investigate this area.

Selling cars down there too, even the police have done a check. Have they moved to Fishers road?

Action : Has MBC looked into?

Dates of forthcoming meetings: 22nd May, 26th June, 17th July, Aug no meeting, 10am @ office

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

Sainsburys contact? Gary ?

Note – kept on minutes FYI

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

Costs: 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

* 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)