

## **August 2020 KCC Report – Cllr Geoff Lymer**

### **The first wave of schemes to encourage walking and cycling in the county has been announced by Kent County Council.**

In total there will be four 20mph schemes – two town-wide schemes in Faversham and Tonbridge, and two town centre schemes in Margate and Tunbridge Wells. These schemes are being introduced through an Experimental Traffic Order meaning they will be installed by mid-September and a consultation will run afterwards to decide whether to make them permanent. These trials form part of the government's push for 'active travel' in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and Kent County Council has provisionally been allocated just over £8 million by the Department for Transport to invest in walking and cycling. The first round of funding that has been agreed by government is £1.6 million with the remainder dependent on this first round being spent within eight weeks.

A second wave of schemes will be dependent on the government's decision to award further funding. A submission was made this week and further schemes will be announced once funding has been confirmed. Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport Michael Payne said: "Kent Highways has been successful in being granted 100% of the money that we were able to bid for in the first stage. "This means the first wave of schemes can now be put in place. These schemes are ready to roll having been chosen by officers from among the many ideas that have been worked on. "If these initial trials are successful, and we subsequently receive the second tranche of monies that the Government has said it is prepared to allocate to Kent, even more schemes will be rolled out. "We have to be realistic in that the first round of schemes will not satisfy everyone who has made suggestions, but by concept testing, in a way that has not been previously affordable, we have the chance to encourage more cycling and walking and make our roads safer for all users."

#### **Other schemes within this first wave include:**

##### **Somerset Road, Ashford pop up cycle lanes**

One lane in each direction will be turned into cycle lanes along New Street, Somerset Road and Mace Lane, segregated from traffic with posts. Gaps will be left to allow access to businesses and homes. There will also be gaps at bus stops and road junctions.

##### **Harbour Street and Albion Street, Broadstairs**

Through traffic will be stopped from using Albion Street from the junction with Charlotte Street to the entrance to Albion Street car park. The scheme will create a new pedestrianised zone [between 10am and 10pm](#). Access will be maintained for deliveries, pedestrians, cyclists and buses.

##### **St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury**

The pavement will be widened on the eastern section of St Dunstan's Street between Station Road West and North Lane using temporary bolt down posts. The road will be closed at the western end of Kirby's Lane, restricting access for vehicles. Cycle parking areas and new seating and planters will be installed along Station Road West within some of the existing parking bays.

##### **A256 Maison Dieu Road, Dover**

Conversion of the nearside lane of Maison Dieu Road into a temporary cycle/bus lane, starting at the junction with Bridge Street, continuing south east to Castle Street, where cyclists will be directed onto a temporary shared cycle route. This route will be segregated from traffic but still allow for vehicular access to homes and pedestrians crossing.

**Phase 4B of the Cinque Ports cycle route scheme near the junction of St George's Place, A259, Dymchurch Road, Hythe.**

With improved signage, a shared use and widened 3m path and cycleway, and the relocation of existing sign posts and street furniture to ensure pedestrian and cyclist movement is relatively unobstructed. It will start from the junction of Reachfields on the A259 Dymchurch Road to St George's Place and connect to the existing cycle route from St George's Place to the new housing development Martello Lakes at Nickoll's Road, near Palmarsh to the west of Hythe.

**School Street – Drapers Mill Academy, Margate**

St Peter's Footpath, which serves the Drapers Mills Primary Academy, will be temporarily closed on weekday mornings [between 8am and 9.30am](#) and in the afternoon [between 2pm and 3.30pm](#). In addition to this, signs and road narrowing on College Road will warn drivers of the changes and help to slow down traffic passing the school. A Park and Stride site will be established with access to an improved public right of way five minutes' walk from the site.

**Station Road, Westgate-On-Sea**

A one-way system heading west between Roxburgh Road and St Mildred's Road will be created, including changes to parking bays to encourage active travel whilst promoting social distancing in a shared space. Planters, seating and bolt down lane delineators will be used to reallocate road space. Bus operation will be unaffected.

**Countywide [Public Rights of Way](#) improvements:**

**Scheme 1 Drapers Mill, Margate**

Public Footpath TM4 and Public Bridleway TM5 will see full vegetation clearance, route surfaces scraped and renewed to maximise width and improve safety.

**Scheme 4 Harbledown, Canterbury**

Public Footpath CB516 will undergo a full vegetation clearance, with the surface scraped, repaired and renewed.

**Scheme 5 Blean, Canterbury**

Public Footpath CB30 will undergo full vegetation clearance, and the surface will be scraped back and renewed, maximising the width.

**Scheme 6 Crab and Winkle Way Canterbury**

Public Bridleway CB518 will have the surface scraped back and repaired with a full vegetation clearance. New signage is to be installed to provide detailed information regarding the distance of the route.

**Scheme 7 Crab and Winkle Way Canterbury**

Public byway CB20 and Public Footpath CB20B will both have a full vegetation clearance with surfaces scraped and repaired to improve quality of use for all.

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