

COUNCIL UPDATE 8.2023

BOCKHANGER LANE

The tyre dump next to the emergency access to Grosvenor Hall from Bockhanger Lane has been removed. I had reported to environmental health at ABC.



TRINITY ROAD

When the footpath AE209 crosses Trinity Road, there are double offset cycle barriers on west but not east side. I think one is needed on east side. I have reported this under ref 763898.



FLYTIPPING CHEESEMANS GREEN LANE

I reported fly tipping at the Cheesemans Green Lane salt bin on 30th July – it was gone by 1st August!



ASHFORD CENTRAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The latest version.

1.	Romney Point	<p>Salt bin required as this road is now adopted and developer have not supplied any salt bins.</p> 	CMG	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>This can be requested via https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</p> <p>KCC will request this one on your behalf.</p>
2.	East Lodge Road	<p>The end of the footpath from Repton to East Lodge Road requires a drop down kerb to facilitate use.</p> 	Developer or CMG	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>KCC have done a Land Registry search and found this land belongs to ABC. Land Registry sent to Paul.</p> <p>Paul to approach ABC in regards to moving forward.</p>
3.	Henwood (near ex-ABC car park)	<p>Double yellow lines in Henwood (near former ABC car park) to allow safe exit and entry for HGVs to businesses.</p> 	ABC as car park developer	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>Discussed this location and KCC do not deem this a problem in its current state with the evidence available. This is the route to KCC Henwood office, so driven regularly by KCC officers.</p> <p>Paul stated that development is being planned for the carpark next to the fire station, so this may affect the roads upon completion.</p> <p>Paul to forward emails in relation to this to KCC.</p>
4.	Mill Court Cycle path	<p>At the bottom of East Hill towards the roundabout to Tesco's the path is narrow in places. Cyclists use this path (Mill side) frequently and often aggressively despite it being a designated footpath. I can understand the lack of desire to use the road in this section. Install "Cyclist Dismount" signs at the end of this footpath as it approaches East Hill / Mace Lane junction.</p> 	CMG	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>KCC to discuss this with Active Travel Team regarding cycle route and signage.</p>

5.	Mace Lane	<p>When approaching Hythe Road, Mace Lane has two lanes, one indicating Henwood, the other for going straight on or the right hand turn into Mill Court. Traffic use the left hand lane to go straight on into Hythe Road and there are frequent "road-rage" incidents against drivers who use the road incorrectly. Additional signage or road markings to avoid this are required.</p> 	ABC as housing developer of new accommodation on Henwood.	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>Paul was enquiring about the possibility of installing a sign denoting the lane designation. No crash record to suggest a safety issue at this time.</p> <p>KCC to discuss with P&A the option and costing of the addition of a sign, although unsure if it will reduce road rage incidents due to clear road markings currently not being adhered to.</p>
6.	Hythe Road	<p>Speed and vibration affecting quality of life for residents on Hythe Rd caused by HGVs accessing Henwood Business Park to take a rest break or overnight stay. HGV traffic use A292 instead of A2070 when M20 is closed.</p> <p>Possible road signage or traffic calming measures to be assessed. It would also be helpful if speed camera was functioning. Work with VOSA on how they fine lorries that use unauthorised routes when Brock is in place.</p> 	DTF	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>Paul stated that a report was being created on this following the JTB meeting. Therefore, we did not discuss in great detail and allow for this to be dealt with via the JTB.</p> <p>Left on live list to discuss following the next JTB meeting</p>
7.	Godinton Road	<p>Excessive traffic speed has been a problem for a long time. The layout of the residential parking leads to daily road rage often started by buses not giving way. Additional refuge gap needed around number 133. The gap next to the shops (opposite Eastern Ave) allows cars to pull in so mitigates against speeding to beat oncoming traffic. I would not recommend speed bumps as a solution as vibrations could cause structural damage to property that are built in close proximity to the roadway</p> 	ABC as part of LCWIP	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>HAMDS speed data sent to Paul showing average speeds below the 30mph limit. No recognised speeding issue.</p> <p>The parking here is permit holders only, therefore will be residents. KCC suspect that residents would not be happy to lose parking which is already limited, and therefore could prove difficult to pass a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which currently costs £2,850.</p> <p>For Paul to use this data, gauge public opinion on installation of double yellow lines (DYL) and come back to KCC if he still wishes to explore this option.</p>
8.	Gordon Close	<p>Reports of excessive speed around number 40. There is road narrowing and signage indicating that there is a speed hump but both are ineffective and an assessment is required as to whether the gradient on the speed hump is not sufficient to deter speeding. The solution may be to use coloured tarmac on table top.</p> 	CMG	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>HAMDS speed data sent to Paul showing average speeds below the 30mph limit. No recognised speeding issue. Paul suggested option of red tarmac on the table top. KCC explained the extra maintenance issue with this as it is not as durable as the black tarmac. This road is also used predominantly by residents who will not be affected by the addition of red tarmac as they already know how fast they can get over the hump.</p> <p>Paul to liaise with residents using the data provided. If still a persistent issue, there is a potential option of the addition of SLOW road markings, however this is unlikely to have any real effect on driver speed due to the area being a close.</p>

9.	Godinton Primary School	<p>Reports of careless parking in vicinity of School (other schools have similar problems). Lollypop crossing on Springwood Drive does displace parking from Lockholt Close and Springwood Drive but are DYL required on junction of these two roads to deter unsafe parking? Ensure school has policy in place to engage with parents</p> 	ABC enforcement team and KCC budget for supporting school travel plans	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>KCC have sent Paul the land registry data for Loudon Court as this is private land for a significant portion of the junction. This is the location that Paul stated was the biggest issue with vehicles parking during pick up and drop of times.</p> <p>Crash data does not relate to parked vehicles. Paul has been advised that he can see basic crash data via https://www.crashmap.co.uk/. For more detail such as contributory factors, Paul can contact KCC.</p> <p>For Paul to liaise with private land owners to discuss options and involve KCC where required.</p>
10.	A28 Chart Road (near tank roundabout)	<p>Road markings and signage when heading towards Tenterden. When approaching the roundabout from the Waitrose side, the dual carriageway continues for a short distance after the roundabout towards Matalan. There has been much debate online about the correct lane discipline for traffic continuing on the A28 in this direction. KCC Highways have themselves confirmed that this is the primary exit, and that both lanes may be used to continue on the dual carriageway, with an immediate merge being required after the exit. However, there is no signage or road markings to support this and there are frequent "road-rage" incidents against drivers who use the road correctly, but are cut up by others who don't.</p> 	Interim measure paid for by Chilmington Green developer or housing developer at former car show room.	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>Crash record is low on this roundabout and do not highlight the lanes being an issue resulting in collisions.</p> <p>Paul stated that there is potential development on the derelict site beside the roundabout. Potential options through developer agreements.</p>
11.	A28 dualling project	<p>The project has been aborted once due to failure to secure developer bond. There are issues over viability but this is a vital project for the development. Ensure the developer's bond is secured by ABC (as planning authority). Promote community and district member engagement on scheme as work on listed building wall starts local expectations will start to increase.</p> 	Developer	<p>29/06/2023-</p> <p>This is an ongoing scheme that has been severely delayed. No action currently by KCC highway improvements as developer based.</p>

The drop down kerb requested at East Lodge Road has been completed.



THE KENT & MEDWAY BETTER HEALTH NETWORK

The Network met on 1st November and covered the benefits from cold water swimming and the benefits to mental health. It is shown to address self-confidence, stamina, low level anxiety by social interaction in an informal group facing challenges (physical in cold water with living things in dark water). We also heard that it could help with mobility issues. Explore Kent promotes wild swimming at <https://explorekent.org/watersports-in-kent/wild-swimming-in-kent/>. Ashford has no immediate sites but I have since asked if ABC / Freedom Leisure can explore the opportunity at Conningbrook which would be an amazing place to swim; they have held triathlons there so could be possible in a structured and safe way.

Benefits of Physical Activity for Mental Health

- Boosting our self-esteem and confidence.
- Increasing motivation and focus.
- Reducing tension, anxiety, stress and mental fatigue.
- Helping to calm the mind, especially when dealing with difficult emotions like anger, frustration and sadness.
- Reducing loneliness by offering new ways to get together with family and friends and meet new people.



The benefits of physical activity



Linked to this is the Green & Blue Social Prescribing Network which includes “green providers” (Country Parks / Kent Wildlife Trust “wilder wellbeing project” etc) and the Integrated Care Board. Social prescribing includes conservation volunteering and projects that connect people with the outdoors. The aims of the Network are to fix the disconnect between a visit to a GP who may not mention enough about the opportunities for green & blue space connections. There is a lack of information for allied health professionals. There is no comprehensive audit of what is available, and this will now be started. There are 7 green social prescribing across the UK and there is talk about a further round of funding for future projects. I have asked for a report on social prescription at a future Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) meeting.

COMMUNITY SAFTY UNIT

The latest meting was held on 3rd August. Key issues included:

- Meeting with Kent Police and National Rail has been held regarding siting a mirror on the station underpass. A suitable location needs to be identified with landowners.
- Enforcement against access to Flour Mills resulted in improved hording but people are still accessing the site. Regular Fire and Rescue visits are being carried out. Owner, Oliver Davies, is aware and new alarms have been added.
- Once building work above the old Evans shop in North Street / Lower High Street is completed, access may be available for youth work (this could be by October half term). In the meantime, the bandstand and old foyer to the bingo hall will be used (mostly Tuesday and Thursdays) for youth work (but there will be no access to the bingo hall itself).
- Kent Police patrols increased around Lower High Street during peak period to create a higher visibility.
- Ashford Churchyard gating order is under review. Consultation ended on 13th August. If necessary and supported during the consultation, it will extended for three years.
- A deployable camera will be deployed at Goat Lees community hall / Chinese takeaway for three months. The lighting will be looked at.
- Member panel for ASB issues to be held ahead of each CSU meeting.
- Motorbike related crime around Stanhope is subject to active investigation.
- Referrals to KCC wardens have increased in Ashford. Community wardens are out between 7.30am and 10pm every day in communities across Kent. Their aim is to improve community resilience, support the elderly and vulnerable, foster community cohesion and wellbeing and assist with navigating the following community services:
 - Wellbeing service, looking to help residents join local groups, get their confidence to be among their local community.

- Mental health, help and support residents who suffer from mental health – signpost to organisations/charities that can help. Also contact Doctor on their behalf.
- Support with residents who are affected by anti-social behaviour/neighbourhood dispute.
- Vulnerable residents who are struggling to access to care or support, work with charities on benefits.
- Work with Social Services to make sure support is granted.
- Support for residents who have been victims of scams, report to trading standards and prevent them from further scams.
- Report fly tipping, potholes, and anti – social behaviour.
- Set up local projects to support residents i.e., dementia café, dog fouling campaigns and projects on youth.

Contact number is 03000 41 34 55 or adam.mckinley2@kent.gov.uk.

Referral levels may be considered during the consultation over the service which ends in October, an Age UK roadshow is planned for September.

- The introduction of Family Hubs in Kent by KCC will mean changes to how residents access services currently provided by Children’s Centres, Youth Hubs and community youth provision, Health Visiting services and Community-based midwifery care. A consultation is a way to have your say at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-offer> and closes on 13th September.
- 200 homeless applications per month are being received by ABC.

DAMAGED FOOTPATH SIGN

I have reported the footpath sign on Templer Way which is hanging at a precarious angle for investigation by Highways (ref 738542)



CANTERBURY ROAD BENCH

I reported the vandalism to the bench outside the Quaker House on Canterbury Road along with the damaged sign nearby that has been bent around by 180% - a prodigious feat of vandalism! (ref 738662)



The bench was removed quickly by ABC



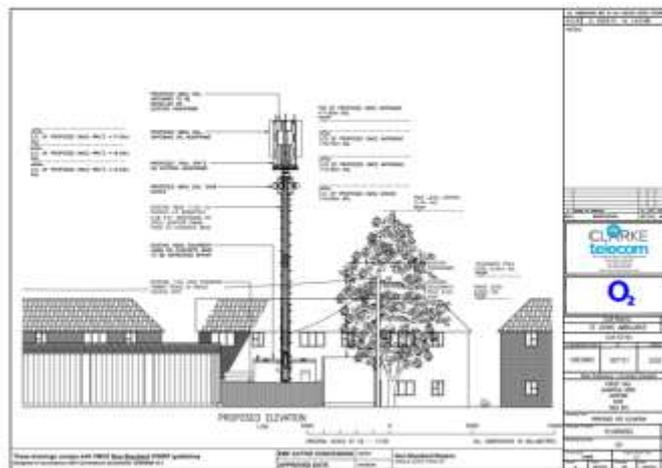
5G MAST AT ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE STATION

I have been contacted for pre-application advice for a new mobile phone mast at the St John's Ambulance Station at Barrow Hill. The applicants advise that the site is needed to provide enhanced 2G, 3G, 4G coverage and capacity as well as new 5G service provision. They wish to extend mobile geographical coverage.



DETAILED SITE LOCATION
(Scale 1:1000)

Based upon Ordnance Survey data without
with the permission of the Controller of
Her Majesty's Stationery Office
Ordnance Survey
Licence No. 100023442



CHURCH ROAD LITTER

I reported littering and fly tipping of (what looked like) cooking oil to ABC (ref 17990956). It was gone within 48 hours!



I reported that the “Unsuitable for HGV” sign has been turned around 180 degrees (ref 739692). It was quickly repaired by Highways.



GENERAL PRACTICE AND KCC ADULT SOCIAL CARE (ASC)

I had a meeting with KCC ASC and Local Medical Council (GP representatives) on 10th August to understand how they can communicate better to improve patient experience.

An on-line portal is currently used with 200+ referral forms and routes. This portal requires much more GP time than the old letter referral system. This is time the GPs could better use seeing patients. GPs use a common IT system and there is work by the ICB for GPs to refer patients to acute hospitals which could be done by administrative staff, freeing up GPs. Can KCC and GPs develop something similar?

KCC ASC is not a uniform service. “Care” is means tested (which means that NHS and ASC can never be fully integrated as there will always be a chort of the population who do not qualify for ASC). Care needs to be reviewed annually. “Wellbeing” is not means tested but is resource constrained and the distinction is a grey area. Resources are limited because there are 40%

workforce vacancies (there is no London weighting in Dartford, 5 miles from areas where the weighting is given – the London weighting needs to be staircased in West Kent).

In Kent there are 518 care homes from large “BUPA” style state of the art facilities used by those falling outside the means testing (about 1/3rd); 1/3rd used by the NHS so not available to KCC leaving only 1/3rd for KCC. 95% of KCC ASC is contracted out to providers which require safeguarding and capacity checks – ASC clients can be discharged with a considerable amount of support equipment. Much of what KCC does is over and above ASC but KCC still pays for the package.

The situation is worse in East Kent (if East Kent was a council, it would be the 9th largest in the country) because of the dreadful state of the NHS estate. In any given building one corridor may be suitable for use but another out of bounds.

The solution is for the ICB to focus on preventive work stopping people having to go to hospital in the first place. They are currently reactive (“if you are ill we will fix you”) as part of a 5 year plan. Other changes are that ASB has been restructured into 28 local teams matching district footprints. Work will be carried out to match these 28 teams to the 42 Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Senior ASC staff hope to attend the Kent and Medway GP Board. Each team will have a hub for face-to-face meetings with care navigators in one place and area referral manager; on-line referrals has gone too far. This is hoped to create a trusted local relationship.

STATION ROAD

I reported the damaged traffic sign outside the Everest Inn, it was hanging at head hight so dangerous (ref 739540). KCC removed the dangling panel quickly.



HYTHE ROAD CROSSING

I reported the cycle / pedestrian crossing not working near the garage on Hythe Road (Ref 739690)



IBF

The government is expected to announce a further delay to post-Brexit border controls on animal and plant products coming from the EU at Sevington IBF, with concern over the impact of increased bureaucracy on inflation. ABC (who will carry out the checks under their environmental health remit) have chased the DEFRA director for the latest date.

QUANTOCK DRIVE VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION

I have been advised that our application to have Quantock Drive Green Space regarded as a Village Green may be held by Kent County Council on 20th September at 10am. I will post more updates when I hear more, for example will residents be able to attend. If it does go ahead on that date it will be in Maidstone at County Hall, Sessions House.



DOVEDALE COURT

I visited (with Alan Cooper and Deborah Prior from Kennington Community Council) to take photographs following a request from ABC as to whether a planning application is required for the proposed community garden.



View from playing field



View from entrance



Views from opposite side of Quantock Drive



View of garden as it is now

I have asked ABC to attend to the poor quality of the car park section that is in their ownership and the kerb trip hazard (ref 741429).



HYTHE ROAD

Following complaints about heavy use by HGVs and impact on residents, KCC has responded as follows. Hythe Road (A292) forms part of KCC's Resilient Highway Network which includes roads connecting main towns with a population more than 20,000 to the National Highways Strategic Road Network. In addition, Ashford is a nominated "Primary Destination" which means that "A" roads need to be linked to other nominated designations, Hythe Road links Ashford to A20 to Folkestone, also a nominated primary destination. Any restriction to HGVs from the A292 would not be supported as it should remain publicly accessible to all traffic and KCC would not want HGVs seeking alternative routes from Hythe Road. The road surface was attended to during the last week of August.

FRITH ROAD & BROAD OAK CROSSROADS

I met with officers on 22nd August.

Road lining from Coopers Lane has all but disappeared and will be refreshed. The lines are more visible from Priory Road, but road surface does need to be improved along with repainting the lines. Signs to be replaced with reflective signs and road markings will be added.



Slow markings will be added at Broad Oak crossroads. Vegetation etc will be dealt with. Slow making will be added to the Chequer Tree T junction.



BYBROOK ROAD

The removal of the tarmac over the concrete has been completed, and much better it looks for the work being completed.



Before



After

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