

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of the Highways Improvement Working Group held on Wednesday 10 December 2025 by Teams commencing at 10.00am.

Present: Cllr S Fishenden (Chairman)
Cllr F Cottee
Cllr M Fothergill – Kent County Councillor
Cllr C Gorton
Cllr P Kirtley
Cllr M Manley
Cllr V Ngwenya
Mr N Rowe – Community Engagement Officer (West), Kent Highways

In attendance A de Jager (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr F Cottee.

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Notes of Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting of 21 October 2024 were RECEIVED and NOTED.

4. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

Update on:

- Ash Road Pedestrian Crossing (Millfield and Shopping Centre). Kent Highways confirmed that the white line marking is adequate. The crossing already has pole lights, beacon lights and overhead lights and therefore no further lighting improvements can be made. The Village Association has cut back the shrubs on both sides of the crossing and will be asked to maintain the vegetation on an ongoing basis.
- Bunkers Hill – the Ridley Society identified this road as a location of excessive speeding. Mr Rowe explained that telematic data (captured from all vehicles fitted with satellite navigation devices from 2015 onwards, delivery and fleet vehicles) shows no speeding issue, with average speeds 19.7mph to 21.7mph and the highest speed recorded of 37mph. Therefore this item would not be included in the HIP.
- Ash Road Pedestrian Crossing (Olivers Mill Bus Stop) – the pedestrian survey results show insufficient usage to justify a crossing. Typically over 300 pedestrian movements per day are required.

The HIP will be updated accordingly.

5. Consideration was given to the following:

5.1 South Ash Lane/Ash Road/The Street – Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) in excess of 7.5 tonne. It was acknowledged that there has been an increase in the number of HGVs on this road, and indeed nationally, the individual request responses are as follows:

- Speeding – the majority of HGVs will not speed on lanes due to the required braking distance. (for example a lorry travelling at 50mph would need approximately 50m to stop).

- Congestion – some congestion is inevitable when vehicles pass. Kent Highways cannot extend or create new passing points as they do not own the adjoining land.
- Damage to water pipes – no known reports logged with Kent Highways.
- Damage to private property and hedges – no known reports logged with Kent Highways.
- Extreme potholes – These can be reported via the KCC website by the public or by the Parish Council. For this reason, potholes are not included in HIPs.
- Excess litter – this should be reported directly to Sevenoaks District Council.

This is not a restricted road. The alternative HGV route via Longfield includes a 4.5m bridge height restriction, which may restrict access. Most HGVs have satnavs that are tailored to them. Dimensions, weight etc are entered and then a route is given avoiding restricted roads.

In addition to the above, it was noted that there is an information sign (Unsuitable for wide vehicles) at the intersection of Ash Lane and the A20, but no corresponding sign on the Ash side. Cllr P Kirtley PROPOSED that this is added to the HIP. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.

5.2 Other Matters for Consideration

- North Ash Road resurfacing – North Ash Road near the junction with Ash Road was scheduled to be resurfaced. This did not take place due to weather conditions. Kent Highways will be contacted in this regard.
- North Ash Road – white line marking – a request for renewal of white line marking from the junction with Ash Road to the Manor House will be made direct to Kent Highways.

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 10am via Teams.

The meeting closed at 10.33am