

NOVEMBER 2022 UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Since my last report in October 2022, I have reported 2 further Highway issues to KCC. This means there is an increase to a grand total of 103.

These 2 new issues relate to the 30mph signs in Pond Farm Road just as you enter the village. The sign is obscured by vegetation and the 30mph sign on the road is worn out.

95 of the 103 have now been dealt either in a satisfactory manner or with a satisfactory explanation. 8 are still outstanding including the two new ones.

Clearance of the footpath at Bannister Hill is the responsibility of the adjoining property owner and the KCC have written to them to remind them of this responsibility. The cutting back of the vegetation around the 30mph sign in Borden Lane has been scheduled as has the provision of new signs at the junction of Sutton Baron Road and Pond Farm Road. KCC state that work has been completed on the diseased tree in Wrens Road. They also state that the flooding issues at Wises Lane junction with the A2 and at Danaway have been sorted out.

The blocked drain in The Street is scheduled to be cleared in the next few months. The school sign in School Lane has yet to be moved. Other works still to be completed include the white line renewals in Pond Farm Road, and Oad Street. I understand that the white line renewal in Wises Lane will be programmed along with other highway work on this road.

Provision of Bench at junction of Mountview and The Street

The provision of a bench at this junction was agreed recently by Council and KCC Highways have given permission for it to be located within their land. KCC have now decided to remove local bus services, The Council has two choices about the location of any new seat. Either in the bus shelter or just outside the shelter on the originally agreed spot. A decision about the standard of Bench, also has to be reached now that estimates have been obtained.

M2/Junction 5 Stockbury roundabout improvements

Councillors will be aware that the eastbound slip road from between the M2 and the A249 will be closed until the 13th January 2023. Oad Street was reopened on the 9th October. At our last meeting I reported that Cllr Sims and I met with a representative from Grahams on the 13th September to voice our concern about these proposals. Unfortunately, despite asking for a further meeting with the project engineer to determine the reasoning behind such a long closure of the slip roads there has been no further contact.

There has been further road closures announced concerning the A249 north and southbound between Bobbing and Stockbury over weekends in November and December with diversions along Chestnut Street and Maidstone Road.

A letter of complaint regarding the proliferation of highway works on alternatives routes, namely the A2, was sent to a number of parties and Cllr Brazier responsible for Highway issues in KCC has responded and his response has been circulated.

Members will be aware that there has been some confusion about the lifting of the width restriction in Chestnut Street and Maidstone Road. I am trying to get the situation rectified by the provision of extra signs at the junction of School Lane and Chestnut Street and enforcement of the width restriction, through the proper display of signs, during the times when there is no diversion in place.

Information about road closures and diversions continues to be supplied by Grahams and are displayed by the Clerk on our various social media pages.

There has still been no contact from National Highways and KCC Highways with regard to the missing link at Oad Street.

KCC Highways Service

A number of speed measurements been conducted during October throughout the Parish. As yet no results are known but I hope to be in a position to report further progress in the coming months.

Waiting restrictions in The Street, Borden.

It was agreed by Council in October to consult with local residents about the proposal to extend the waiting restrictions in The Street, Borden by some 50 metres. Letters are about to be dispatched.

Speedwatch

Council decide in August that the Speedwatch scheme needed someone to organise the various aspects and also in October to place a request on various social media platforms for a Speedwatch co-ordinator. This has been done and one reply has been received and is currently being followed up.

John Fassenfelt November 2022.