

HPC November 2021 Forum Entry

Hartlip Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

Councillors were concerned that the 'Slow Children' signs on Munns Lane which warn motorists of the Recreation Ground Children's Playground were seriously hidden by untrimmed hedges with one in need of repair. A councillor was charged to pursue this matter as urgent with KCC.

Comments have been received about the road markings with some residents pleased to see the speed limit emphasised and other unhappy about them. KCC rationale behind signs on the road is that hedgerows in country areas often hide signs.

A query had been raised regarding the positioning of the Hartlip sign/white gate at the junction of The Street/Munns Lane and on KCC Highways land. There had been a suggestion that it should have been installed on Hartlip Hill. Councillors agreed that this work comprised the replacement of the Hartlip sign which had been correctly positioned in this location for very many years and the introduction of a white gate designed to provide a visual prompt to motorists that they are entering a village environment which warrants and has a low speed limit of 20mph and to request that they drive carefully. On both counts the location of the sign and gate is exactly correct.

Whilst the Parish Council works for the whole Parish of Hartlip and views all parts as equally important, the fact remains that the parish comprises Hartlip Hill, Hartlip (the ancient village), Lower Hartlip, lanes to the west of The Street and a part of Queendown Warren. These areas have historic roots and are featured on Ordnance Survey maps.

A query had been raised regarding the reduction of the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph on Munns Lane. KCC rationale for this decision, which had been presented in detail to the Parish Council by County Councillor Mike Whiting during its work on the Parish Highways Plan, was revisited.

KCC has now published a Public Notice regarding the speed limit changes and this informs the public that anyone may challenge the validity of the order by application to the High Court and the terms under which they may do so.

The Parish Council will, as it had already undertaken to do, review the Parish Highways Plan and investigate what other highways improvements may/may not be possible to achieve in the Parish of Hartlip. This will include review of the reduced speed limit from 60mph to 40mph on three roads in due course.