



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

**Minutes of the Highways Working Group Meeting held Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7.30pm
Conducted via Zoom electronic communication**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Pate (Chairman), Curry, Ellery, Langridge, Turner and Mrs Woodliffe with Mr Norton and Mr Whittaker (7.34pm).

BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS PRESENT: County Cllr McInroy and Borough Cllr Sankey (8.29pm).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were no members of public present.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs K Neve - Clerk and Mrs C Barrett – Assistant Clerk

1. To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting

No-one present intended to film, photograph or record the meeting.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Scarbrough (work commitments).

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4. Declarations of Lobbying

There were none.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting dated 8th September 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Review of the action points

The action points were reviewed. It was agreed that action points 13/21, 18/21, 20/21, 23/21, 24/21, 25/21, 27/21, 28/21, 29/21, 30/21, 31/21, 32/21, 33/21, 34/21, 35/21 and 37/21 would be taken off. Action points 1/21, 6/21, 7/21, 12/21, 21/21, 22/21, 26/21, 36/21, 38/21, 39/21, 40/21, 41/21, 42/21, 43/21, 44/21, 45/21, 46/21 and 47/21 were marked as complete. Action point 19/21 was carried forward.

7. Public Open Session

There were no members of public present.

8. Matters Arising and Correspondence

The Clerk had heard from a resident of The Old Dairy, Barden Road about their concerns over near misses on the bend heading towards Speldhurst. Drivers were regularly obliged to forcibly apply their brakes on this bend which had caused a large pothole. Cllr Pate said the pothole had been reported and preparatory work had begun on filling it. Actions were set for the clerks to add this location to the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) and update the resident.

9. Review of Highways Committee's Budget

It was confirmed that payment had been made to KCC Highways for work on the A264 speed reduction. £17,000 had been carried over from the previous year and a further £10,000 allocated for the coming year, giving an available balance of £27,000.

10. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish

The Clerk reported that PCSO Booth had sent details of recent road traffic accidents (RTA's). Cllrs were pleased to see that data was once again being provided by the Police. If this continued, Cllr Turner suggested six-monthly reviews of RTA hotspots and trends.

11. TRO – 50-40mph A264 Ashurst and B2110 Groombridge Hill

The speed reduction had now been implemented. Cllr Pate congratulated all involved in bringing about the reduction, adding that it was testament to the working group's perseverance and willingness to work with KCC Highways on behalf of the parish.

12. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) including consideration of any new issues by village

Old Groombridge

- The Clerk had contacted the Planning Officer assigned to the Burrswood development. The Planning Officer would be in touch when there was anything to report, so the working group could move to secure S106 contributions to fund traffic calming (HIP item 4). Having achieved the B2110 speed reduction, Cllr Pate asked Mr Norton to review and report back on any outstanding items on the Old Groombridge road safety improvement plan. It would be important to develop these proposals in good time to take advantage of any Section106 opportunities.

Ashurst

- Speedwatch had not taken off in Ashurst despite several appeals (HIP item 3). Cllr Pate recommended that any residents who came forward with concerns about speeding were encouraged to volunteer themselves. Cllr Langridge suggested that Langton Green volunteers might cover Ashurst too and an action was set for him to investigate this.

Speldhurst

- Cllrs had monitored the number of parked cars on the junction of Cobhams and Barden Road and the junction of Ferbies and Langton Road (HIP items 9 and 10). Although cars continued to park on the junction in both locations, there had been no further resident complaints. It was agreed to keep both locations on the HIP and defer further action.
- Cllr Rajah continued to collect accident data to strengthen the case for a speed reduction on Stockland Green Road (HIP item 6). He said residents were interested in installing strips on the road to reduce speeding and asked if these needed to be accompanied by streetlights. Cllr Pate suggested further discussion once Cllr Rajah had confirmed that residents wanted to pursue this option. Cllr Rajah would also encourage residents to record traffic volume from the nearby development.
- Cllr Ellery said there had been a decline in the percentage of speeding vehicles on Barden Road (HIP item 7) since Speedwatch sessions had commenced. He requested that this information be included in the forthcoming newsletter.

Langton Green

- Mr Whittaker gave a list of road safety requests that Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) had compiled on behalf of Langton Green residents (HIP item 5). In order of priority these were: a 40-30 mph speed reduction on the A264 travelling eastbound; a pedestrian crossing at the Farnham Lane/Gypps Cross bus stop on the A264; 20mph zones on side roads, and the relocation of the primary school lollipop crossing so that pedestrians could cross more safely.
An action was set for Cllr Pate and the Clerk to apply to KCC Highways for a speed reduction and pedestrian crossing using Speedwatch data to support their case.
County Cllr McInroy said he was helping Rusthall Parish Council apply for a pedestrian crossing on Coach Road, adjoining the A264. He was also happy to help Speldhurst Parish Council with its application. An action was set for the Clerk to ask Rusthall Parish Council for more information about its application, in case the two councils could work together. The working group would ask County Cllr McInroy for assistance if necessary.
- Cllr Pate said the Planning Committee had voiced concern about a proposed development at Ashurst Place. They anticipated increased traffic on Lampington Row, Winstone Scott Avenue and Speldhurst Road if it went ahead. It was agreed to recommend that the Planning Committee submit a request for a developer-funded pedestrian crossing on Speldhurst Road if the application was successful. If located at the twitten opposite Langton Green Recreation Ground, the crossing would greatly increase road safety to and from the primary school. An action was set for the Clerk to ask the Planning Clerk how to make this request and then liaise with Cllr Rajah as Planning Committee Chairman. Borough Cllr Sankey would also report back with advice after consulting with members of the TWBC Planning Committee.
- The Clerk had contacted KCC about installing a pavement on Farnham Lane (HIP item 8). They had offered to pass this onto their Schemes department, and it was agreed they should do so.
- There had been no further contact from residents regarding Barrow Lane, however, it was agreed that this would be included in the HIP in relation to the LGVS road safety plan.

13. Speed Cameras and Speed Watch

a) New Speedwatch sites had been established in Speldhurst, and some were located on or next to private properties. Cllr Ellery had asked the Clerk's office for administrative support concerning residents' permission for Speedwatch volunteers to stand on their land if necessary. The Clerk was in the process of contacting residents. Cllr Ellery also asked the Assistant Clerk to appeal for more Speldhurst volunteers via media channels.

Mr Norton asked on behalf of the Old Groombridge Speedwatch Co-ordinator if there were any plans to buy another set of Speedwatch equipment. There was often a quick turnaround between different village sessions, and it was agreed to monitor the situation.

An action was set for the Clerk to ask PCSO Booth to provide police Speedwatch data.

b) SIDS – The reconfigured SID had now been in situ for a number of weeks and it was proposed to commence downloading the data. The findings would be reported back.

14. Road Safety Signage

Cllr Pate had chased up Speedwatch warning signs and was informed that KCC Highways had noted the number of SPC road safety signs in the parish.

15. Media

The Assistant Clerk continued to share key messages from the Highways communications plan.

16. Items for Information

The Clerk reminded members to share the Highways report-a-problem tool with their local networks: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting ended at 9.28pm.

Action Number	Action	Owner	Date created	Status
19/21	Contact Kent Highways re. 30mph zone approaching Speldhurst village, between 40mph and 20mph zones; traffic calming measures that do not require street lighting; cost of two outcrops	Chairman/ Clerk	28/6	Carried forward
1/22	Thank PCSO Booth for supplying RTA info & ask to send police Speedwatch data	Clerk	01/02	TBA
2/22	Update Speldhurst resident re. near miss concerns	Clerk	01/02	TBA
3/22	Add updates by village to HIP	Assistant Clerk	01/02	TBA
4/22	Report back on outstanding items in Old Groombridge improvement plan	Mr Norton	01/02	TBA
5/22	Investigate Langton Green Speedwatch volunteers covering Ashurst	Cllr Langridge	01/02	TBA
6/22	Liaise with residents to progress Stockland Green Rd traffic-calming	Cllr Rajah	01/02	TBA
7/22a	Apply to KCC Highways for a speed reduction & pedestrian crossing on A264 Langton Green	Chairman/ Clerk	01/02	TBA
7/22b	Liaise with Rusthall PC re. their application for a crossing on Coach Rd	Clerk	01/02	TBA
8/22a	Ask Planning Clerk how to request developer-funded pedestrian crossing on Speldhurst Rd, Langton Green & progress with Cllr Rajah	Clerk	01/02	TBA
8/22b	Report back with advice on requesting a developer-funded pedestrian crossing on Speldhurst Rd, Langton Green	Borough Cllr Sankey	01/22	TBA
9/22	Give KCC Schemes department go ahead to investigate installing pavement on Farnham Ln	Clerk	01/02	TBA
10/22	Share relevant messages from meeting via media channels	Assistant Clerk	01/02	TBA
1/21	Monitor congestion caused by parking on the junction of Cobhams and Barden Road.	Cllr Langridge/ Chairman	11/1	Complete
6/21	Ask KCC if LG Primary crossing can be moved from Lampington Rd to the Twitten opposite LG village hall carpark. Arrange onsite meeting with KCC & other stakeholders.	Clerk	11/1	Complete – Clerk to update Mrs Draper
7/21	Ask KCC Highways to do an ATC on Stockland Green Rd in order to progress Speedwatch site	Clerk	11/1	Complete
12/21	Investigate making HIP an Excel spreadsheet	Admin Assistant/ Chairman	24/3	Complete

21/21	Write to the Community Safety Unit (CSU) regarding enforcement, giving details of Speedwatch dates, with a copy to the PCSO.	Chairman	28/6	Complete
22/21	Chase Speedwatch signage	Chairman	28/6	Complete
26/21	Ask County Cllr McInroy to take up a pricing discrepancy with Kent Highways concerning the cost of a new SID	Chairman	28/6	Complete
36/21	Obtain costings for a new finger post at junction of Burnt House Lane and Farnham Lane	Clerk	28/6	Complete
38/21	Put double yellow lines at junction of Ferbies and Langton Road on next meeting agenda	Clerk	28/6	Complete
39/21	Contact Kent Highways asking how many letters of support received for 50-40mph speed reduction on A264 Ashurst and B2110 Groombridge Hill	Clerk	8/9	Complete
40/21	Liaise with Planning Officer for Burrswood development	Clerk	8/9	Complete
41/21	Survey parked cars over several days at junction of Cobhams and Barden Road, and junction of Cobhams and Ferbies, Speldhurst.	Chairman/Cllr Langridge	8/9	Complete
42/21	Add locations in 42/21 to HIP	Assistant Clerk	8/9	Complete
43/21	Contact Kent Highways to ask about making a pavement on Farnham Lane as per Cllr Langridge's findings	Chairman/ Clerk	8/9	Complete
44/21	Add Langton Green Village Traffic Plan to next meeting agenda	Clerk	8/9	Complete
45/21	Contact other parish councils asking if they would like to buy old SID.	Clerk	8/9	Complete
46/21	Arrange further Speedwatch sessions in Speldhurst	Cllr Curry	8/9	Complete
47/21	Seek permission from village SpeedWatch Co-ordinators to set up a WhatsApp group to co-ordinate dates and arrange handover of equipment	Clerk/ Assistant Clerk	8/9	Complete