

BORDEN PARISH COUNCIL



Borden Parish Council

Email: clerk@bordenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Maidstone Road, Sittingbourne Diversion

I am sure you are aware that as part of the improvements to the M2/J5 junction at Stockbury Roundabout, Maidstone Road is going to be diverted southwards to join up with Oad Street just before the M2 overbridge. Thus, cutting its existing access to Stockbury roundabout. Oad Street will be diverted to form a new junction directly with the new Stockbury Roundabout. The Parish Council are not aware of any specific proposals to widen all of the section of road between the M2 overbridge and the junction of Oad Street with Pett Lane which is not up to the standard of the rest of this route. Although it does understand that National Highways and KCC Highways have been in discussions as whether or not to widen this section so that it can be used as a diversion route for the A249 and also capable of being used by large goods vehicles and buses.

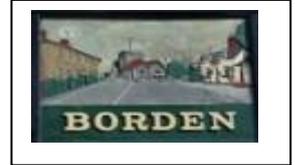
The Parish Council therefore took the decision to survey residents of Maidstone Road and Chestnut Street to ask whether Oad Street should be widened and used as a diversion route during maintenance works on the A249 or remain as it is. The attached short report, see below, outlines the results from this survey.

The results show that residents are clearly against any widening of this section of Oad Street or its use as a diversion route. At the Council meeting in June 2022, it received a report which said that a summary of the survey's findings should be sent to all interested parties for their comments as well as being posted on the Parish's website and various social media.

Therefore, I am writing to you to inform you of their views and ask that the Parish Council be involved in any consultation and/or decision making regarding what is going to happen to this specific section of Oad Street. The Parish Council is concerned that the surveyed views of the residence should be considered in any decision making.

I would be grateful for an early response to my request.

Yours faithfully



SURVEY REPORT

Question 1. Should the whole of Oad Street be widened between J5 and the Motorway bridge to allow use by HGV's and large buses, please tick?

Yes 37% No 63%

Of those living in the Parish for 20 years or more 80% said No

If yes, should it be used as a diversion route

Yes 24% No 28% No Answer 48%

If it is not to be used as a diversion route, please explain why: -

It will not be used just as a diversion, Danaway and Chestnut Street will suffer heavy traffic permanently

Big Lorries disturbed sleep grid locked traffic.

Rural area, 3 small businesses will be harmed by traffic, other diversions – make A249 single lane using removeable barriers.

Because it will be spoiling another village and rural area.

Road is not built for this amount of traffic and speed and accident issues, Buses are never full so smaller buses will suffice.

Noise, pollution danger

Problems with noise and vibrations caused by heavy vehicles.

The rebuilt A249 should be OK to cope.

Using the other half of dual carriageway is normal elsewhere.

Because we do not want large buses going through.

Maidstone road is not suitable for HGV's.

Single deck coaches would be OK but nothing bigger. This is a quiet country lane with 6 6 restrictions. The lane is used by cyclists and horse riders so large vehicles should stop, see letter 23.

Question 2. Should the route be left unwidened, making it unsuitable for use by large buses, please tick?

Yes 66% No 24% No Answer 10%

BORDEN PARISH COUNCIL



GENERAL COMMENTS

Main concern was for speeding drivers as I am often overtaken along this road.

I think there should be a public meeting as I don't think people realize the implications.

Diversions on Maidstone Road are dangerous, and traffic moves too fast breaking the speed limit- not enough width on the paths.

There are no alternative routes from Stockbury to Detling. HE and KCC have managed. Why cannot barriers be moveable as they are on A14 when closures are necessary. Your area and that of Oad Street are designated as residential and agricultural and should remain this way. Any changes will further open doors to unbridled developers stating that the infrastructure exists for further housing development.

Speed limit and calming measures in Maidstone Rd and Danaway needed.

The X3 and X4 buses miss Danaway which could be served by small coaches as Stockbury have.

30 Speed limit ignored by 90% of commuters.

Chestnut St and Danaway used now when A249 is not in use resulting in becoming extremely busy, widening Oad Street will only exacerbate problem that we already have.

Too many lorries using A249 at present and will unfortunately double in 5 years which would block up Maidstone Road also causing more rubbish, noise and air pollution which is already dangerously high.

New part of Maidstone Road alongside the M2 I suggest planting of trees(Walnut as used to be end of Maidstone Road) so as to screen the view and noise pollution. Top of Maidstone Road new junction with Oad Street I suggest a small mini roundabout so as to improve safety when pulling onto a fast and dangerous part of Oad Street and it would stop queuing of traffic on steep hill causing even more pollution of air and noise.

I do believe this route should continue to accommodate local buses and diversions (should the need arise) however further safety restrictions and speed limitations should accompany the Danaway end for the support of all road users.