



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

**Minutes of the Highways Working Group Meeting held Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm**  
**Conducted via Zoom electronic communication**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Curry (appointed Chair for the meeting), Ellery, Langridge, Norton and Turner.

**BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** County Cllr McInroy and Borough Cllr Allen.

**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 Cllrs Pate and Scarborough (Covid-related), Cllr Rajah due to personal commitments, Cllr Mrs Woodliffe (holiday) and Mr Whittaker due to illness.

**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 **1<sup>st</sup> February 2022** be approved as a correct record and signed by the interim Chair.

**6. Review of the action points**

The action points were reviewed. It was agreed that 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, 47/21 and 8/22b would be taken off. Action points 1/22, 2/22, 3/22, 4/22, 6/22, 7/22b, 8/22a and 9/22 were marked as complete. Action points 19/21, 5/22, 7/22a and 10/22 were carried forward.

**7. Public Open Session**

There were no members of public present.

**8. Matters Arising and Correspondence**

There were no matters arising or correspondence to discuss. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would incorporate this item into the Highways Improvement Plan (H.I.P.) on the next meeting agenda.

**9. Review of Highways Committee's Budget**

The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date report. Of the £32,890 annual budget, payments of £15,132 had been made, leaving £17,758 available.

**10. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish**

The Clerk reported that PCSO Booth had sent details of recent road traffic accidents (RTA's). Additional data had been sent by Cllrs Mrs Lyle and Mrs Soyke. Cllr Curry said that it was positive to see a continued flow of accident data provided by the Police. It was agreed that discussion of specific accident hot spots would be incorporated into agenda item 12, the H.I.P.

**11. Highways Committee Terms of Reference Annual Review**

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that point number 2, relating to the number of consecutive years a Highways Committee Chair could serve, should be changed from three years to five. This was an acknowledgement of the length of time it sometimes took to work towards and achieve traffic calming goals for the parish.

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

The Assistant Clerk had separated the villages out into separate tabs on the H.I.P. spreadsheet. The Clerk would list the villages alphabetically on the next meeting agenda.

**Old Groombridge**

- Cllr Curry recommended that H.I.P. Item 1 be archived now that the Groombridge Hill speed reduction had been implemented.  
Cllr Norton reported on outstanding issues related to the Old Groombridge traffic improvement plan (H.I.P. item 4 plus separate paper). He recommended that a) priority be given to achieving a 20-mph zone across the old village; and b) work should be carried out now to build on an earlier study by KCC Highways, so that a realistic and 'oven ready' set of traffic calming designs were in place when the S.106 funding window opened. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Pate regarding re-opening communications with KCC Highways on this point and update the HIP accordingly.

**Ashurst**

- Cllr Curry recommended that H.I.P. item 2 be archived now that the A264 speed reduction had been implemented at the Groombridge Farm Shop junction.
- Despite the speed reduction approaching the village (H.I.P. item 3), there had been a number of accidents on the S bend at Stone Cross, as reported by Cllr Mrs Soyke and PCSO Booth. The Clerk would continue to monitor accidents at this location and would investigate alternative/additional SID locations. Cllr Langridge confirmed that he would initiate Speedwatch in Ashurst.

**Speldhurst**

- Two new locations, one on Penshurst Road, and the other at the junction of Langton Road and Penshurst Road (H.I.P. items 12 & 13) were added following residents' comments on road safety at school drop off and pick up times. Action points were set for the Clerk to communicate with Speldhurst Primary School about parent parking, and for Cllr Langridge to monitor parking on the bend on Penshurst Road between the junction with Langton Road and Northfields.
- H.I.P. item 6, relating to Stockland Road, was partially archived, leaving Cllr Rajah to update the working group at the next meeting about any further evidence he had collected that would support the case for traffic calming measures.

- Actions points were set, relating to H.I.P. items 9 & 10, for Cllr Langridge to monitor the number of parked cars at the junction of Cobhams and Barden Road, and Ferbies and Langton Road (school drop off and pick up times only).
- Other items in the Speldhurst H.I.P. would be addressed with Cllr Pate at the next meeting.

### **Langton Green**

- The Clerk advised there was nothing to report regarding progress on the speed reduction on the Eastbound A264 Langton Road, or the pedestrian crossing at the A264 junction with Farnham Lane (H.I.P. item 5). These measures were part of Langton Green Village Society's (LGVS) traffic improvement plan. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Pate about next steps. The Clerk reported that Rusthall Parish Council had withdrawn their application for a speed reduction on Coach Road adjoining the A264 as costs were too high.
- The Planning Clerk had contacted the Planning Officer at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to ask if S106 money could be allocated for a pedestrian crossing on Speldhurst Road at the twitten opposite Langton Green Recreation Ground, as a condition of the proposed Ashurst Place development (H.I.P. item 9). The Planning Officer replied that this would not be possible and gave a detailed explanation for the reasons why which the Clerk had circulated. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Pate about next steps.

### **13. Speed Cameras and Speed Watch**

- a) **Speed Watch** – Cllr Langridge told the working group about a new smartphone app called Speedcam Anywhere, which allowed pedestrians to use their smartphones to gather evidence of speeding vehicles. It was suggested that Cllrs try the app for themselves, although there was a small charge to use it.

As discussed, Cllr Langridge confirmed that he would undertake Speedwatch sessions in Ashurst. Cllr Ellery asked if further permissions had been sought from residents for volunteers to stand on their land when carrying out Speedwatch session. The Clerk said this had not been done due to high levels of work in the Clerk's office but would be made a priority.

- b) **SIDS** – The Clerk said she would download the data captured by the new SID and report back at the next meeting.

### **14. Road Safety Signage**

There was nothing to report.

### **15. Media**

Cllr Curry told the working group about an accident data tool [www.crashmap.co.uk](http://www.crashmap.co.uk), which he suggested sharing with residents.

The Assistant Clerk confirmed that she continued to share key messages across all medial channels.

### **16. Items for Information**

The Clerk had met with the new KCC Highways Steward for the parish. He had given a reminder that the Highways Portal should be the used to report problems – [www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem).

17. Inspector Ian Jones from Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit had offered his support when attending the recent Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk had circulated his contact details.

The Date for the next meeting was Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting ended at 8.35pm.

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
5/22	Investigate Langton Green Speedwatch volunteers covering Ashurst	Cllr Langridge	01/02	Carried forward
7/22a	Apply to KCC Highways for a speed reduction & pedestrian crossing on A264 Langton Green	Chairman/ Clerk	01/02	Carried forward
10/22	Share relevant messages from meeting via media channels	Assistant Clerk	12/04	TBA
11/22	Make agreed changes to next meeting agenda to accommodate H.I.P.	Clerk	12/04	TBA
12/22	Recommend changes to ToR to Full Council	Cllr Curry/Pate	12/04	TBA
13/22	Re-establish communications with KCC regarding design of speed reduction on Bird-in-Hand St (H.I.P. item 4)	Clerk/Cllr Pate	12/04	TBA
14/22	Investigate alternative SID locations in Ashurst (H.I.P. item 3)	Clerk	12/04	TBA
15/22	Initiate Speed Watch in Ashurst (H.I.P. item 3)	Cllr Langridge	12/04	TBA
16/22	Communicate with Speldhurst primary school about parent parking on bend at Penshurst Road (H.I.P. item 12)	Clerk	12/04	TBA
17/22	Monitor parking at school drop off and pick up times: on bend of Penshurst Rd between Langton Rd junction & Northfields) and Ferbies/Langton Road junction (H.I.P. items 12 & 10)	Cllr Langridge	12/04	TBA
18/22	Investigate next steps regarding LGVS traffic improvement plan (H.I.P. items 5 & 9)	Clerk/Cllr Pate	12/04	TBA
19/22	Download SID data to feedback at next meeting	Clerk	12/04	TBA
1/22	Thank PCSO Booth for supplying RTA info & ask to send police Speedwatch data	Clerk	01/02	Complete
2/22	Update Speldhurst resident re. near miss concerns	Clerk	01/02	Complete
3/22	Add updates by village to HIP	Assistant Clerk	01/02	Complete
4/22	Report back on outstanding items in Old Groombridge improvement plan	Mr Norton	01/02	Complete
6/22	Liaise with residents to progress Stockland Green Rd traffic-calming	Cllr Rajah	01/02	Complete
7/22b	Liaise with Rusthall PC re. their application for a crossing on Coach Rd	Clerk	01/02	Complete

8/22a	Ask Planning Clerk how to request developer-funded pedestrian crossing on Speldhurst Rd, Langton Green & progress with Cllr Rajah	Clerk	01/02	Complete
9/22	Give KCC Schemes department go ahead to investigate installing pavement on Farnham Ln	Clerk	01/02	Complete