

Committee, group or subgroup: Road Safety Group

Meeting Date & venue: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025, 7pm @ SPC Office

Report author: Cllr A Sharp - chairman

Present: A Sharp (AS), M. Alessi, Bill McLaughlin (BM), Josh Melville (JM)

Apologies: M Buller (MB) Speedwatch Rep. and SID data expert)

Matters Arising: - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 Minutes agreed

No one else prepared to be chair.

1. Clerks feedback RG: meeting time changed so no RG

Action: Check clerk has arranged a meeting with school for debrief and possibility of doing again in September.

b. A229 Cranbrook Road re crossing and elderly crossing sign. –RG and AS meeting in June with Amy Cartwright and Greg McNichol from Kent Highways. As previous minutes, last meet up KH seemed sympathetic to a crossing and a sign at hill top. Note The funding is from SPC not KH from our S106 funds for improvements for bus services – i.e. we desire a safe crossing to the bus stops.

2. SID – See data below.

Nearly half of all road users on Headcorn Road during March to April were over the 30mph

Every day 15 cars were 45 – 59mph

w/c 3.6.25 SID had a nice holiday on Bathurst Road with 3% of drivers over the 30mph

Marden Rd we are awaiting access to the data.

Action: AS will request the caretaker Paul, changes SID every 2 weeks – on task list? – as that’s the ideal and not stay I the same location over 3 weeks.

ANALYSIS OF SID  
DEPLOYMENTS

2025

DATE	ROAD	FACING	TRAVEL	DAYS	VOLUME	AVERAGE	UNDER	%	OVER	%	High speeders		per	per
started	used	DIRECTION	TOWARDS	USED	RECORDED	VOLUME	30mph	under	30mph	over	59	45-60+	day	site
13/03/2025	Headcorn	east	Staplehurst	8	21361	2670	11481	53.75	9880	46.25	115		0	14.38
21/03/2025	Headcorn	east	Staplehurst	6	16338	2723	8688	53.18	7650	46.82	86		0	14.33
27/03/2025	Headcorn	east	Staplehurst	7	20312	2902	8984	44.23	11328	55.77	148		2	21.43
18/04/2025	Headcorn	east	Staplehurst	7	12526	1789	6941	55.41	5585	44.59	63		1	9.14
25/04/2025	Headcorn	east	Staplehurst	3	5564	1855	3106	55.82	2468	44.18	37		1	12.67
28/04/2025	Marden	east	Marden	8	14782	1848	10252	69.35	4530	30.65	57		0	7.13
03/06/2025	Bathurst	south	north	8	5324	668	5183	97.02	159	2.98	0		0	0

Malcolm 2/7/2025

The data sent over from the office seems to be under a newly created system and it doesn't recognise me so I couldn't access it today. It is my fault, not the office's, that I haven't attempted to look at that data until today! Apologies.

Note - permission at Headcorn Road, Marden Road, Bathurst Road sites. Best sites Headcorn Rd and incoming Marden.

awaiting access to data!

Malcolm 2/7/2025

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**Note - the camera should ideally change every 2 weeks and should not stay in the same location longer than 3 weeks.**  
Batteries last 5 – 11 days depending on traffic going past i.e. drain quicker on Headcorn Rd  
Headcorn Road facing east for 2 weeks then west for 2 weeks (some leeway allowing up to 3 weeks subject to availability to turn the camera.)  
Bathurst Road for 1 week (this should ideally be 1 in term time / 1 in holidays)  
Marden Road facing west for 1 week then facing east for 2 weeks

### 3. Speedwatch

\* WhatsApp group was set up to enable us to go out quickly and easily. However we haven't been out since May although members are now able to set up the eqpt, not just MB.

\* Await feedback from M Arger who attended 14<sup>th</sup> June Speedwatch conference.

**Action:** Let Louise Brice know if need to add anyone else. Try to arrange a date to go out again.

### 4. Accidents/incidents reported – [staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com](mailto:staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com) website and FB

\* No reports via email. There was an accident on Tuesday at the crossroads – 2 cars collided, minor incident.

Not aware of any others.

\* Hawkenbury bridge – Still plastic barriers, on both sides and an additional metal fence. Previous damage to bridge still not rectified.

**Action:** Ask RG to contact KH maintenance and ask what's happening. Ask if JT can put up a poster about Road safety, reporting accidents and include the emails.

5. Hedges – Hedges letter agreed at full council – Nesting season March to August so we don't send letters then. We can report to KH if there is a dangerous hedge. Discussion about an August letter – suggested we visit residents at the end of August in person instead. Maybe a better explanation in the next update. Possibly a video on face book / website.

**Action:** – refer to comms re video etc

6. Standing item - Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – Kent Highways contact: Greg McNicholl & Amy Cartwright.

**Please note previous directive that MBC only allow us to have 2 'live' projects and our other projects / wish list are 'archived' is not accurate. We are told that ALL HIP requests should be on the HIP document, ideally in order of our preferred importance. In which case we could add Sainsburys roundabout and the crossroads again.**

As per last minutes Greg sent us the version that he has at Kent Highways for us to tweak.

It's dated 25.9.23 1. A229 parking issues 2. A229 crossing and improve bus stops 3. School roads 20mph and is not the latest version we have sent, so clerk was sending our version again of the HIP that Full Council agreed fairly recently:-

**Action:** check they received the agreed version to Kent Highways

HIP 1 The Quarter - Bus stop / crossing & 30mph / elderly crossing sign **see item 1** Amy Cartwright (Greg will have left by the time these minutes are read) await a response on the updated efforts to get a crossing and a hill warning of old / young crossing sign.

HIP 2 Hawkenbury Bridge – See item 4

**Background** – It's a grade 2 listed bridge so can't demolish and rebuild wider. We would need to be gifted some land to enable the widening of the bridge. There is no good, easy electrical provision. (we note there are houses next to it with electricity). Need some way to indicate to traffic going over the railway bridge they could be about to encounter stationary traffic; could this be achieved by a higher traffic light indicator?

There is historical precedence - Wye bridge grade 2 listed bridge, close to a railway crossing, was widened to comply with EU regulations of width and weight needs. However a house was demolished providing the extra space needed. Looking at £100,000 to £150,00 to install power.

**Action:** It remains on HIP and we will continue to liaise with Headcorn PC and monitor crashes.

HIP 3 Double yellow lines (DYL) on main road A229 and Chapel Lane extension, single lines (SYL) on Cornforth Close, Chestnut Avenue and Poyntell Road. Hurst Close & Newlyn Drive

Kent Highways have previously said that they will not do this as there are no current road safety issues.

Discussed that even after Churchill development is built, this remains on the HIP as there is likely to be a lot of vehicle movement around the site and we believe that there will be safety issues.

Action: remains on HIP    DYL on Bell Lane need redoing

Headcorn Lay by – this is maintenance Kent Highways issue not HIP item.

Our current response for parishioners re this matter is:- Over the past 2 years the Parish council has been raising this issue with Kent Highways Maintenance. Its KH land, and as such we have been told not to touch it and that the public should not be parking there. We have exhausted all avenues to try and improve this area but will continue to lobby them. Action:. Let KH knows still dangerous

9. AOB:

\* MB suggested a Road traffic survey as last ones were done pre 2018 and post covid 2021. Should we recommend a current one as we now have more residents. 1 week 24 hour - cost? Streetwise 2018 £? Transport Survey systems 2021 £ Kent Highways paid for Cranbrook Road and SPC funded Headcorn Road. (Maidstone Rd near Tower House , Station Rd near Free church Churchill by 30mph flash sign , Quarter by flashing 40pmph – near Poppies Headcorn Rd in 2021) online figures suggest £299 - £350 / 950 + VAT

Dates of forthcoming meeting: Next meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025 7pm at the office.