

Committee, group or subgroup: Road Safety Group
Meeting Date & venue: Thursday 11th September 2025, 7pm @ SPC Office
Report author: Cllr A Sharp - chairman
<p><u>Present:</u> A Sharp (AS), M. Alessi, Josh Melville (JM), Bill McLaughlin (BM).</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> M Buller (MB) Speedwatch Rep. and SID data expert), C.Rhodes, M.Wakefield</p> <p><u>Matters Arising:</u> Thursday 7th August 2025 Minutes agreed</p> <p><u>1. Clerks feedback:</u></p> <p>School / traffic – meeting with school. Await notification of public meeting Borough Councilor Riordan has arranged with school and inviting PTA, members of the public, School parents, MBC officers, SPC, School Governors and teachers, KCC Councillor and our MP.</p> <p>A resident unhappy about the school traffic issue contacted us to say MBC had advised him that we can have a TRO. AS and clerk have checked with Kent Highways that the zig zags, double yellow lines and restrictions in place ARE the TRO and should be enforced as such, by MBC traffic wardens when attending on site. AS contacted resident re above but has just received a further email to the effect that they feel SPC need to demand a TRO preventing parking on the pavement.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> SPC councilors can attend the public meeting. AS to contact resident again.</p> <p>b. <u>A229 Cranbrook Road</u> re crossing and elderly crossing sign. Note The funding is from SPC not KH from our S106 funds for improvements for bus services – i.e. we really want a safe crossing to the bus stops. AS followed up with Kent Highways 6/8 and was able to disclose the following:</p> <p>1. Services affected by the proposed crossing – SGN (Gas) believe any necessary work would be minimal. BT have not responded but any work should also be minimal, although no indication of costs. Water likely to be similar to Gas works. This means that plans can progress despite not being certain about the costs at this point.</p> <p>2) landowner discussion regarding hedge – keen to assist with discussion. Land and access/maintenance details need to be agreed in any plan. Kent highways have to contact several different departments to obtain their counsel, then discuss options etc. and work together to proceed with something that works for all. AS chased again 10/ 8 but officer on holiday so no information.</p> <p><u>2. SID</u> – is on Headcorn road currently. No data received from office or MB.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> caretaker to continue to changes SID every 2 weeks.</p> <p>Note - permission at Headcorn Road, Marden Road, Bathurst Road sites. Best sites Headcorn Rd and incoming Marden. Camera should change every 2 weeks, no longer than 3 weeks in same location. 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</p> <p><u>3. Speedwatch</u></p> <p>West Kent Speedwatch date Friday 12th September – not sure if team are available.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Await feedback from M Arger who attended 14th June Speedwatch conference.</p>

4. Accidents/incidents reported – staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com website and FB
30/8 Homeleighs vehicle just outside Homeleighs hit and bent gate post
31/8 Pagehurst and Marden crossroads RTA 2 cars

Hawkenbury bridge – Still plastic barriers, on both sides and an additional metal fence. Previous damage to bridge still not rectified. – KH Maintenance. AS chased and informed repairs are scheduled for 5.1.25 – 27.11.25

Action: Keep any eye on Hawkenbury bridge repairs.

5. Hedges – letter (previously agreed at full council) - 2 reported members to check and post letter



Bottom of Fletcher Rd

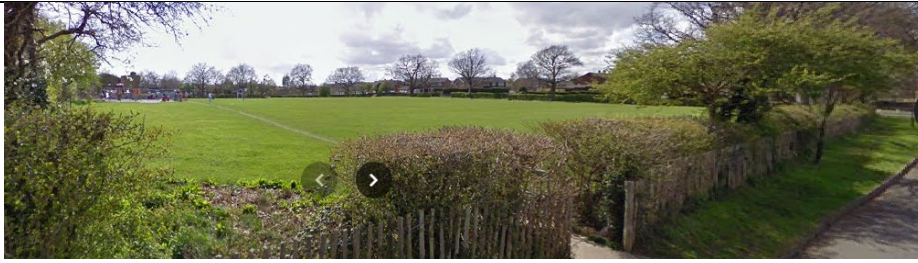


Chestnut Avenue



Reminder to trim hedge at the N exit out of Surrenden Field for safety. MBC or SPC?





2009

Note - Nesting season March to August so we don't send letters then. We can report to KH if there is a dangerous hedge. Possibly an RSG video/ reel on face book / website.

Action: – Ask clerk to print off hedge letters so RSG members can post – email who you've sent one to. Comms discussing reels about such topics to go on social media. Ask clerk to notify Kent Highways about dangerous ones, (e.g A229 hedges need trimming in Staplehurst as pedestrians struggling to use pavement in some areas).

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

Please note ALL HIP requests should be on the HIP document, ideally in order of our preferred importance. Previous directive that MBC only allow us to have 2 'live' projects and our other projects / wish list are 'archived' is not correct, In which case we could add the Sainsburys roundabout and the crossroads again. Discussed HIP update. AS to amend and send to RSG members.

HIP 1 The Quarter - Bus stop / crossing & 30mph / elderly crossing sign see item 1 Amy Cartwright 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 £150,000 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.

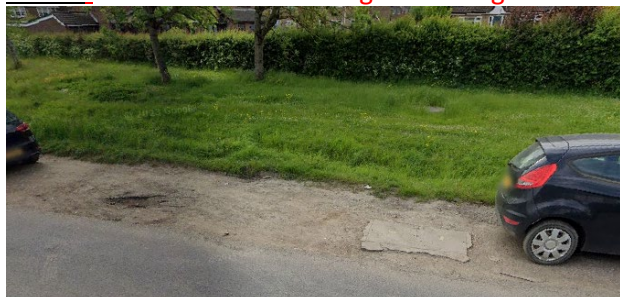
Discussed that even after Churchill development is built, this remains on the HIP as there is likely to be a lot of vehicle movement around the site and we believe that there will be safety issues.

Action: remains on HIP DYL on Bell Lane need redoing?

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

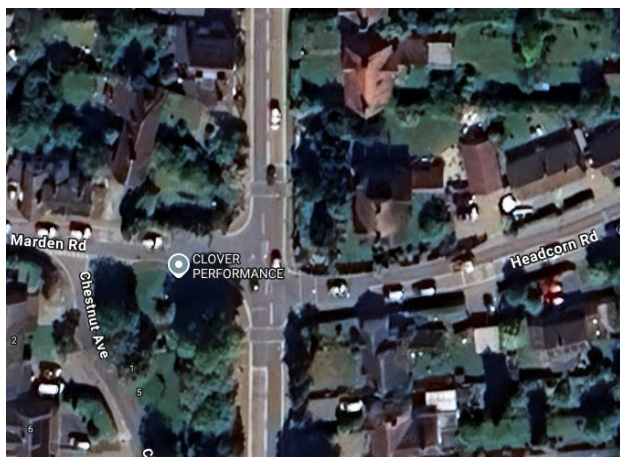
Over the past 2 years the Parish council has been raising this issue with Kent Highways Maintenance. Its KH land, and as such we have been told not to touch it and that the public should not be parking there. We have exhausted all avenues to try and improve this area but will continue to lobby them.

Action: Let KH know still dangerous – log as a maintenance, send photos to AS



7. AOB:

Cameras on traffic lights – CIL joint pot of money we might be able to apply for. Also support Cllr Black's efforts in obtaining cameras on traffic lights.



* Previously suggested by MB that a Road traffic survey of the crossroads might be worth doing again as the last ones were done pre 2018 and post covid 2021.

RSG 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

Action: ask clerk to investigate costs of a traffic survey – 5 year housing quota – chase.

* clerk reported broken wooden bollard outside school – first week back!

* Complain Sainsbury's about EV charging points

* Localised flooding outside Kiri's / Reinkarnated/ charity shop / health shop. Rain flooded the drain and it was back flowing onto the pavement. Also AS reported the water leak outside Kin coffee.

Dates of forthcoming meeting: Next meeting Thursday 9th October 2025, 7pm at the office.