

Committee, group or subgroup: <b>Road Safety Group</b>																																		
Meeting Date & venue: <b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 7pm @ SPC Office</b>																																		
Report author: Cllr A Sharp - chairman																																		
<p><u>Present:</u> A Sharp (AS), M. Alesi, Josh Melville (JM), Bill McLaughlin (BM), M Buller (MB) Speedwatch Rep. and SID data expert), C. Rhodes.</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> M.Wakefield</p> <p><u>Matters Arising:</u> <b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b> Minutes agreed.</p> <p><u>1. Clerks feedback:</u></p> <p>School / traffic – meeting with school.</p> <p>Borough Councilor Riordan previously informed us he has arranged with school inviting PTA, members of the public, School parents, MBC officers, SPC, School Governors and teachers, KCC Councillor and our MP. We await notification of the date.</p> <p>AS contacted the resident who remains unhappy about the school traffic issue and had contacted us to say MBC had advised him that we can have a TRO. The zig zags, double yellow lines and restrictions in place by Kent Highways are a TRO, but mean very little if there is no enforcement by MBC traffic wardens. CR confirmed that as a parent he's only seen a traffic warden once this term.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Ask clerk to contact school for public meeting date. AS to discuss further TRO ideas with KH.</p> <p>b. <u>A229 Cranbrook Road</u> re crossing and elderly crossing sign. <i>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.</i></p> <p>Previous minutes AS followed up with Kent Highways 6/8:</p> <p>1. Services affected by the proposed crossing – SGN (Gas), BT &amp; water believe any necessary work would be minimal.</p> <p>2) landowner discussion regarding hedge – keen to assist with discussion</p> <p>AS chased again 10/ 8 but officer on holiday so no information. Due to meet today via Zoom but was cancelled due to officers illness. General dissatisfaction about the lack of progress made on this.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> reorganize zoom meeting W 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025</p> <p><u>2. SID –</u> has been travelling and now back on Headcorn road currently.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date Road</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>45-59 60+</th><th>day</th><th>site</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18.9.25 Marden E</td><td>5</td><td>9387 1877</td><td>5599 59.65</td><td>3788 40.35</td><td>41 2</td><td>8.6</td></tr> <tr> <td>24.9.25 Bathurst S N</td><td>6</td><td>3650 608</td><td>3568 97.75</td><td>82 2.25</td><td>00</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>30.9.25 Bathurst S N</td><td>3</td><td>2064 688</td><td>2099 97.34</td><td>55 2.66</td><td>0 0</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Traffic coming towards the Marden Rd roundabout, fastest leaving village</p> <p>Headcorn Rd – Has most vehicles and is still fastest road.</p> <p>Bathurst - most have to slow for the corner or turn into Pope drive. It does prove to everyone that there isn't speeding there.</p> <p>Speculation about how fast vehicles would be going on the main road towards the railway bridge / roundabout at Sainsburys and exit of the village. Can't put SID there as the battery would die rapidly due to the amount of vehicles.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> caretaker to continue to changes SID every 2 weeks.</p>							Date Road				45-59 60+	day	site	18.9.25 Marden E	5	9387 1877	5599 59.65	3788 40.35	41 2	8.6	24.9.25 Bathurst S N	6	3650 608	3568 97.75	82 2.25	00	0	30.9.25 Bathurst S N	3	2064 688	2099 97.34	55 2.66	0 0	0
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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

### 3. Speedwatch

Changed to a WhatsApp group has not gained more members. West Kent Speedwatch date Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September members were unable to attend due to other commitments.

**Action:** see if the WhatsApp group can arrange another date.

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

MB able to access the emails

10.7.25 email – re the quarter and main road generally traffic is too fast. MB replied and explained why we don't have further traffic calming measures suggested and 20mph on the main road.

22.7.25 email – Hurst Close speeding. MB replied and explained why we don't have further traffic calming measures suggested and 20mph there.

11.9.25 email – A229 speeding – MB replied re approved sites to monitor traffic speeds.

Should be noted that the painted area at the quarter (dragons teeth, gateway red area) is being quoted to other parishes as a success and the cause of traffic slowing down. Likely these figures were generated by the traffic survey we had done in 2021. In 2018, Traffic from Cranbrook 2018 = 39.9% were speeding with 60+ were 2.84% compared with 2021 9.27% & 0.17% Generally felt the Police radar letters sent out helped as well.

Accident at Hawkenbury between bridge and first corner. And end of Ashdown walk, barrier felled.

Hawkenbury bridge – Still plastic barriers, on both sides and an additional metal fence. Previous damage to bridge still not rectified. – KH Maintenance scheduled works. **Temporary Road Closure - Hawkenbury Road, Staplehurst - 5th November 2025** estimated completion by 27th November 2025. Hawkenbury Road, Staplehurst, in the vicinity of the bridge over the river.

For the most up to date information on these works please

visit: <https://one.network/?tm=GB144856477>

The Kent County Council Highways Helpline phone number is: 03000 418181

**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

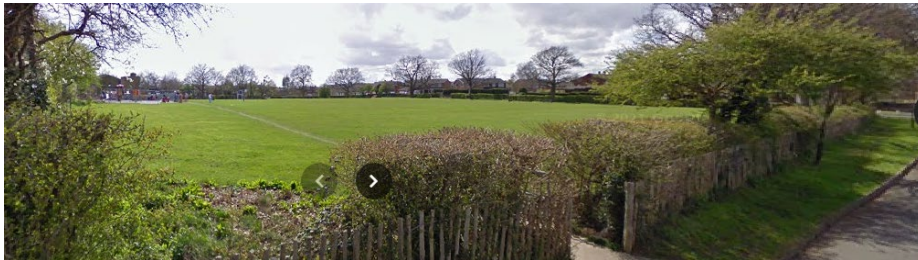




Reminder to trim hedge at the N exit out of Surrenden Field for safety. MBC or SPC?



2023



2009

Discussed concerns raised by hedge cutters about hedges by play area / residents. They have made the field side and top good. The reached as far as they could to the resident side, but it seems some residents are not cutting their side. It's not possible to get a tractor cutter in that area.

Discussed whether the rest of the hedges should be brought a little lower on the Thatcher Road side entrance area.

**Action:** Hedge letters given out to RSG members so can post through letter boxes – email who you've sent one to. 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). Social media reel to update residents? Comms?

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

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

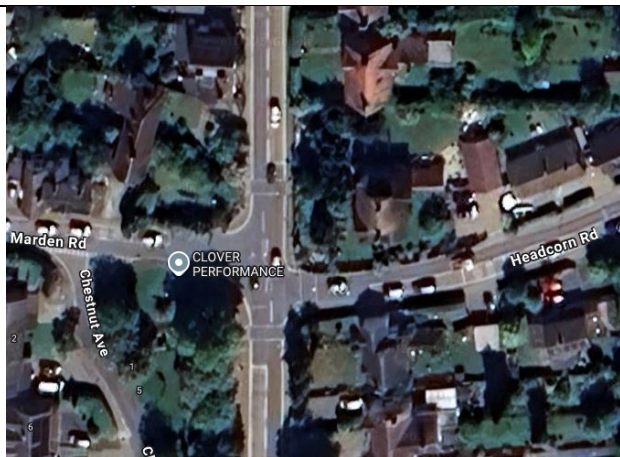
Over the past 2 years the Parish council has been raising this issue with Kent Highways Maintenance. Its KH land, and as such we have been told not to touch it and that the public should not be parking there. We have exhausted all avenues to try and improve this area but will continue to lobby them.

**Action:** Monitor area



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.

\* Sainsbury's EV charging points – SPC sending a letter

\* 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. SPC sending a letter.

\* Website member ship RSG needs updating

Dates of forthcoming meeting: Next meeting Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 7pm at the office.