

Committee, group or subgroup: **Road Safety Group**

Meeting Date & venue: **Thursday 10th June 2026, 7pm @ SPC Office**

Report author: Cllr A Sharp - chairman

Present: A Sharp (AS), Bill McLaughlin (BM), Richard Griffiths (clerk).

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

Matters Arising: Minutes from Thursday 26th March 2026, agreed.

The Thursday 30th April 2026 meeting was cancelled due to cllrs other commitments.

A meeting in May was put on hold as work was being done by Kent Highways on the A229 / Pinnock Lane/ Fuel Garage crossing, and a meeting with Kent Highways and involved parties (Headorn, Hawkenbury and Staplehurst) was set to take place.

Following the SPC meeting in May, cllrs M. Alesi, J. Melville, C. Rhodes, M. Wakeford elected to stand down from the group.

1. Clerks feedback: **see items below**

2. SID data– Repaired and data to be sent to MB.

Date Road				45-59 60+	day	site
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Action: await data report

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 - The WhatsApp group arranged 2 sessions in April. The 17th April saw 313 vehicles pass the team in 45 minutes, 8/10 recorded speeding were 1st offenders.

The 23rd April Northdown, Marden Road site, 129 vehicles speeding from traffic lights, two managed to get to 38mph.

Action: No sessions in May – weather not been great and we don't do in rain for driver safety, maybe in June.

4. Accidents/incidents reported – staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com website and FB

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

* Staplehurst Gateway signs that was destroyed by a car has not been repaired – ask clerk to chase.

* Headcorn Road surface repairs done 26.3.25 going South towards Cranbrook. North towards Staplehurst due 15.6.26

5. Hedges – bird nesting season, so no letters delivered. Keeping an eye on ones reported.

Clerk to notify Kent Highways about dangerous ones, (e.g if A229 hedges need trimming etc).

Action: Prepare second letters for residents that have received a letter but hedge still not compliant.

6. Standing item - Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – Kent Highways contact: Stuart Taylor

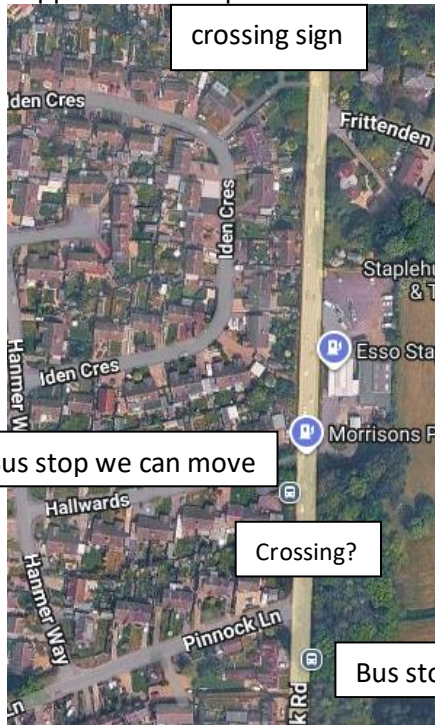
Please note ALL HIP requests should be on the HIP document, ideally in order of our preferred importance.

HIP 1. The Quarter - Bus stop / crossing & 30mph / elderly crossing sign on hill. Cranbrook Rd

Note -Funding for this is from SPC S106 money, not KH, for improvements for bus services – i.e. we really want a safe crossing to the bus stops.

10.6.26 Data collected but bus stop team has requested a meeting with ST regarding this specific S106 scheme.
 8.4.26 ST introduces self and meeting with AS and CC B Black arranged. As much information as possible given relating to the site. AS sent ST at KH the previous schematics and March RSG minutes, as they had nothing on record. Traffic and pedestrian survey being done 11 May. Once collated will arrange a meeting.
 18.3.26 AS chased KH, Amy – replied that as per her December email, she has moved departments and 'Stuart Taylor (ST)' is now in charge. Her email 17 December trying to rearrange a meeting made no mention of this. No contact details or drawings.
 28.1.26 Chased KH, Amy - no response.
 17.12.25 Teams meeting cancelled by Amy
 9.10.25 Teams meeting cancelled due to Amy ill
 6.8.25 AS followed up with Amy KH:
 1. Discussion that Amy believes the Services (SGN - Gas, BT & water), likely minimally affected by proposed crossing.
 2) landowner discussion regarding hedge – keen to assist with discussion - later declined to assist.

Hill sign Chased KH Emily Rodgers 28.1.26, said she would chase up re children crossing sign, no further detail. Supposed to be a part of this crossing development.



June 26 declined as not necessary as not near the Primary school and there is a crossing at the Parade. ie seems we had another standard response. AS immediately wrote back with a diagram to show that the Primary school is not relevant as it is the pre school at the Parish rooms and that the signal crossing is down the hill not helpful for South side and elderly residents. ER acknowledged receipt and “will pass this to our planning and advice team and ask them to re-visit. It could be that there is a more suitable location given this information”

SPC Bus stop we can move

Bus stop that crossing is to access

Action: Awaiting update meeting

HIP 2 Hawkenbury Bridge (Headcorn historic structure)



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.

Hawkenbury Bridge – Meeting 2.6.26 with KH, KCC Brian Black, Headcorn, Hawkenbury and SPC to try to find a way forward. KH presented a report and works that can be done – signs, lines, bollards. Much discussion regarding money spent yearly on repairs (£100,000 quoted just to redirect traffic while works carried out) and how that could have been invested in traffic lights.

Action: KH report circulated to cllrs for discussion. KH asked to fully cost out a traffic light scheme for consideration too
Previous efforts

1. Drivers should drive responsibly and toot horn as cross the bridge.
2. Install traffic lights – KH have said no as not a close enough electric source and solar powered lights would not be reliable enough. No Budget for this to connect to electrics nearby.
3. Widen or second bridge – bridge is listed so can't change it. KH only own the road bridge not the land either side so would have to buy land – Don't know who landowner is and no Budget for this.

We followed the advice given to the clerk by KH, that the 2 chief items – the crossing and Hawkenbury Bridge – are too big a project for a HIP and changed our 3 main HIP items. Full council agreed RSG recommendation in December 2025. Checking with KH they did not seem to have this and so was sent and confirmed received today:

HIP 1. Crossroads – cameras. There may be a CIL joint pot of money we might be able to apply for. KCC Cllr Black had agreed to chase this possibility.

Action: chase up progress and continue to lobby. Question was raised as they would not be monitored but in the event of an incident could be checked / downloaded. Given current complaints, it could raise money in fines for MBC.

Crossroads capacity – Rob Jarman, in an SPC planning meeting, stated KCC Highways have revised the figures due to change in driver numbers - working from home / teams meetings etc. Therefore the proposed development on Marden Rd, would cause only an additional 3sec wait at traffic lights. Is this an official Kent Highways view? How do we check? Council agreed the RSG recommendation for a Road Traffic Survey of the crossroads be done again, last one 5 years ago. This will occur in September.

2018 one showed that 39.9% of the traffic were from speeding, with 2.84% doing 60+ compared with 2021 one showed that 9.27% of the traffic were from speeding, with 0.17% doing 60+ but this was during covid

Action: Await results from September 2026 surveys

HIP 2. Bower Walk - drop bollard to allow emergency vehicles but to stop cars accessing pavement.

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. Also see clerks report above.

Action: continue to lobby KH and chase KH maintenance up re below.

* leaks and flooding on A229 – Kin coffee – need to chase as still a leak.

* road surface repairs needed, e.g. Offens Drive main route by shops at Parade

* Sainsbury Roundabout KH maintenance - completed

* Yellow lines refresh- currently so poor they are unenforceable on the a229. Only done on corner of Cornforth Close .

7. AOB:

* Resident in Chestnut Avenue concerned about speeding bikes through into Crowther Close / Bathurst road previously

contacted cllr Riordan at MBC about putting in barriers there. Message forwarded to AS. Checking that area, SPC do not own that land and therefore are unable to install barriers. Maybe something MBC can implement.

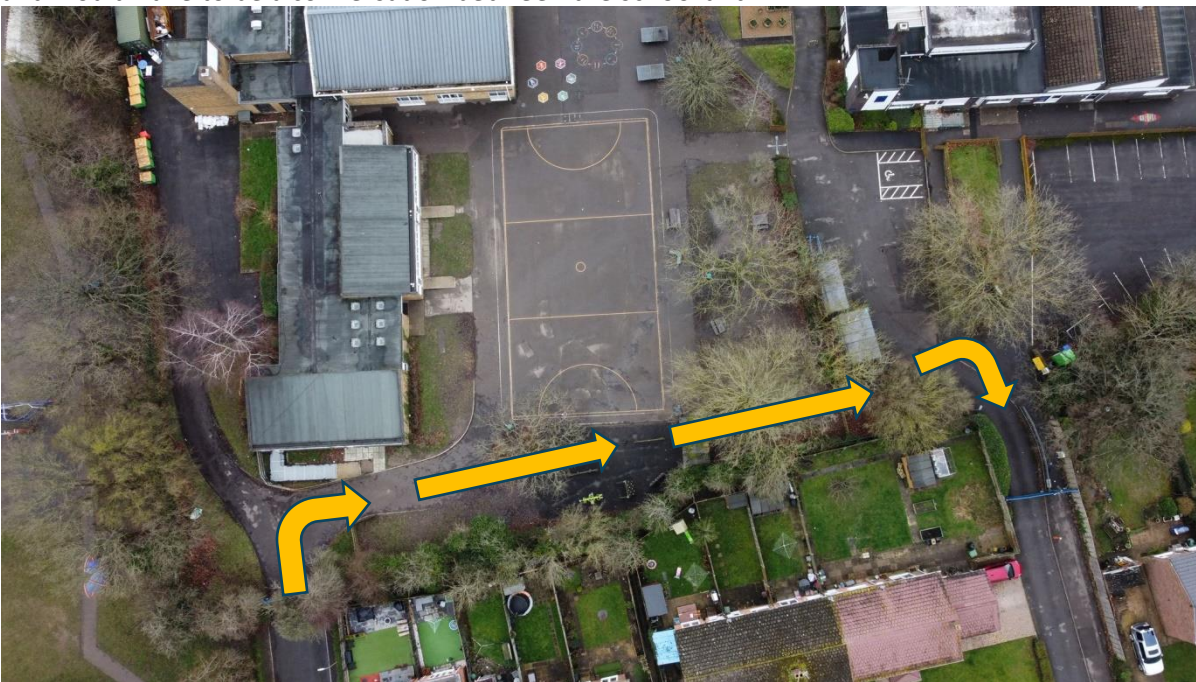
School parking – B cllr Riordan arranged a meeting 9.2.26 at the Primary School, inviting PTA, members of the public, School parents, MBC officers, SPC, School Governors and teachers, KCC Cllr Black and our MP.

Action: B. cllr Riordan and C. cllr Black liaising on this.

RSG overall plan shows the work SPC has completed with KH. This shows that SPC has, via the correct process of the HIP, had KH install bollards, double yellow lines, zig zags repainted and no waiting time signs installed. See below SPC still have no powers to enforce parking TRO's, only MBC can. Only KH can install TRO's in line with their budget.



Residents have suggested a through route to drop off children in cars – see below – but this is outside the purview of SPC and would have to be a conversation between the school and KH.



Dates of forthcoming meeting: Next meeting at the office. [2nd or 9th July 2026 10.30am tbc](#)