

Committee, group or subgroup: Road Safety Group
Meeting Date & venue: Monday 2nd June 2025, 10.00am @ SPC Office
Report author: Cllr A Sharp - chairman
<p><u>Present:</u> A Sharp (AS), M. Alessi, M Buller (MB) Speedwatch Rep. and SID data expert).</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Bill McLaughlin (BM),</p> <p><u>Matters Arising:</u> - Monday 28th March 2025 Minutes agreed</p> <p>Elect chair – AS was elected as chair for this meeting but discuss at next meeting again.</p> <p><u>1. Clerks feedback RG:</u></p> <p>Emails down due to migration Th 29th May -> current almost back up working.</p> <p>a. <u>School parking</u> – Monday attitudes seemed a bit glitchy school and residence wise but Tuesday onwards seemed to get better. Some staff parking on street as well. Walking bus did not happen.</p> <p>Residents of Fletcher and Gybbons Rise emailed clerk appreciating our effort – although not hopeful ongoing.</p> <p>Parking enforcement improved from Tuesday onwards with conversations and some tickets issued. No staff support from school other than Head popping out briefly. Police only there on Monday morning, maybe Friday?</p> <p>Suggest idea of letter to parents and residents re an unofficial one way system for September from School.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Clerk arrange meeting with school for debrief and possibility of doing again in September.</p> <p>b. <u>A229 Cranbrook Road</u> 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 the ‘Elderly person crossing sign’. 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.</p> <p>c. <u>“30mph limit, not a target” sign</u> – not moved to Hurst Close yet due to staff sickness and holidays. Hopefully be done this week.</p> <p><u>2. Auto Speed watch</u> – camera no longer works and won’t be replaced. Been quite successful to make the point about repeat offenders as they would get a letter.</p> <p><u>SID</u> – permission at Headcorn Road, Marden Road, Bathurst Road sites. Best sites Headcorn Rd and incoming Marden.</p> <p>Note - the camera should ideally change every 2 weeks and should not stay in the same location longer than 3 weeks.</p> <p><i>Batteries last 5 – 11 days depending on traffic going past i.e. drain quicker on Headcorn Rd</i></p> <p><i>Headcorn Road facing east for 2 weeks (some leeway allowing up to 3 weeks subject</i></p> <p><i>Headcorn Road facing west for 2 weeks to availability to turn the camera.)</i></p> <p><i>Bathurst Road for 1 week (this should ideally be 1 in term time / 1 in holidays)</i></p> <p><i>Marden Road facing west for 1 week</i></p> <p><i>Marden Road facing east for 2 weeks</i></p> <p>Only 2 sets of reports as SID worked for 8 days then packs up. Gaps of fortnight between. (staff holiday / sickness)</p> <p>Not being used to maximum effect Headcorn Rd incoming – 3 weeks but only 8 days date then facing roundabout 3-4am 200 vehicles @ under 15mph – informed likely rain drops! We are ignoring this data.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> AS will discuss with caretaker to do once a week.</p>

Data from previous minutes

ANALYSIS OF SID DEPLOYMENTS

2024

DATE started	ROAD used	FACIN G DIREC TION	TRAVEL TOWAR DS	DAY S USE D	VOLUME RECOR DED	AVER AGE VOLUME	UNDE R 30m ph	% und er	OVR 30m ph	% ove r		High speede rs			per day	per site
												45-59	60+			
23/08/2024	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	6	15633	2606	9273	59.32	6360	40.68		66		3	11.5	
29/08/2024	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	6	18624	3104	11396	61.19	7228	38.81		71		0	11.83	11.42
09/11/2024	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	7	18690	2670	11752	62.88	6938	37.12		55		2	8.14	
16/11/2024	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	4	9634	2409	5926	61.51	3708	38.49		31		0	7.75	7.64

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ANALYSIS OF SID DEPLOYMENTS

2025

DATE start ed	ROAD used	FACIN G DIREC TION	TRAVEL TOWAR DS	DAY S USE D	VOLUME RECOR DED	AVER AGE VOLUME	UNDE R 30m ph	% und er	OVR 30m ph	% ove r		High speede rs			per day	per site
												45-59	60+			
13/03/2025	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	8	21361	2670	11481	53.75	9880	46.25		115		0	14.38	
21/03/2025	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	6	16338	2723	8688	53.18	7650	46.82		86		0	14.33	
27/03/2025	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	7	20312	2902	8984	44.23	11328	55.77		148		2	21.43	16.71
	Head corn	east	Staple hurst													

3. Speedwatch

Saturday 3rd May MB is held a refresher training session – 6 attended and a Whats App Group created. Did a Saturday 50 minute session 22 caught speeding (6 errors). 3 letters issued by Police due to our work.

Errors number plate (D or O or 0), colour (orange / brown -> Gold), or make of car (Range rover -> land rover / Mercedes -> Mercedes Benz). Jenny Burton – coordinator – agreed to be data inputter.

14th June Speedwatch conference– MA signed up for.

Action: Need to check all are added to Whats App Group, let Louise Brice know

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

No reports via email. Still plastic barriers on the Hawkenbury bridge – now both sides. Previous damage to bridge still not rectified. **Action:** Ask Jean if she can put up a poster about Road safety and include the emails.

5. Hedges – Hedges letter agreed at full council – Nesting season March to August. Can report to KH if there is a dangerous hedge. Discussed the idea that a letter advising cutting in September to send in August – feedback next meeting. **Action:** – letter feedback suggestions from all please.

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

HIP 2 Hawkenbury Bridge - The bridge with no accidents –Previous damage still not rectified now 2 plastic barriers in situ

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.

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:** Check if we did contact Maintenance again.

9. AOB:

* MB suggested a Road traffic survey as last one 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

* Change of date and time? Suggested Thursday 3rd July 2025 7pm at the office.

Dates of forthcoming meetings: Next meeting Thursday 3rd July 2025 7pm at the office.