

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

Meeting Date & venue: **Wednesday 11th February 2026, 7pm @ SPC Office**

Report author: Cllr A Sharp - chairman

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

Apologies: M Buller (MB) Speedwatch Rep. and SID data expert), C. Rhodes, M.Wakeford

Matters Arising: **Thursday 9th October 2025, 7pm** Minutes agreed.

1. Clerks feedback: No movement since October for a lot of items despite chasing:

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. Last chased KH, Amy on 28.1.26 - no response, note we have never received outline drawings.

Previously AS followed up with Amy KH 6/8/25:

1. Discussion that it was believed that Services affected by the proposed crossing, (SGN (Gas), BT & water), believed would be minimal.

2) landowner discussion regarding hedge – keen to assist with discussion

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. reorganize zoom meeting W 15th October 2025 – landowner declined to assist.

Hill sign Chased KH Emily 28.1.26, said she would chase up re children crossing sign, no further detail.

Sainsbury Roundabout Chased KH Emily 28.1.26 - said she would chase up - no further detail

Yellow lines refresh- currently so poor they would be unenforceable on the a229. Only done on corner of Cornforth Close - will chase KH maintenance up.

Crossroads capacity – Monday Rob Jarman - 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? Traffic survey important?

Recommend to full council, as suggested in October minutes, that a Road traffic survey of the crossroads be done again as we have more residents since 2018 & 2021.

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

Online figures suggest £299 - £350 / £950 + VAT

Action: ask clerk to investigate costs of a traffic survey – chase.

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)

Sid data - not sent to MB out of respect due to personal illness - can restart?

School parking - I understand there are changes coming into force May 2026.

Borough Councillor Mr Riordan arranged a meeting at the Primary School, inviting PTA, members of the public, School parents, MBC officers, SPC, School Governors and teachers, KCC Councillor Mr Black and our MP on 9th February.

Action: Recommend the overall plan produced by RSG to show the work SPC has completed with KH, goes to full council to be agreed to be sent to the school, MBC, KCC, MP and residents. This will emphasise that SPC still have no powers to enforce parking TRO's, only MBC can. Only KH can install

TRO's in line with their budget.

SPC has via the correct process of the HIP, had KH install bollards, double yellow lines, zig zags repainted and no waiting time signs.

b. A229 Cranbrook Road = [see clerks update](#)

2. SID – no data managed due to staff absence and MB personal circumstances.

Date Road				45-59 60+	day	site
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Action: MA will speak to JT re data and sending to MB once more.

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

It has been raining far too much to be able to do anything, but the WhatsApp group have been discussing doing so as soon as weather improves.

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

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

26 January – Having waited for months for the Hawkenbury Bridge repairs, 2 weeks later it was it and closed due to damage again. An extended 30mph stretch is in place and it is open again, but will have to be closed again in the future for repairs.

A meeting has been arranged between KH, KCC Brian Black and SPC to try to find a way forward.

Previous efforts

1. Drivers should drive responsibly and toot horn as cross the bridge – not happening

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.

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 - No Budget for this.

Action: Keep an eye on Hawkenbury bridge repairs

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

5. Hedges – letter (previously agreed at full council) – 4 reported, members to check and post letter

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).

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

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.



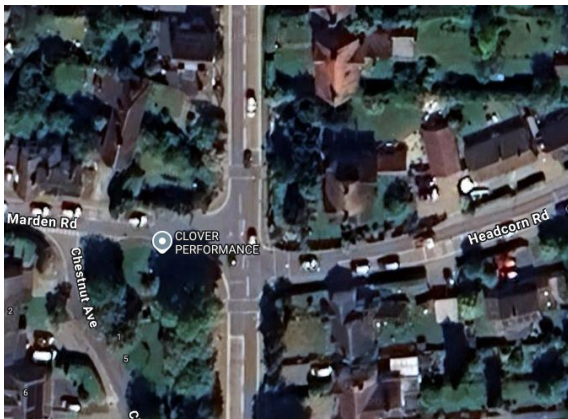
HIP 3 Double yellow lines (DYL) on main road A229 and Chapel Lane extension, single lines (SYL) on Cornforth Close, Chestnut Avenue and Poyntell Road. Hurst Close & Newlyn Drive
Kent Highways have previously said that they will not do this as there are no current road safety issues. Also see clerks report above.

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

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. Chase up progress.
- * chase the leaks and flooding on A229 – top of hill, Kin coffee and by the crossing near Kiri's.
- * chase road surface repairs needed, e.g. Offens Drive main route by shops at Parade – note the A229 South to Cranbrook have been repaired this week



Dates of forthcoming meeting: Next meeting Thursday 26th March 2026, 7pm at the office.