

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAY WORKING GROUP HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2004 AT 7.00 p.m. AT THE PAVILION, MANOR  
FIELD**

Present: Cllr Mr M Harris  
Cllr Mr B Ramsay (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs M Solman  
Cllr Mr K Tucker

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)  
Mr J Cook (KCC - Highway Engineer)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mr C Ward, Cllr Mr V Sewell and Cllr Mr A Garwood.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Ash Road Working Group held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**4. Terms of Reference**

The Working Group considered the Terms of Reference approved by the Council on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

RESOLVED: That, the Terms of Reference as approved by the Council at its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2004 be noted.

**5. Membership of the Working Group**

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Mr K Tucker be co opted to the Highway Working Group.

**6. Ash Road**

Kent County Council's Highway Engineer explained why the scheme to improve road safety and reduce traffic speed on Ash Road in the vicinity of the junction with Wellfield, as approved by the Joint Transportation Board at its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2003, had been revised.

The original scheme included the provision of a mini roundabout to be located on the junction of Ash Road and Wellfield and a sum of £26,000 had been allocated for this scheme from the 2004/05 budget for highway works to be undertaken by the Sevenoaks Highway Unit. The Working Group was reminded that the total budget allocation to Hartley amounted to a sum of £33,000, which not only included the provision of a new roundabout, but also improvements to signage and road markings along Ash Road. The total budget allocation for highway works to the rural roads to be undertaken by Sevenoaks Highway Unit during 2004/05 amounted to £50,000 and therefore Hartley had secured 66% of the District's overall budget. The County Council's Engineer explained that the cost to implement the original scheme could not be undertaken within the agreed budget allocation of £26,000 and therefore the scheme could not be progressed in its current form.

The Working Group examined a drawing prepared by Kent County Council's consultants, Babtie, showing a revised scheme as set out below:

- reduction in the width of the carriageway adjacent to Hoselands Green by increasing the width of the footway on the western side of Ash Road
- re positioning the bus stop, currently located opposite Wellfield, to a position approximately 40 metres to the south of its existing position
- provision of a new uncontrolled crossing point to the south of Wellfield
- installation of high friction road surfacing at the junction of Ash Road and Wellfield
- installation of red high friction surfacing between the areas of existing centre hatching between Wellfield and the pedestrian refuge near Bramblefield Close

The Working Group expressed its concerns over the revised scheme and considered a number of amendments to the scheme prepared by the County Council's consultants. The Highway Engineer explained that any alterations to the scheme at this stage would cause serious delays to the implementation of the highway works, to such a degree that it would not be possible to complete the works before the end of the financial year and as it was not possible to rollover funds into the next financial year, it would be unlikely that the scheme would go ahead. The Highway Engineer stated that if the scheme was accepted in its current form, it would be taken forward to the next meeting of the Joint Transportation Board to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004 and that the highway works were likely to be carried out during January 2005.

The Highway Engineer explained that he was currently preparing the next five year plan for 2006/2011 and stated he would be willing to include within that plan a bid for funding further improvement works to Ash Road.

The Highway Engineer informed the Working Group that Ash Road did not meet the criteria for a fixed speed camera, but that the bid for a mobile speed camera to visit Ash Road had been successful.

RECOMMENDED: That,

(1) the new footway on Ash Road and the traffic calming scheme, as shown on drawing number 13487/03, should be implemented by Kent County Council's Highway Department within the financial year 2004/05 and,

(2) further improvements to Ash Road are formulated to enable Kent County Council's Highway Department to include a bid within the next 5 year Local Transport Plan.

#### **6. Date of the next meeting**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....

