

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAY WORKING GROUP HELD ON
TUESDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2006 AT 7.30 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY**

Present: Cllr Mr D Brazier (*County Councillor – co-opted*)
Cllr Mr M Harris (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs M Solman
Cllr Mr C Ward

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
1 member of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mr B Ramsay.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highway Working Group held on 31st January 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Fairby Lane

It was reported that a letter had been written to Kent Highway Services on 10th January 2006 requesting an update on the proposed scheme to close Fairby Lane at its junction with Ash Road to vehicular traffic, but no response had been received.

The County Councillor requested a list of all outstanding highway issues, so that he may take the matter up at the next meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be noted, (2) the matter be pursued with Kent Highway Services and (3) a list of outstanding highway issues be provided to the County Councillor.

5. Interactive sign

The Working Group considered a report on the current position regarding the provision of an interactive sign and noted that the speed monitoring survey to measure speed patterns on Ash Road had now been completed. The Transportation Manager, Mr Dines, had confirmed that the survey results were expected by 24th February 2006.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be noted and (2) a copy of the survey results be requested.

6. Speedwatch

The Working Group considered a report on the cost of hiring a speed indicator device (SID) and noted that the Police had a SID available for hire at a charge of £10 per month, minimum rental period one month, but that the Council would be required to purchase a warning sign at a cost of £50 and the Council would be held responsible for any repair caused as a result of damage to the equipment. The Police would provide training for the volunteers and carry out a risk assessment to agree a suitable location.

It was reported that Fawkham Parish Council had expressed an interest in hiring the equipment and suggested that the costs could be shared between the two Parish Councils.

The Working Group discussed at some length the effectiveness of the scheme and expressed some concern over the lack of support for the scheme from residents. To date only one member of the public had come forward to offer assistance in manning the equipment. Two members of the Parish Council had offered their assistance and the County Councillor confirmed he would be willing to help.

RESOLVED: That, (1) an article be placed in the next edition of the Council's newsletter requesting volunteers to come forward to assist with the scheme and that the article should explain the likely commitment that would be expected of residents, (2) no further action be taken until the Annual Parish Meeting at which time a further appeal would be made to residents for their support, and (3) Fawkham Parish Council be advised of the Council's current position.

7. Stack Lane

The Working Group was reminded that the condition of the road had been brought to the Council's attention by a resident of Stack Lane, who complained that the situation was made worse by the volume of cars and delivery vehicles associated with the School. The resident had also complained about inconsiderate parking by parents.

The Working Group examined the planning permission granted in 1973 for the construction of the school in Stack Lane and noted that a condition had been placed on the planning permission, requiring an area of land to be made available for the parking of cars when the premises were in use. It was reported that the school appeared to be complying with this condition, as area adjacent to the school playground was used for staff parking. The Working Group expressed some surprise that the planning permission took no account of the wear and tear to the surface of the unmade and un-adopted highway caused as a result of cars and delivery vehicles associated with the school. The Working Group concluded that the situation was unsatisfactory, but as the access was a un-adopted highway it was a private matter between the residents and the School.

RESOLVED: That, the resident of Stack Lane be informed of the action taken by the Working Group and that no further action could be taken on the matter.

8. Parking restrictions

It was reported that a letter had been written to Mr Bateman, Divisional Manager, West Kent Highways, informing of the problems and safety issues surrounding the parking at Hartley Primary School and requesting some consideration be given to the introduction of parking restrictions at the two entrances to the School. The Working Group noted that despite the fact that zig-zag lines and "keep clear" lines were present at both of the School entrances, the Senior Parking Officer at Sevenoaks District Council had informed the Council that these were not enforceable.

The Working Group considered whether there were any other areas in Hartley that could benefit from the provision of parking restrictions and discussed the problems created by vehicles parking outside St Francis De Sales Church, which reduced sight lines along Church Road and hindered buses accessing Woodland Avenue.

RECOMMENDED: That, a meeting be arranged with Kent Highway Services to pursue the provision of parking restrictions at Hartley Primary School and to discuss the possibility of introducing parking restrictions in other areas in Hartley.

9. Flooding at Springcroft

It was reported that overnight on the 14th and 15th February 2006, flooding had once again occurred at Springcroft and that Cllr Mr B Ramsay had taken the matter up with Kent Highway Services, who had promised that urgent action would be taken.

The Working Group considered the matter at some length and concluded that much of the problems associated with flooding at the end of Springcroft was due to the discharge of silt off the unmade section of Manor Drive. The Working Group questioned whether, in future, it may

be possible to request a Section 106 agreement on any future developments in Manor Drive, to improve the drainage of surface water in the area.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be noted and (2) the matter be pursued with Kent Highway Services.

10. Church Road

It was reported that an enquiry had been made with Kent Highway Services asking for confirmation as to when Church Road was next scheduled for resurfacing and that the matter had been directed to their Operations Department as the enquiry related to a maintenance issue.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

11. Ash Road

The Working Group noted that Kent Highway Services had been informed that the belcher beacon on the pedestrian crossing on Ash Road was obstructed by overhanging vegetation and that Kent Highway Services had responded stating that the area would be cut back in the new financial year when funds became available. The Working Group expressed some surprise with this response, as it understood that the landowner was responsible for cutting back overhanging vegetation from the public highway and that if the landowner failed to respond to a request from the Highway Authority, it could then undertake the work and charge the resident accordingly.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the matter be pursued with Kent Highway Services and (2) a letter be written to the landowner of the offending tree bringing the matter to their attention.

12. County Lengthsmen Scheme

The Working Group examined the work schedule request form relating to a rut in the road outside 2 Hartley Wood Corner, Manor Drive.

RESOLVED: That, the request for remedial work to the rut outside 2 Hartley Wood Corner, Manor Drive be confirmed.

13. Kent Highways

The Working Group considered a report on items referred to Kent Highway Services since the last meeting and the responses received.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

14. Councillors reports

The Working Group considered a number of reports, as set out below:

Cherry Trees

Repairs and improvements at the front of the Cherry Trees shops had been undertaken by Sevenoaks District Council in 1992 as part of an Environmental Improvement Scheme. A number of bollards were currently missing.

RESOLVED: That, Sevenoaks District Council be asked to replace the missing bollards.

Castle Hill

A traffic survey had been undertaken on Castle Hill last week.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be noted and (2) a copy of the survey results be requested.

Free Transport

From 1st April 2006 free off peak travel would be available for senior citizens on any bus beginning and ending in the Kent or Medway area. Free off peak travel would not be available to Sevenoaks residents on buses in the London area or on trains.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

15. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 28th March 2006 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

Public Question Time

Public question time commenced at 8.50 p.m.

A member of the public informed the Working Group of two potholes outside Blue Firs and Grosvenor, Church Road

Public question closed at 8. 51 p.m.