

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006 AT 6.00 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mr D Brazier (*County Councillor – co-opted*)  
Cllr Mr M Harris (Chairman)  
Cllr Mr B Ramsay (*left at 7.30 p.m.*)  
Cllr Mr V Sewell (*arrived at 6.10 p.m.*)  
Cllr Mrs M Solman

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)  
32 members of the public

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr J Gaywood and Cllr Mr C Ward.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mr V Sewell declared a personal interest under minute item 4 in relation to matters affecting the proposed parking restrictions at Hartley Primary School, as he serves as a Community Governor on the School's Governing Body. Cllr Sewell declared his interest shortly after arriving at the meeting.

**3. Minutes**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Parking Proposals**

The Chairman of the Highways Committee explained the proposed package of waiting restrictions suggested by the Sevenoaks District Council's Senior Engineer for Traffic and Parking at the following locations:

1. Fairby Lane / Chantry Avenue
2. Round Ash Way / Oast Way / Conifer Avenue
3. Quakers Close
4. Church Road / Stack Lane / Woodland Avenue
5. Cherry Trees

*Cllr Sewell arrived at the meeting at 6.10 p.m.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 6.15 p.m.  
to allow members of the public to comment on the proposed package of waiting restrictions.*

*The meeting resumed at 7.10 p.m.*

Cllr Mrs Solman expressed her concerns about the proposals to introduce double yellow lines in front of the St Francis De Sales Church, which she considered would greatly inconvenience church goers. The Committee noted similar views expressed by Cllr Mrs Burns in her e mail dated 21st June 2006.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) in light of the views and concerns expressed by residents and Members, Sevenoaks District Council's Senior Traffic and Parking Engineer be asked to modify the proposed waiting restrictions, wherever possible and,

(2) the amended proposals be brought back to the Highways Committee for further consideration, before submitting to the full Council for approval.

#### **5. Castle Hill**

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee, it was agreed to defer consideration of a speed and signing review of Castle Hill undertaken by Kent Highways Services.

The Committee expressed some disappointment about the content of the report, particularly as it had not included the provision of a width restriction on Castle Hill which had been suggested at a site meeting with representatives from Kent Highway Services earlier in the year.

Members were reminded that at the last meeting it was reported a resident had requested in the year 2000 Castle Hill be considered for the "Quiet Lane" initiative, but whilst Castle Hill appeared to meet all the required criteria she had been informed the initiative was in its infancy and only experimental locations were being planned. More recently the resident had requested that the top half of Castle Hill from the property known as "Woodview" to Hartley Green be resurfaced.

RESOLVED: That, (1) consideration of the speed and signing review relating to Castle Hill be deferred and (2) a copy of the report be sent to Fawkham Parish Council and representatives from Fawkham Parish Council be invited to attend the next Committee meeting.

#### **6. Flooding at Springcroft**

It was reported that Springcroft had once again been flooded following a severe storm during the afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and had on this occasion affected 10 properties. The flood water had subsided by the following day and Kent Highway Services sent out a crew to clear up the resultant debris and mud. Kent Highway Services confirmed in an e mail dated 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006 that it would be making arrangements for the drains to be jetted.

The Committee was informed that copies of correspondence had been received from a number of residents of Springcroft who had been affected by the recent flooding.

The County Councillor referred to a letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006 from Keith Ferrin, Kent County Council, informing that remedial/improvement works to the drainage system in Springcroft would not proceed during 2006/07, as previously reported, due to budgetary pressures. Kent County Council had reassessed its priorities for inclusion in this year's budget and any large scale drainage works at locations where "gardens and lower value property" was being damaged by water flowing off the highway would not be undertaken.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

*Cllr Mr B Ramsay left the meeting at 7.30 p.m.*

#### **7. Flooding at junction of Ash Road and Old Downs**

The Committee considered a letter from a resident of Old Downs to Kent Highways Services informing of recent flooding at no 2 Old Downs.

RESOLVED: That, the letter be noted.

#### **8. Street Lighting**

The Committee considered a letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006 from Kent Highway Services informing of the future arrangements for the reporting of faults.

RESOLVED: That, the letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006 from Kent Highway Services be noted.

**9. Highway Matters**

The County Councillor reported that the funding for the interactive sign through the KCC Members Fund was secure.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

**10. General Correspondence**

The Committee considered an e mail dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006 from a resident on a number of issues relating to the speed of traffic on Ash Road and Church Road. The Committee felt that the issues relating to the speed of traffic on Church Road may be alleviated by the proposed waiting restrictions outside the Roman Catholic Church.

RESOLVED: That, the resident be informed of the proposed waiting restrictions in front of the St Francis De Sales RC Church.

**11. Date of the next meeting**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at 8.00 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....

## Adjournment

### Quakers Close

Mr and Mrs Fuller, Quakers Close, explained how they would be greatly inconvenienced by the proposed waiting restrictions along the entirety of Quakers Close as they had no off street parking. **A number of residents of Quakers Close explained they had no facilities for off street parking and therefore would encounter great difficulties if waiting restrictions were implemented in Quakers Close.**

Cllr Ramsay reported that he had been approached by a number of residents in Quakers Close who had complained about the nuisance caused by commuter parking in Quakers Close.

Mr Thomas, Quakers Close, explained that cars were parked in Quakers Close all the time and would support the proposed waiting restrictions. .

It was suggested that parking permits could be considered for residents, but it was pointed out that each household would only be issued with one permit per household and therefore would not alleviate the problem.

It was suggested that the proposed scheme could be modified so that the waiting restrictions were confined to the section of Quakers Close from Ash Road extending to the first lay-by.

### Fairby Lane / Chantry Avenue

Mr Engall questioned whether the waiting restrictions would be enforced and suggested the provision of bollards would be more effective than the introduction of waiting restrictions to stop parking on the footpath along Fairby Lane.

Mr Johnson considered the provision of bollards would merely add to the traffic congestion.

It was explained that currently Hartley had very few areas where parking was restricted and therefore it would not be worthwhile for a traffic warden from Sevenoaks to attend the area. However if Hartley had more waiting restrictions, it would be more likely that a traffic warden would attend the area to enforce the restrictions.

Mrs Waterson felt that the proposed waiting restrictions would not provide a long term solution to the parking problems surrounding Hartley Primary School and suggested that the School may wish to consider setting aside an area of its playing fields for the provision of the car park. It was explained that it would be unlikely that the School would have sufficient funds for such a project. ~~Mrs Waterson asked whether the waiting restrictions could be extended in front of nos 37 to 41 in Fairby Lane.~~ **Mrs Waterson asked for clarification on whether or not there was going to be restrictions in front of 37 to 41 Fairby Lane as she felt, if this was the case, it would push more vehicles in front of her house and others in the private road.**

Mrs Gibb asked for clarification on the extent of the proposed waiting restrictions on Fairby Lane, **as she felt that an extension may be a good idea around the corner of her property.** **Mrs Gibb also** and asked what would happen if a private drive was obstructed by a parked vehicle. It was explained that under such circumstances residents should contact the Police and ask for the obstruction to be removed.

Mr Richards asked whether a one way system had been considered. It was explained that the provision of a one way system and the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in the vicinity of the School had been investigated, but both schemes had been rejected by Kent Highway Services on the grounds that they would you need to self enforcing by means of some physical barriers such as road humps or chicanes. It was explained that it was now a policy of Sevenoaks District Council to introduce more 20 mph speed zones around schools and it was felt that the Parish Council may wish to take this matter up again with the District Council. Mr Engells felt that the introduction of a one way system would not solve the parking problems, but would ease the traffic congestion.

Mr Haywood felt that waiting restrictions should be introduced on both sides of the highway around the Green in Round Ash Way and was concerned that the restrictions would result in

parking on the Green. Mr Hayward explained that the Green was owned and maintained by residents. It was suggested that the residents may wish to consider the installation of bollards to prevent parking on the Green, but concerns were raised about the public liability in the event of accident.

Mr Wilkinson considered the safety of the children was the most important issue and raised his concerns about the speed of the traffic. He supported the suggestion of a car park within the School premises and suggested that a road could be built through the school grounds to create a drop off and pick zone. .

Mr Loomes suggested extending the waiting restrictions into the hammer head in front of 17 Oast Way.

Mr Yates suggested the Hartley Primary School should be responsible for solving the parking problems.

Mr Turvey, ex Chairman of the Hartley Primary School Governing Body, explained that the School's Governing Body had argued on many occasions about the parking problems around the School and had even considered the provision of a road through the school grounds, but he explained that the existing budgets did not provide sufficient funds for the School's basic needs. He felt that even if car parking and a through road was provided by the School, it would not stop the problem of inconsiderate parking and would merely transfer the problem from the public highway into the School. He supported the Parish Council's initiative to seek a solution to the parking problems.

Mr Scott asked whether any signage would be provided and where the signs would be located, but the District Council would be contacting all residents for comments on the proposals as part of the process. It was confirmed that signage would be provided, but the information provided by the District Council had not detailed the position of the signs. Mr Scott asked if consideration had been given to the volume of traffic created by the playgroup located in the temporary accommodation at the rear of the School. He felt that the parents attending the playgroup were the main contributors to the parking problem around the School and in light of this, asked whether the Parish Council would consider objecting to the renewal of the playgroup's planning permission on its temporary accommodation when it next came up for renewal. Mr Scott estimated that the number of displaced vehicles would be in the region of 50 and suggested that this would put pressure on parents to park even more inconsiderately.

It was explained that if the waiting proposals were implemented they would be permanent and not introduced on a trial basis, and it was estimated that it could take approximately 6 months to implement the proposals. It was confirmed the proposed waiting restrictions were Monday to Friday and would not include the weekend.

### **Church Road / Stack Lane / Woodland Avenue**

It was suggested that 2 parking bays should be provided in front of the Church for funeral and wedding cars.

**Public Question time**

**(after the close of the meeting)**

Mr and Mrs Ede thanked the Parish Council for its support over the closure of Fairby Lane.