

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON  
THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 7.30 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mr D Graeme  
Cllr Mr S Granger  
Cllr Mr M Harris (Chairman)  
Cllr Mr V Sewell

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr D Brazier, Cllr Mr J Gaywood and Cllr Mr J Minns.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 2nd August 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Fairby Lane**

It was reported that Fairby Lane had now been closed to vehicular traffic and that this had taken effect on 11th August 2007.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

**5. Springcroft**

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that the Clerk be requested to write to the Programme Delivery Manager at Kent Highway Services (KHS) to seek assurance that the installation of a line of kerbs in the channel at the junction of Manor Drive and Manor Lane to encourage the run off of surface water into the existing drainage system was not a substitute for a long term solution to the flooding problems in Springcroft.

The Committee considered a letter dated 21st August 2007 from the Programme Delivery Manager at KHS informing the Council that the kerb alterations and road re-profiling in Manor Drive had now been completed and confirming the works to Manor Drive would not affect the priority of further drainage improvements in Springcroft. Furthermore the Manager explained a number of proposed changes to the management structure in Kent Highway Services by the creation of a specialist Highway Drainage Team, which was hoped would improve highway drainage. However, the Manager warned that whilst this improvement in the service could lessen the incidence of private property being flooded, resolution of such problems would remain a low priority.

The Committee examined a number of photographs taken of the aforementioned kerb alterations and road re-profiling works and expressed some concern over whether this work would divert the flow of surface water down Manor Lane rather than Manor Drive.

RESOLVED: That, a letter be written to the Programme Delivery Manager expressing concerns about the effectiveness of the highway alteration works at the

junction of Manor Lane and Manor Drive and inviting the Manager to a site meeting to discuss the matter further.

## **6. Parking at Cherry Trees**

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that a scheme showing improvements to the parking in front of the shops by the removal of the road traffic island be submitted to Kent Highway Services for comment. It was reported that the proposed scheme, together with a supporting statement and a number of photographs, had been sent to Kent Highway Services on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007 and that a response was awaited. It had been agreed to defer discussions with the shop owners and immediate residents until such time as the views of Kent Highway Services had been forthcoming.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

## **7. Stack Lane**

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that the Clerk be requested to write to the Kent County Councillor highlighting the complaints received from residents about the condition of the surface of the road and asking him to pursue the matter at county level. The County Councillor had reported before the meeting that he had not been able to take this matter forward as the school had been closed for the summer holidays, but he hoped to have a report available for the October meeting.

The Clerk was also requested to write to the Area Manager (West Kent Public Rights of Way) to enquire about what standard restricted byways should be maintained and the position regarding responsibility for the implementation of any works required. It was reported that the Area Manager had confirmed that a Restricted Byway could be viewed as having the same status as a bridleway and that Kent County Council was only responsible for ensuring it was suitable for use by pedestrians and horse-riders. Furthermore the Area Manager confirmed that there were no public vehicular rights on Restricted Byways and therefore any works needed to improve access to private properties for cars would have to be carried out by the property owner. The Area Manager informed the Committee that the Public Rights of Way Officer would inspect the Restricted Byway when she next visited the area.

At the previous meeting the Clerk had also been asked to write to the Head Teacher at Our Lady of Hartley Roman Catholic Primary School to inform her of residents concerns and it was reported that the a response was awaited.

RESOLVED: That, the reports be noted.

## **8. Bus Shelter and Services**

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that the Clerk be requested to contact the KCC External Funding Unit to enquire whether there was any funding available for the provision of bus shelters. It was reported that a response was awaited.

The Chairman of the Highways Committee advised of an exchange of correspondence with the local Member of Parliament, Dr H Stoate, who had met recently with the bus company Arriva, to put forward a number of concerns expressed by his constituents over the poor local bus service and more particularly the high cancellation rates, the low level of frequency and the poor state of repair of the buses used on both the 423 and 489 routes. Dr Stoate was pleased to report that Arriva would be providing newer buses on both of the routes and that it was planned to double the number of buses serving the 423 route, increasing the frequency to one every half an hour. It was hoped this would be brought into effect by the end of October.

Furthermore Dr Stoate explained that he had been investigating the possibility of real time bus timetable installed at stops in Hartley which he believed would be beneficial to bus users as it would provide forewarning of any cancellations. Arriva had confirmed that all of its buses were fitted with the equipment necessary to work with live timetables and that it simply requires corresponding technology to be installed in each bus shelter. Dr Stoate confirmed that Kent

County Council was responsible for providing this service and that he had contacted the County on this matter to urge them to speed up plans to install this technology.

It was reported that a copy of a letter from Arriva to Dr Stoate had been received. Arriva advised that it was unable to implement any changes to its early morning operations to provide a bus service to the Darent Valley Hospital before its first scheduled arrival at 09.42, as its buses were totally engaged in providing school journeys and explained that any elderly passengers would not benefit from free travel if they used the bus service before 09.00. The Committee examined the existing timetable and felt that the existing bus service leaving from New Ash Green's North Square at 07.54 could, with minimal disruption to the route, be diverted to call into the Darent Valley Hospital and thus ensure a bus service to the hospital for any early morning appointments.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) the reports and various correspondence be noted and,

(2) enquiries be made with Arriva to establish whether it would be feasible to alter the route of the 423 bus departing from New Ash Green's North Square at 07.54 to call into the Darent Valley Hospital before continuing its route through the Fleet estate and onward to Dartford town centre.

## 9. Cycle Route, Ash Road

Photographs of a shared cycle and pedestrian route between Offham and West Malling were tabled. The Committee considered that the provision of a shared use footpath would improve the safety of children cycling from New Ash Green to attend the local Primary Schools in Hartley and could encourage more people to use this mode of transport.

RECOMMENDED: That,

(1) this Council supports, in principle, the provision of a shared cycle and pedestrian route on the existing footpath on Ash Road to improve the safety of children cycling from New Ash Green to attend the local Primary Schools and,

(2) subject to (1) above, enquiries be made with Kent County Council to establish the processes involved in providing a shared use footpath and in doing so, seek the support from Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council.

## 10. Speedwatch

It was reported that following the last meeting of the Highways Committee, the Community Warden had informed the Clerk that he had spoken to the Clerk at West Kingsdown Parish Council, who had confirmed that West Kingsdown was investigating the possibility of operating a Speedwatch Scheme in conjunction with Hartley, Ash-cum-Ridley and Fawkham Parish Councils. It was reported that nothing further had been heard from West Kingsdown Parish Council.

The Committee considered an extract from the recent publication, "Fieldwork", issued by the Campaign to Protect Rural England. The article explained the experiences of Teston Parish Council who had purchased the necessary equipment to implement a Community Speedwatch Scheme through a grant provided by the local County Councillor.

RESOLVED: That, enquiries be made with Teston Parish Council and the Kent Police on the possibility of observing a demonstration of the Speedwatch equipment and that members of the public, who had recently expressed concerns about the speed of traffic, be invited to attend the demonstration.

## 11. Parish Issue Spreadsheet

The Committee considered the Parish Issue Spreadsheet received by the Council on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007 and made a number of comments relating to the Spreadsheet.

RESOLVED: That,  
(1) enquiries be made with Kent Highway Services about the activation of the interactive sign and,  
(2) an item be added to the spreadsheet in respect of obstructed sight lines at the junction of Gorse Way and Church Road.

**12. Highway Matters**

There were no further reports from Councillors on issues and concerns regarding highways within the parish.

**13. Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at 7.30p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

**14. Dartford's Local Development Framework Core Strategy  
Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 Regulation  
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Consultation on a Strategic Transport Programme and Tariff**

The Committee considered a consultation document on a proposal for securing a long term programme of transport investment for Kent Thameside which would form part of the new Local Development Framework.

RESOLVED: That, the consultation document on Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....



