

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8EL

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12th October 2007

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Highways Committee to be held on **Thursday 18th October 2007 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.**

Yours sincerely

Julie Hoad
Proper Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive Members' declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 6th September 2007 as a correct record. (Annexed).

4. Springcroft

At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee, concerns were expressed about the kerb alterations and road re-profiling works undertaken by Kent Highway Services at the junction of Manor Drive and Manor Lane to divert the flow of surface water down Manor Lane rather than Manor Drive. The Committee considered that the works undertaken would not be effective and resolved to contact the Programme Delivery Manager expressing these concerns. The Committee is requested to note that a level survey of the area was undertaken which confirmed that it would be unlikely that the works could divert the flow of surface water down Manor Lane. Whilst conducting the survey a blocked gully was located approximately 150 metres from the road junction. In the correspondence to the Programme Delivery Manager it was suggested that a site meeting be arranged.

To consider the response received from the Programme Delivery Manager in a letter dated 1st October 2007. (Annexed).

5. Parking at Cherry Trees

At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee it was reported that a scheme showing improvements to the parking in front of the shops by the removal of a traffic island, together with a supporting statement including

photographs to demonstrate the problems associated with the current parking arrangements outside the shops, had been submitted to Kent Highway Services on 20th August 2007 for comment. An e mail was received from Kent Highway Services on 3rd October 2007 forwarding the engineer's original comments as contained in his e mail of 9th May 2007, which requested a scheme be prepared for Kent Highway Services to undertake a safety check.

The Committee is requested to note the aforementioned correspondence and consider how it wishes to progress the matter.

6. Stack Lane

At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee it was reported that, (1) the County Councillor had been informed of complaints received from residents about the condition of the surface in Stack Lane and that he hoped to report further on the matter at the October meeting, (2) the Public Rights of Way Officer would be inspecting the Restricted Byway to assess whether the condition of the surface was suitable for its purpose and, (3) the Head Teacher had been informed of the residents concerns about the condition of surface in Stack Lane.

The Committee is requested to consider reports received in respect of matters set out in (1) to (3) above.

7. Bus shelter and services

(a) At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee it was reported that the KCC External Funding Unit had been contacted to enquire whether there was any funding available for the provision of bus shelters. The KCC External Funding Officer has undertaken a search to potential funding for bus shelters but has been unable to find any suitable sources and has suggested contacting Kent Highway Services.

The Committee is requested to note the above report and consider how it wishes to progress the matter.

(b) At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee, Members commented on the time tabling of Arriva's early morning operations. A letter was sent to Arriva on 18th September 2007 asking 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. To date no response has been received.

The Committee is requested to note the above report.

(c) The Committee is requested to note that at the September Council meeting a member of the public advised of a three hour gap from 07.30 to 10.30 in the bus service from Hartley to New Ash Green, which could inconvenience residents wishing to attend the Doctor's surgery. The Chairman of the Highways Committee has informed the resident that the matter will be taken up with either the local Member of Parliament or Arriva.

The Committee is requested to note the above report.

8. Cycle route - Ash Road

The Council approved at its meeting held on 10th September 2007 the following recommendation:

"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."

The Committee is requested to note that Kent Highway Services has been contacted to establish the processes involved in providing a shared use footpath date. To date no response has been received. The Committee is requested to consider any response received if available at the meeting.

The Committee is requested to note that Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council will be considering the matter at its meeting to be held on 18th October 2007.

9. Speedwatch

(a) At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee it was reported that West Kingsdown Parish Council would be contacting Hartley, Ash-cum-Ridley and Fawkham Parish Council to enquire whether they would be interested in collectively implementing a Speedwatch Scheme.

The Committee is requested to note that West Kingsdown Parish Council has not yet been in contact with Hartley Parish Council.

(b) At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee it was 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.

The Committee is requested to note that no Speedwatch had been undertaken recently in Teston due to major traffic calming works, but it was hoped that the scheme would be re-instigated towards the end of October or early November. Teston Parish Council advised that its Speedwatch team often goes out on an ad hoc basis and therefore it would not be possible to give much notice to Members wishing to observe a demonstration.

The Committee is requested to note the above report and consider how it wishes to progress the matter.

10. Interactive Speed Sign – Ash Road

The Committee is requested to note an e mail dated 2nd October 2007 from the Transportation Engineer, Kent Highway Services in response to any enquiry from the Parish Council about the activation of the interactive speed sign on Ash Road. The Engineer stated that to the best of his knowledge, the interactive speed sign had been commissioned at the end of June with no report of any difficulties and suggested the reason for the sign not working could be as the result of a blown fuse. He confirmed that a representative from the street lighting team would be investigating the matter.

The Committee is requested to note the above report.

11. Parish Issue Spreadsheet

To consider the Parish Issue Spreadsheet received by the Council on 2nd October 2007. (Annexed). A report of a pothole at the Conifer Avenue/Fairby Lane junction has been added to the spreadsheet. A further complaint has been received about the potholes in Manor Lane.

12. Highway matters

To receive any reports from Councillors on issues and concerns regarding highways within the parish.

13. Date of the next meeting.

Public Question Time

A period of 15 minutes will be set aside to receive any queries or concerns raised by members of the public.

List of circulated documents

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Highway Committee held on 6th September 2007
2. Letter dated 1st October 2007 from the Programme Delivery Manager, Kent Highway Services.
3. Parish Issue Spreadsheet received by the Council on 2nd October 2007

Committee Membership

Cllr Mr J Gaywood (ex officio)
Cllr Mr S Granger
Cllr Mr J Minns
Cllr Mr D Brazier (co-opted)

Cllr Mr D Graeme
Cllr Mr M Harris (ex officio)
Cllr Mr V Sewell