

To: The Members of the Parish Council of Sundridge with Ide Hill

I hereby summon you to attend a Meeting of the Parish Council to be held in the VILLAGE HALL, **SUNDRIDGE** commencing at **7.45.pm. on Monday 22 July 2024** to transact the undermentioned business.

Anaida Barrow

Clerk 17 July 2024

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.
3. **Report from County Councillor**
4. **Report from District Councillor**
5. **A Public Open Session.** Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have. Please note this item will be limited in time at the discretion of the Chairman.
6. To approve as a correct record the **Minutes** of the Parish Council meetings held on 24 June 2024.
7. **To take Matters arising** from the Minutes where these are not covered under the subject headings below
8. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.
9. **Finance, Personnel & Governance items**
 - 9.1 **To agree items received, paid and payable**
10. **Ide Hill**

To receive an update on the Ide Hill Assets following the Ide Hill Amenities Committee Meeting

 - 10.1 **Stubbs Wood**
 - 10.1.1 Aztech work
 - 10.1.2 Woodland Plan
 - 10.2 **Ide Hill Public Conveniences**
 - 10.3 **To note the draft minutes of the Ide Hill Amenities Committee mee4ting held on 1 July 2024**

11. Sundridge

To receive an update on the Sundridge Assets following the Sundridge Amenities Committee Meeting

11.1 Sundridge Recreation Ground

11.2 Sundridge Village Hall

11.3 Bowers Meadow

11.4 Sundridge & Brasted Social Club

11.5 Sundridge Reserve Burial Ground

12. Items for noting

12.1 Correspondence

12.1.1 SDC – Grand Opening of Kent Waste Transfer Station

12.1.2 Kent Police

12.1.3 Road Safety & Active Travel Group Newsletter

12.2 Highways

13. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting

Monday 16 September 2024 at 7.45pm – Sundridge Village Hall

AGENDA PAPERS

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Cllr Manley

6. To approve as a correct record the **Minutes** of the Parish Council meetings held on 24 June 2024.

*Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Monday 24 June 2024
at Sundridge Village Hall at 7.30pm*

Present: Councillors Allgood, De Bono, Evans (Chair), Fribbens (in part) Manley and Powell

Apologies: Cllrs Banbrook, Miller, Collins and Wilson, Cllr Nick Chard (County) and
Cllr Nigel Williams (District),

Attendance: 0 members of the public, Cllr Sandra Robinson (District), Cllr Michelle Alger (District)
Amanda Barlow (Clerk)

Cllr Evans (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Banbrook, Collins, Miller and Wilson, Cllr Nick Chard (County), Cllr Nigel Williams (District).

2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Report from County Councillor**

Cllr Chard had given his apologies.

4. **Report from District Councillor**

Cllr Alger:

1. Family Fun Days
2. Development of the leisure centre site, Buckhurst
3. Leisure centre contract will finish in May 2025 and a new tender is being sent out.
4. Contract to use the Olympic pool in London.
5. Westerham Cycling -meeting scheduled in July.

Cllr Robinson:

1. Cllr Robinson is looking at the Buckhurst development from the side of the Audit Committee. She is unhappy about the size of library as it is very small.
2. Audit report on Sencio.
3. Covers Farm report has been completed and Cllr Robinson gave details of the report. A full copy of the report is available from Cllr Robinson.

Cllr Fribbens arrived at the meeting.

4. The A25 will be closed in July to deal with drainage issues.

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

5. **A Public Open Session.** *Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have. Please note this item will be limited in time at the discretion of the Chairman.*

None.

6. *To approve as a correct record the **Minutes** of the Parish Council meetings held on 20 May 2024.*

Members resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting on 20 May 2024.

7. **To take Matters arising** from the Minutes where these are not covered under the subject headings below

8.1 Highways – *Members confirmed the exact location of the speed survey for New Road.*

12.1.2 Sundridge Social Club/Neighbour issues – *the Clerk at Brasted has advised that Brasted Parish Council agree that this is an issue for SDC and is not a landlord matter.*

8. *To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.*

None.

9. **Finance, Personnel & Governance items**

9.1 To approve the 2022/23 Annual Return

10.1.1 *To approve Annual Governance Statements for 2023/24*

Members resolved to agree the Annual Governance Statements for 2023/24

10.1.2 *To approve Accounting Statements for 2023/24*

Members resolved to agree the Annual Accounting Statements for 2023/24

9.2 Grant for Ide Hill Football Club

Members resolved that the Clerk should advise Ide Hill Football Club that the internal auditor has recommended that the Parish Council increase the reserves prior to awarding any grants.

9.3 Security of all Parish Assets

Members resolved that the combinations should be changed on all locks and that the Parish Assets should have signage.

9.4 To agree items received, paid and payable

Members resolved to agree the items received, paid and payable.

10. Ide Hill

To discuss and agree next actions with regard to:

10.1 Stubbs Wood

10.1.1 *To receive an update on the work by Aztech*

Cllr Evans advised that he spoke to Adam Ashworth of Aztech, and confirmed that he has sub contracted some of the work.

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

10.1.2 To discuss next steps with regard to the Woodland Plan

Cllr Fribbens has put together a new Woodland Plan which starts today.

Members resolved to agree that a schedule should be put together for the new Woodland Plan. Members agreed that a working party should be formed including Members and representatives of the SWAG and the volunteers.

10.1.3 To discuss the use of Stubbs Wood by community groups

Members agreed that Cllr Manley should explore more community groups using Stubbs Wood.

10.2 Ide Hill Public Conveniences

To discuss various matters relating to the conveniences

Members resolved that actions should be taken to counter the vandalism and theft. Members also agreed to look at an option of CCTV.

Cllr Manley would like to put a poster in the toilets and it was agreed that this would be a good idea.

11. Sundridge

To discuss and agree next actions with regard to:

11.1 Sundridge Recreation Ground

Update on tenants and to agree a date for the working party to meet

11.2 Sundridge and Brasted Social Club

Update on lease

11.3 Coronation Gardens

To discuss next actions with regards to potentially dangerous trees

There is a Goat Willow tree which has dying. Cllr Evans has asked for quotes and as there is a Health and Safety issue it was agreed that the Clerk would ask All Angles to deal with it

Members also asked that the uneven ground and a raised flag stone were dealt with as a health and safety matter.

12. Items for noting

12.1 Correspondence

12.1.1 General

Noted.

12.2.2 Kent Police

Noted.

13. Dates of next meetings

Ide Hill Amenities Meeting

Monday 1 July 2024 at 6.00pm – Ide Hill Village Hall

Sundridge Amenities Committee Meeting

Monday 8 July 2024 at 7.15pm – Sundridge Village Hall

Full Council Meeting

Monday 22 July 2024 at 7.45pm – Sundridge Village Hall

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

7. **To take Matters arising** from the Minutes where these are not covered under the subject headings below

4. Covers Farm – the application has been refused by Kent County Council

9.1/9/2 AGAR was submitted by the 30 June 2024 deadline and the public rights period is operation now. The AGAR is on the website.

9. Finance, Personnel & Governance items

9.1 To agree items received, paid and payable –

Items received 24 June to 22 July 2024

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

22 July 2024 (2024-2025)

RECEIPTS LIST

Code	Date	Description	Supplier			Total
HMRC	27/06/2024	VAT refund	HMRC	X	5,287.05	5,287.05
Income Nayax	15/07/2024	Toilet Door Income	Nayax Europe UAB	X	163.11	163.11
Income Casual	15/07/2024	Village Hall Hire	J H Trading	X	120.00	120.00
Total					5,570.16	5,570.16

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

22 July 2024 (2024-2025)

Items paid 24 June to 22 July 2024

PAYMENTS LIST

Code	Date	Description	Supplier				Total
WiFi	24/06/2024	WiFi Village Hall	Onecom Limited	S	53.94	10.79	64.73
Travel Expenses	25/06/2024	Mileage	Mrs A C Barlow	X	34.20		34.20
Supplies for meetings	25/06/2024	Coffee and Biscuits	Mrs A C Barlow	X	20.40		20.40
Email address hosting charge	25/06/2024	Additional Email account	Vision ICT	S	20.00	4.00	24.00
Internal Auditor	25/06/2024	Internal Audit 23/24	April Skies Accounting	X	510.00		510.00
Electricity and Gas	25/06/2024	Electricity	British Gas	L	81.76	4.09	85.85
Pavilion Maintenance	25/06/2024	Boiler Service	Gas Safe Solutions	S	90.00	18.00	108.00
Energy Costs	25/06/2024	Electricity	EDF Energy	L	99.59	4.98	104.57
Conveniences energy costs	25/06/2024	Electricity	EDF Energy	L	117.11	5.86	122.97
Annual Parish Meeting - Ide Hill	25/06/2024	Catering for Annual Parish Meeting	Cllr Ann Powell	X	259.49		259.49
Clerk salary	05/07/2024	HMRC Q1	HMRC	X	1,247.64		1,247.64
Travel Expenses	05/07/2024	Mileage	Mrs A C Barlow	X	36.45		36.45
Members Expenses	05/07/2024	Gift for retiring Councillor	Mrs A C Barlow	X	45.34		45.34
Supplies for meetings	05/07/2024	Coffee and Biscuits	Mrs A C Barlow	X	3.45		3.45
Energy Costs	05/07/2024	Streetlighting Electricity April to June 2024	NPower	S	1,681.17	336.23	2,017.40
Repairs	05/07/2024	Streetlight repairs	Streetlights	S	97.75	19.55	117.30
Cleaning	19/07/2024	Cleaning	Val & Sander Reytenbach	X	180.00		180.00
Conveniences cleaning	19/07/2024	Cleaning	Val & Sander Reytenbach	X	500.00		500.00

PAYMENTS LIST

Items to be paid @ 23 July 2023

Code	Date	Description	Supplier				Total
Travel Expenses	23/07/2024	Mileage	Mrs A C Barlow	X	17.10		17.10
Supplies for meetings	23/07/2024	Coffee and Biscuits	Mrs A C Barlow	X	14.35		14.35
Photocopier and photocopying	23/07/2024	Photocopier charges	KCC	S	87.96	17.59	105.55
Parish mobile telephone	23/07/2024	Mobile	Mrs A C Barlow	S	19.79	3.96	23.75
Parish WiFi (Clerk)	23/07/2024	WiFi	Mrs A C Barlow	X	10.00		10.00
Parish Zoom account	23/07/2024	Zoom	Mrs A C Barlow	S	11.99	2.40	14.39
Volunteer Expenses	23/07/2024	Fuel and Oil for Stubbs Wood	Dominic Rossi	S	6.77	1.35	8.12
Cleaning	23/07/2024	Additional Clean SVH	Val & Sander Reytenbach	X	30.00		30.00
Ground maintenance	23/07/2024	Tree work	All Angles Tree Care	S	950.00	190.00	1,140.00
Total					1,147.96	215.30	1,363.26

10. Ide Hill

To receive an update on the Ide Hill Assets following the Ide Hill Amenities Committee Meeting

10.1 Stubbs Wood

10.1.1 Aztech work

10.1.2 Woodland Plan

Stubbs Wood Update

Aztech have completed the invasive species work. They have recommended a further spraying session later in the summer which has been approved pending confirmation of costs.

The footpaths have had further levelling, especially along Lady Amerhurst's Drive. Final track levelling and tidying will follow completion of the works below during the summer.

Extraction and brash chipping is to take place at the end of next week; it is weather dependent so hopefully the rain will hold off for a few more days. Once it is completed, the steps to Hanging Bank will be repaired as soon as the contractor can schedule the work. Further extraction in block 2c (on the south side of Yorks Hill) has been approved. Once done, the remaining logs in the Stubbs Wood Car Park at the top of Yorks Hill will be removed.

There remains some thinning work in Blocks 1d (South West edge of the woods) and 4b (central to the Eastern part of Stubbs Wood where the bridleway climbs to the crossways) and the contractor has been given approval to do this now when the land is dry to avoid track damage, ideally with minimal impact on residents.

Once these works are completed the latch post at the south end of lady Amerhurst's Drive will be replaced as will the posts and gate at Wheatsheaf Hill car park.

We have had a visit from Natural England who were generally very happy with the work done by our contractor and our volunteers and commented that they were pleased that woodland management was taking place as so many woodlands are not being managed correctly. The inspector made a couple of small observations which we will take on board for any future work.

Woodland Management Plan

A proposal for a working party and timeline for preparation of the Stubbs Wood Management Plan was approved at the most recent Full Council meeting. A working group is being gathered along with a schedule of actions to prepare the plan, in accordance with Forestry Commission Standards, for completion before the end of 2024. Updates and requests for community feedback will be scheduled for future Ide Hill Amenities Committee meetings.

10.2 Ide Hill Public Conveniences

There have been further incidents of theft from all toilets.


Re Sanitary products:

The cost for the machines is £210 per annum per machine and is serviced every 4 weeks.

The unit itself dispenses the products at £1 each. That would be a box of 3 Tampax tampons or a box of 2 Always Sensitive Towels.

The dual vend is cash only.

Features	
Two Columns	
Finishes	
White, Silver, Chrome, Black or Stainless Steel	
Capacity	
Right Column Tampons x 28 Left Column Towels x 21	
Battery change – Dependent on use	
12-24 months	
Dimensions	
705mm x 360mm x 100mm	
Weight	
10.6kg	



Ide Hill Amenities Committee
Minutes of a meeting held at Ide Hill Village Hall
on Monday 1 July 2024 at 6.00pm

Present: Cllrs Allgood, Fribbens (Chair) and Manley
In attendance: 2 members of the public, Mrs A Barlow (Clerk)
Apologies: Cllr Miller, Cllr Evans, Cllr De Bono

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Miller, Evans and De Bono.

2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

None.

10. **A Public Open Session.** Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have related to Ide Hill amenities. Please note this item will be limited in time at the discretion of the Chairman. The Chairman will advise on public participation at meetings as prescribed in the Standing Orders.

Dominic Rossi asked about the barrier at Lady Amhurst Drive.

11. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

None.

12. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2024 and matters arising not covered under Agenda Items.

Members resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting on 2 April 2024.

7.3 Tree Survey

Clerk to ask Cllr Evans if he could confirm any trees that can be dealt with by him and the volunteers.

13. Stubbs Wood

6.1 Aztech Contract

6.1.1 An update on the current situation at Stubbs Wood

An update is attached at Appendix A.

Members agree that the new growth should be sprayed but would need a quote first.

Extraction in Block 2C

Complete thinning works in Block 1D and 4B before end of July.

Clear brash and wood extraction

Once the works complete the post at Lady Amhurst Drive and Wheatsheaf Car Park will be repaired.

The Parish Council had attended a visit from Natural England which was organised by a resident. He made a couple of comments.

6.2 Application for a new CSA from 2025

Cllr Fribbens advised that the Parish Council have to put together a new management plan. He advised that the Members should agree whether it should be 10 years or 5 years. The schedule is attached at Appendix B.

6.2.1 To appoint a working group to prepare a simplification revision to the Management Plan

Members resolved that the following Members would be on the working group.

Cllr Evans
Cllr Fribbens
Cllr Manley
and members of the community

Cllr Fribbens has a group of names and he will be asking people to do various actions and the process is laid out by the Forestry Commission.

All actions were approved at the Full Council meeting.

6.3 Stubbs Wood Account at 31 March 2024

Members noted the current accounts as at Appendix C.

14. Ide Hill Public Conveniences

Members agreed to do more signage. All the codes are changed.

8. Ide Hill Green

8.1 Memorial Plaques

The Clerk advised that these will be replaced in September/October and will be in place for Remembrance Sunday.

8.2 Kerbing

Members noted that there is no update.

9. Playgrounds

9.1 Goathurst Common Playground Project

The Project have now raised £20,000 and have two applications as well.

10. Highways

10.1 Update from Kent Highways

Members agreed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting with Highways.

11. Date of next meetings

Monday 7 October 2024 – Ide Hill Amenities Committee

Appendix A

From Adam Ashworth

The forwarder will hopefully be back on site towards the end of next week to finish extracting everything.

I can then get the steps put back on hanging bank.

All the main tracks have been levelled back out now.

Aztech will reinstate the latch post for the Lady Amhurst drive at Yorks hill once all the timber is out. We still need to get the forwarder in and out.

Aztech will put new posts in and re hang the gate on wheatsheaf hill on completion. Still need lorry access into there.

The logs in Yorks hill car park will all be cleared with the rest of the timber that needs to come out of Lady Amhurst drive.

Parish Council to confirm if Aztech can complete the harvesting works. Blocks 4B and 1D. Thinning works.

Aztech also have a small bit more to complete in 2C .

Appendix B

From: Cllr Fribbens

I propose to bring together a group of interested parties to prepare a draft Woodland Management Plan, based upon UK Forestry Standard guidelines. This group should include:

- *Councillors*
- *Tim Saunders*
- *Representative(s) from SWAG*
- *Representative(s) from volunteers*

Once a draft has been prepared, I suggest we ask a representative from Ide Hill Society and a representative from at least one of the groups that use Stubbs Wood (horse riders, Nordic walkers?) to comment. Once this has been commented upon, I propose we post the final draft on the PC website for comment before finalising it.

The following process for producing the plan is from the UK Forestry Commission and I propose a timeline.

24th June (SwIHPC FC)

Agree the plan and parties involved

28th June

Invite working party members to contribute

1st July (IHAC)

Announce plan and timeline

2nd to 7th July

Allocate tasks to members of the working party

14th July to 31st August

Prepare initial sections of the plan

Objectives (MF)

Opportunities and Constraints (all members)

Social Dimension (MF)

Biodiversity needs and aims (tba)

Risk Assessment (JE and Tim Saunders)

1st September (Working Party meeting)

Agree the objectives (I can prepare those in advance of a meeting for comment).

Identify Opportunities and Constraints of the site (we can invite comment before the meeting and get agreement)

Prepare an assessment of the social dimension (I can prepare that together with Sharron)

Document the biodiversity needs and aims (I may need some help from SWAG and Tim on this)

Prepare a risk assessment (John Evans with input from Tim would be best for this)

Prepare a management regime (all parties on the working party to be involved)

2nd September to 6th October

Refine the plan and prepare detailed draft

Involve community representatives to comment

7th October (IHAC)

Present draft for public review

8th October to 31st October

Post on website for comment

1st November to 30th November

Finalise Management Plan

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

1st December (Working Party meeting)

Sign off Management Plan

9th / 16th December (SwIHPC FC)

Sign off Management Plan

I need the following agreed:

- 1. Parties involved in the formation of the plan*
 - 2. A budget, primarily for Tim Saunders's time*
 - 3. Timetable (as outlined above)*
- Councillors (Martyn Fribbens, John Evans, Sharron Manley?)*
 - Tim Saunders*
 - Representative(s) from SWAG (invite Richard Don to nominate someone)*
 - Representative(s) from volunteers (invite Dominic Rossi to nominate someone)*

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

Appendix C

Stubbs Wood Account at 31 March 2024

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

Stubbs Wood

	Receipts	Ring Fenced	Payments	Payments against ring fenced income
2019/20				
Other Income	200		11,438	11,420
2020/21				
RPA Grant	3,720	3,720	910	910
Other Income				
2021/22				
RPA Grant	3,720	3,720	4,864	4,864
Other Income	1,575			
2022/23				
RPA Grant	3,720	3,720	2,436	1,439
Other Income	1,326			
2023/2024				
RPA Grant	3,720	3,720	10,252	10,069
Other Income	600			
	18,581.40	14,880.00	29,900	28,702
EA Grant		15,000.00		
Total Ring Fenced Income		29,880.00		
 Ring fenced income		29,880.00		
less payments		-28,702.00		
		1,178.00		

Ring Fenced Income carried to 2024/25 £1,178.00

	Receipts	Ring Fenced	Payments	Payments against ring fenced
2024/25 @ 30 June 2024				
RPA Grant (applied for)	3,720	3,720	4,370	4,370
Other Income				
		3,720		4,370

11. Sundridge

To receive an update on the Sundridge Assets following the Sundridge Amenities Committee Meeting

11.1 Sundridge Recreation Ground

Members were very concerned about the outside appearance of the pavilion. It was agreed that this needed to be sorted over the summer period. It was also agreed to get quote to pain the outside of the pavilion and review the work once the 6 month monitoring budget was confirmed. Members were very pleased with the painting inside the pavilion.

Actions:

- 1.Set up Recreation Working Party meeting
2. Quote for painting the outside of the pavilion
3. Quote to get the rubbish removed from the pavilion.
4. The pavilion should be cleaned and prepared for September. The tenants would then be expected to maintain it till the end of the season.

11.2 Sundridge Village Hall

It was agreed that John Banbrook should be appointed to do the work around the hall and affix the new toilet roll holders and towel holders to the wall. Sanitary machines as per Ide Hill public conveniences.

It was agreed that Cllr Collins would look at the measurements for new curtains for the hall.

The hall should be cleared and ready for the hirers in September when the new rates would come into force.

11.3 Bowsers Meadow

More volunteers are required to push the project forward.

11.4 Sundridge & Brasted Social Club

Update at meeting.

11.5 Sundridge Reserve Burial Ground

Cllr Evans has advised that the PCC are happy for the PC to dispose of the ground and the Council is awaiting official confirmation.

12. Items for noting

12.1 Correspondence

12.1.1 SDC – Grand Opening of Kent Waste Transfer Station

From: wastecoordination@kent.gov.uk <wastecoordination@kent.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 July 2024 15:19

To: clerk@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk

Subject: Grand opening of the Sevenoaks Waste Transfer Station

Good Afternoon,

Join us for the Grand Opening of our Sevenoaks Waste Transfer Station

In July last year, work started on building the brand new Sevenoaks Waste Transfer Station.

The development is secured through a new leasing arrangement and will enable sustainable waste disposal operations. With enhanced capacity that is fit for purpose, whilst accommodating government's future legislative changes, it is designed to enable the recycling of more waste streams collected at the kerbside by Sevenoaks District Council and to ensure we meet the statutory requirement of both disposal and collection authorities.

We are delighted that the site will become operational by mid-September and we wanted to mark the moment by inviting you to help us declare it officially open, albeit a few days early!

The event will take place at midday on 4th September 2024 at the site (Main Road, Dunbrik, Sundridge, TN14 6EP), and will run to the below itinerary:

1200pm	Guests to arrive and light refreshments
1230pm	Welcome speeches to include ribbon cutting and photocall
1250pm	Site Tour
1330pm	Event close

KCC Chairman, Mr Bryan Sweetland, will be officially opening the facility. Please do come in smart attire suitable for standing outside in any weather conditions (outdoor shoes). PPE will not be required as the site will not be operational at the time of the event.

There is parking available at the Household Waste Recycling Centre next to the transfer station but car sharing is advisable if at all possible.

Please do RSVP to wastecoordination@kent.gov.uk

We look forward to welcoming you on site on the 4th September and to celebrating with you then.

With best wishes

Susan Reddick, KCC Head of Resource Management and Circular Economy.



Community events attended and next month's events.

The engagement calendar on My community voice should show any of the events I am pencilled in for. If there is any you would like me to attend please email me.

PC Wilson

Good work story/stories

With the Euros being on I have been abstracted for several events during these events I have visited a number of licenced venues to discuss safety issues with them. From these events I have seized a quantity of drugs from a number of individuals, and they have been dealt with appropriately.

Good work story/stories

PC Wilson with the work of Sevenoaks cameras has stopped 2 individuals which had been caught stealing from stores. They were quickly apprehended and arrested.

Good work story/stories

In riverhead I have worked with a number of residences to deter illegal fishing in the area, Along with this I have also contacted the land owner who is happy to work with the police to help safeguard the location for the local residents and deter anti social behaviour.

Good work story/stories

Having worked with SDC national highways and many other partner agents, signage for the PSPO in badgers mount is currently being implemented. With this it means that with further evidence that is provided that we can look at stronger enforcement In the area.



The banner features the 'My Community Voice' logo on the left, which includes a stylized city skyline and the text 'Protecting the neighbourhoods of Kent and Medway'. To the right of the logo are four horizontal buttons with icons and text: a pink button with a megaphone icon saying 'Find out what's happening in your area', an orange button with a bell icon saying 'Receive alerts from your local officers', a green button with a speech bubble icon saying 'Tell us what matters most to you', and a blue button with a hand icon saying 'Sign up today and make your voice count'. On the far right, a yellow box contains the text 'MCV is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police'. At the bottom right, the website 'mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk' is displayed.

My Community Voice
Protecting the neighbourhoods of Kent and Medway

Find out what's happening in your area
Receive alerts from your local officers
Tell us what matters most to you
Sign up today and make your voice count

MCV is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police

mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk

ROAD SAFETY & ACTIVE TRAVEL NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 1 (APRIL – JUNE 2024)

WELCOME

At Kent County Council (KCC) we are always keen to improve how we communicate with our customers. In the Summer of 2022 we restructured our Road Safety & Active Travel Group (RSATG) to provide dedicated Community Engagement Officers within the Highway Improvement Team.

We are committed to working alongside Parish and Town Councils and County Members in reviewing your highway improvement requests, giving a voice to the communities that you represent.

This is our first Road Safety & Active Travel Group quarterly newsletter and has been designed to keep you up to date with the latest news from the Group and to help you discover first-hand the important role that we all play for Kent communities and the benefits of engaging with us through the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) process.

MEET THE TEAM HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS TEAM

The Highway Improvements Team is split into West Kent and East Kent, with three different, but interconnected, work streams making up each team:

Community Engagement – works closely with County Members, Parish and Town Councils on all aspects of their Highway Improvement Plan.

Planning & Advice – provides technical advice for HIP priorities, determines the feasibility of schemes being requested and advises on alternative options where a desired scheme may not be possible.

Design & Delivery – designs schemes to meet Kent's highway standards, CDM Regulations and DfT policy and works with KCC's contractors to deliver the work on the ground.

Both Planning & Advice and Design & Delivery also lead collaboratively on the casualty reduction programme and Local Transport Plan (LTP) funded schemes.



USEFUL LINKS

- [KCC Fault reporting tool](#)
- [KCC led consultations](#)
- [District Council services](#)
- [Kent Police reporting tool](#)
- [CrashMap UK](#)
- [DfT's Setting local speed limits](#)
- [Planned roadworks](#)
- [School travel plans](#)
- [Lorry Watch](#)
- [Community Speedwatch](#)
- [Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership](#)
- [Kent Road Safety](#)



At KCC we receive a large number of requests for the implementation of 20mph speed restrictions and we appreciate that, when installed in the right place at the right time, they are an important measure in improving road safety.

However, any speed reduction through signage alone should not be seen as a tool to address an evidenced speeding issue. The Department for Transport (DfT) has recently updated their guidance on '[Setting local speed limits](#)' which now states that traffic authorities should only introduce 20mph limits and zones in the right places and ensure any such measures are targeted and not introduced as a blanket measure. This is because over-use of inappropriate speed limits risks undermining public acceptance which could impact compliance of 20mph speed limits where they are most needed, such as outside of schools and in residential areas where there is generally a high proportion of vulnerable road users.

Government guidance on the implementation of 20mph schemes states that successful 20mph limits and zones should be self-enforcing and Kent Police do not support new 20mph speed limits unless the existing average speed of vehicles is 24mph or less as they do not have the resources to enforce 20mph sites with poor compliance.

A reduction in the posted speed limit through signage alone is unlikely to make any discernible difference. As such, KCC have to consider this when designing new speed limits. We have to balance the benefits of slower speeds alongside that of compliance. The decisions are always locally determined and an individual assessment is required by considering the existing average speeds to see if they are likely to be suitable.

In some circumstances, where average speeds are between 24-28mph it may still be possible to consider a reduction, but some form of traffic calming (innovative or traditional) would need to be installed to better ensure reasonable compliance.

For details on the site requirements and typical costs of a 20mph limit or zone please refer to pages 9&10 of your Highway Information Pack. Where existing speeds are too high for a 20mph speed restriction to be self-enforcing, and/or traffic calming is not possible, we will work with elected bodies on what other measures we may be able to introduce to address the concerns being raised.

LOOKING BACK

In each issue of the newsletter we will give you an insight into the work that the Highway Improvements Team have delivered as a result of our close working relationship with Parish & Town Councils and County Members.

Between April 2023 and March 2024 we carried out **188** HIP reviews across Kent resulting in the delivery of **23** Parish Council funded schemes and **94** schemes funded from KCC's HIP budget.

2023

THIS QUARTER IN NUMBERS

Between April and June 2024, the Highway Improvements Team has carried out the following work in conjunction with Parish and Town Councils and County Members across Kent:

Parish/Town Council and County Member meetings – **77**

Number of HIP/Parish funded schemes delivered – **23**

Total value of KCC funded schemes (HIP budget) delivered – **£48,875**

Total value of Parish/ Town Council funded schemes delivered – **£20,364**

PRESTON HILL/HIGH STREET, WINGHAM – LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP) SCHEME

A Parish Council in Dover had raised concerns about the junction of the High Street and Preston Hill via their Highway Improvement Plan. The concerns were vehicles driving at excess speed at the junction, large vehicles mounting the traffic island which resulted in damage to street furniture and there were concerns for pedestrians crossing here. There was also a property at the junction where several instances of damage had occurred to the property and a highway wall.



The crash data was reviewed and analysed and it did not meet our criteria to fund changes at this location. An outline design and cost estimate was sent to the parish council to reconfigure the junction layout but was too costly for the parish council to fund, so a bid was submitted through the Local Transport Plan funding stream. The bid was successful and the works were completed in November 2023.

The overall cost of the scheme was £117,000.

The works included widening the footway outside the property and realigning the junction by relocating the traffic island. The photos show the road layout before and after completion of the scheme.

Since the scheme has been implemented, there have been no damage only or personal injury crashes reported. This is a really good example of Parish Councils and the Community Engagement Team working together to get the right result.



COLLABORATION

Whilst the Highway Improvements Team (HIT) are dedicated to delivering as many feasible Parish/Town Council and County Member promoted schemes as possible, it is also true that simply by being on a Highway Improvement Plan (HIP), with community support and/or with a funding stream identified, does not guarantee that an engineering measure can be identified or delivered.

Not only are we restricted by what is legally, physically and technically possible, sometimes there are just no measures that HIT can deliver that will resolve the concerns of the communities you represent.

However, we are not content to leave it there and we work across the Road Safety & Active Travel Group, for example with the Road Safer User Behaviour team, as well as with wider Highways & Transportation colleagues, and externally with Kent Police, the District & Borough Councils etc.

Looking at the issues together we are able to benefit from other teams' knowledge, experience and resources to find the most suitable solution where there is one. In each newsletter our aim is to give you an example of how we work collaboratively in order to provide the best service to Kent's residents via their elected representatives.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT SPEEDING

Unsurprisingly, speeding is one of the main causes of concern that HIT receives when discussing HIP priorities with Parish/Town Councils and County Members. The first thing your Community Engagement Officer will do is review current average speeds at the location in question. Often this shows that speeding is a perception, rather than an evidenced issue.

However, where there is evidence of speeding (Kent Police consider this to be where average speeds are above the enforcement speed limit of 10% + 2mph), HIT will first consider what engineering measures may be possible to improve compliance with the posted speed limit.

It should be noted that reducing the speed limit of a road is not considered to be an effective way of reducing speeding, however there may be other schemes that we can consider such as the installation of village gateways, upgrading of existing speed terminals, addition of new repeater signs (not allowable on a street lit 30) or installation of physical traffic calming (not possible on unlit or A and B classified roads).



In cases where no physical engineering measures are suitable, HIT considers how we can address the behavioural aspect of speeding, and works collaboratively both internally and externally to determine other solutions that would set residents mind at ease. This could include:

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – An alternative to the fixed electronic sign, HIT work with KCC's Traffic Operations Team to offer a SID scheme to help tackle concerns of speeding.

SIDs are non-permanent moveable signs. They comprise of a single SID unit used in rotation across multiple fixed poles within existing 30mph zones as a driver education tool.



Proposed sites are assessed on an individual basis and a minimum of three posts are required per SID, with a bracket for each, to a maximum of five sites per sign in order to retain overall effectiveness.

SIDs are currently not available for use in 20mph speed restrictions, however KCC's Traffic Operations Team is looking into trialing new signs which are sensitive enough to pick up lower speeds, so this may be something that we can offer in the future.



Toolkits – HIT works with our Safer Roads colleagues to offer a number of resources to support Parish and Town Councils to encourage compliance of 20 and 30mph speed limits.

It provides the tools, assets and information needed to successfully communicate this message and consists of posters, car stickers, bin stickers and road banners.

More information can be found on-line at <https://kentroadsafety.info/what-we-do/speed/>

SpeedWatch – Working with Kent Police, and operating at carefully selected sites on roads in 20mph, 30mph and 40mph speed limits, a group typically of three Community SpeedWatch (CSW) practitioners/volunteers monitors the speed of passing vehicles using a portable speed indication device.

Details of vehicles travelling at or above nationally-specified thresholds (25+, 35+ and 46+mph) are recorded and reported. The registered keepers of vehicles observed repeatedly of 'high-end' speeding anywhere in Kent in the previous 12 months are then sent advisory letters by Kent Police.



Parish/Town Council's would need to contact Kent Police, at speedwatch@kent.police.uk, to discuss where you would like to operate Speedwatch in your community; they will be able to run through the site risk assessment process and training for operators.

KCC may be able to assist with the funding of the equipment so please speak to your Community Engagement lead if you are interested.



Targeted road safety campaigns – Where there may be a pattern of collisions that have been attributed to a behavioural issue, such as vehicles not stopping at a STOP junction, HIT can work with the Safer Roads Team to produce a targeted road safety campaign to address the behaviour we would like to change.

RUNNING HORSE ROUNDABOUT, MAIDSTONE – CRASH REMEDIAL MEASURES (CRM) PROGRAMME

The Highway Improvements Team's core responsibility is the analysis of Crash Remedial Measures (CRM) sites across Kent and the identification of engineering solutions that will have a positive impact on collision numbers at that location.

The Running Horse Roundabout, which links the M20 with the A229 Chatham Road, in Maidstone is one of the busiest roundabouts in Kent. There have been 13 personal injury crashes reported to us in the past three years, making this junction a key priority for work to reduce injuries on the public highway. The figure for the past five years is 29.

As a result, an innovative design was produced to adapt the roundabout into a new '[Turbo Roundabout](#)' in a bid to lessen crashes and bust congestion on one of Kent's busiest routes.

Unlike normal roundabouts, Turbo Roundabouts require drivers to choose the direction they plan to travel in before entering the roundabout. Lanes are separated by coloured markings and lines preventing motorists from switching lanes whilst on the roundabout circulatory. As well as increased lines and coloured surfacing, engineers changed the signage on the approaches to the roundabout in all directions to raise awareness of the new style.

This project was delivered in May 2024, finishing ahead of schedule, and already driver behaviour has adapted to the new layout with vehicles being observed entering and travelling around the roundabout in a slower and more disciplined way.

Kent's newest Turbo Roundabout has already received national industry recognition and our very own Design & Delivery Principal Engineer, Chris Koningen, has been asked to present at the next annual conference of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) in September.



HAVE YOUR SAY

We value your feedback and would love to hear from you if you have any thoughts or suggestions as to what you'd like to see in future issues. Please complete this brief questionnaire which will allow us to ensure that our newsletters are providing you with the information that you would like to see.

[Have your say – Microsoft Forms](#)

12.2 Highways

Meeting has been arranged with Nigel Rowe for August 28th at 10.00am.

13. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting

Monday 16 September 2024 at 7.45pm – Sundridge Village Hall