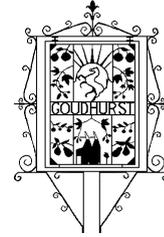


Goudhurst Parish Council



HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT 23.08.22

MEETING
23 August 2022 19:00

PUBLISHED
17 August 2022

Goudhurst Parish Council



To: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Alan Foster, Antony Harris, Guy Sutton and Mrs Alison Webster. Cllr Phil Kirkby (ex-officio)

I summon you to a Meeting of the Highways & Public Transport Committee on Tuesday 23 August 2022 at 7.30 pm, in Goudhurst Village Hall, where business detailed on this agenda will be discussed.

Goudhurst Parish Council recognise that there are continuing risks associated with COVID-19 and are supportive of individuals wearing masks in meetings and maintaining a social distance. We will continue to provide hand sanitiser at the entrance to the Village Hall. In order to keep everyone safe, please do not attend a meeting if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 5 days. We will continue to review the risks and will comply with any future controls recommended or mandated by HM Government.

Members of the Public and the Press are welcome to attend this meeting. At the Chairman's discretion, 15 minutes will be set aside for questions from members of the public each one of whom may be invited to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes in total relating to items on the Agenda or about issues of local concern. Thereafter they have the right, and are welcome, to stay and observe the rest of the Meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1.

Please inform the Clerk if you intend to film or record the Meeting.

Claire Reed
Clerk to Goudhurst Parish Council
17 August 2022

Parish Council Office - The Hop Bine, Ranters Lane, Goudhurst, TN17 1HN
01580 212552 | clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk | <https://.goudhurst-pc.gov.uk> | 07494 117313

A quorum for Highways Committee is 3 Members.

Agenda

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Owner</i>
Goudhurst Village Hall	23/08/22	

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 28 June 2022
4. Questions from the Press and the Public
5. Past matters for information only:
 - 5.1. To receive an update from GTAG on lorry watch and speed watch and to decide on any action needed.
 - 5.2. To receive an update on the campaign for A21 safety improvements and to decide on any action needed.
 - 5.3. To receive on the response to GPC's complaint regarding the Closure of the A262 in April 2022.
 - 5.4. To receive an update on steps to replace the EV charge points.
6. To receive an update on the application to KCC to reroute HGVs away from Goudhurst village and to decide on next steps.
7. To consider and make a decision on priorities for the new Goudhurst HIP.
8. To consider and make a recommendation to council on co-opting members to this committee.
9. Next Highways Committee Meeting 23 August 2022, 7.30pm Goudhurst Village Hall

Goudhurst Parish Council



HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Minutes of a Meeting held on 28 June 2022 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Alan Foster, Guy Sutton, Alison Webster and Craig Broom. Mr Jeff Rimmer attended to represent GTAG. Mr Edward Hodgkins attended in order to learn more about the work of the Highways Committee.

Apologies for non-attendance were accepted from Cllr Antony Harris (NALC Area Committee meeting) and Claire Reed (unwell).

Apologies were also received from Mr Ted Bennett (SAAG) and Mrs Helen Sampson (GTAG).

Declarations of Interest: There were none.

Updates from the Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) on Lorry Watch and Speed Watch.
Air Pollution in Goudhurst High St.

It was noted that Mrs Sampson has investigated air pollution levels on Goudhurst High Street and as a result TWBC has installed a meter above the Pharmacy. It has recorded the following levels of pollution:

January 43.0; February – Machine failed; March 58.9; April 35.4

Note: 40 is the critical level – i.e harmful to health. But a full picture is needed which depends on continuing measurements until mid-December 2022.

A262 Traffic Issues

GTAG met on 7th June. It was noted that they decided to invite Greg Clarke MP and Michael Payne MP to Goudhurst to experience the heavy traffic.

A262 downgrading. It was noted that GTAG is keen to involve Sissinghurst and Biddenden Parishes in a resubmitted A262 down grading application.

Lorry Watch. It was noted that GTAG is continuing with Lorry Watch. They have been sending photos to KCC. They are restarting Speedwatch in July and August 2022.

Campaign for A21 Safety improvements

Mr Ted Bennett, In a written report, stated that he has created the equivalent of GTAG for A21 residents called “Stonecrouch A21 Action Group” [SAAG]. It has met with journalists from Kent Live newspaper and an article appeared on 14th June and is available online. SAAG has launched an online campaign petition, now with 848 signatures

Update on replacement of EV charge points

Cllr David Boniface reported that Brenchley Parish Council had installed the two units offered by KCC Villages EV Project. These come with funding. They include notices which gave contact details at KCC for users who had problems. The units are the ones from Connected Kerb from whom we obtained a quote of £8,000. KCC thought we would get half of this funded if we joined their scheme.

Clerk to press ahead with our application to join KCC EV Villages Scheme. Post Meeting Note: The Clerk has information that the KCC scheme has closed.

Proposal to submit a new application for HGV restrictions on the A262 at Goudhurst.

It was agreed that now is the right time to recommend to Council that an application be submitted again to KCC for a restriction on the use of the A262 by very large HGVs. The reasons are that County

County Cllr Sean Holden has written to Simon Jones and David Brazier of KCC on behalf of Goudhurst Lorry Watch in May 2022 in support of this campaign, on 25th May 2022. Council understands that KCC has now received grant of new powers to control moving traffic. It was **noted** that since a previous application in 2018 new and much more serious damage has been inflicted on St Mary's Churchyard wall. It was noted that GTAG supports this action.

It was agreed to prepare and submit for Council's approval a new application to KCC. The first step would be Chairman and Cllr Sutton to meet with County Cllr Sean Holden to develop next steps.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting.

It was also agreed to contact Cranbrook & Sissinghurst and Biddenden Parish Councils to check if they would like to be involved in the application to downgrade HGV use on the A262.

Action: Clerk to identify the relevant contacts in those Parish Councils.

It was further agreed that a Facebook page will be established and a campaign conducted to encourage residents to upload photos and video to the web site. Action: Alison Webster.

The objective is to collate evidence of the community's road traffic experiences.

Stonecrouch place name signs.

It was **agreed** to submit a proposal to GPC for approval to establish new Stonecrouch place name signs on the A21

Laser Speed Gun

It was **agreed** in principle to purchase a laser speed gun at a cost of approximately £3,500 as it would automatically send details of speeding vehicles to the Police. It will provide greater flexibility as it is very portable compared to the existing equipment and it could be used in 40mph areas (not just 30mph areas). However, efforts should be made to reduce the cost by sharing the **cost** or by a leasing arrangement with a neighbouring village eg Hawkhurst. **Action: Clerk.**

Printing 'No Lorries' posters.

It was **agreed** to print a quantity of A2 size posters providing the wording takes account the interests of all the stakeholders as agreed by the Highways Committee. (Note from the Clerks: budget provision to be approved).

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP).

It was noted that Kent Highways has redesigned the HIP proforma which requires our improvement requests to be set out (or listed) in priority order.

It was suggested (for Council's approval that the Goudhurst HIP should now be as follows:

Priority 1. Speed reduction from 60mph to 50mph on the 0.9 mile section of the A262 Cranbrook Road from Goudhurst 30mph limit eastbound to just short of the Peacock Inn. We have now obtained the required ATC speed data and the speeds are appropriate for this project.

Priority 2. Speed reduction to 30mph on Station Road westwards to near the former Green Cross Inn. We have now obtained the ATC speed data and the speeds are appropriate for this project.

Priority 3. To limit the number of large lorries passing through Goudhurst.

Priority 4. Double bend warning sign on the 40mph section on Chequers Road.

Priority 5. Goudhurst High Street safety of pedestrians. Driving and parking on the 'shared' causes difficulties and anxiety for many residents. GPC receives many emails from residents complaining about this, especially from those with disabilities or older residents. Pedestrians expect that traffic does not drive on to pavements and there is no sign to warn that this is allowed, uniquely, in Goudhurst. This needs revisiting as a matter of urgency.

Priority 6. Goudhurst School Traffic Calming. This very worthwhile project has 'hit the buffers' with Kent Highways. But a lower speed limit on Cranbrook Road (Priority no 1) may possibly lead to lower speeds on Cranbrook Road near the school.

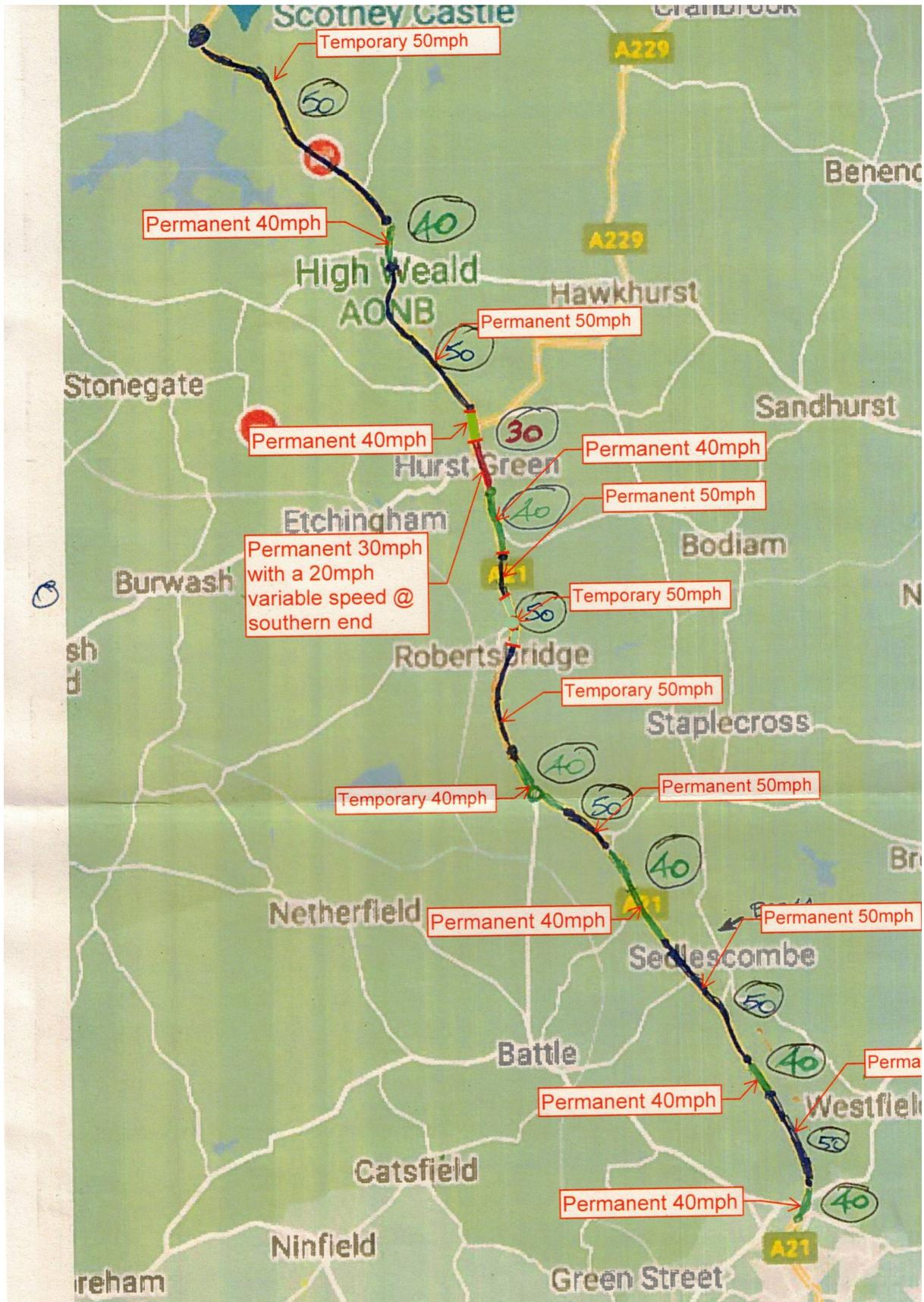
Priority 7. "Pedestrians in Road" sign on B2079 North Road near Goudhurst Tennis Club. It was **noted** that this is now in place. (Clerks' note: so does not need to be included on the new HIP).

One former project to limit parking by means of narrow, pale yellow lines on the high Street and Clay Hill, agreed by KCC in 2018, was dropped by GPC Highways due to shortage of alternative parking. However, members felt that this should be installed as a trial as had been done under government arrangements for the pandemic. Many pavement widening, traffic control measures etc. had been introduced during this time and retained subsequently following appropriate consultations.

These suggestions were broadly accepted by the members present. Clerk to complete new HIP Proforma.

Next Highways Committee Meeting on Tuesday 23 August 2022, 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

CLlr David Boniface



E-mail 09 Aug 2022 from Cll Sean Holden to Simon Jones (Corporate Director Growth, Environment and Transport)

Subject: Goudhurst: Failure of Traffic Management A262 04 to 08 April2022.

Dear Simon,

I am forwarding this report from Goudhurst Parish Council to you because, while it is alarming in itself as far as Goudhurst is concerned, it is symptomatic of many places in the county where roads are closed for works.

We have discussed this before, notably in the Rye Road case at Hawkhurst, but road closures seem to be happening more and more often wherever you go in the county. The time was that it was unusual to come across Road Closed signs. Now, if you drive any distance at all, it is a daily sight.

Furthermore, the diversions, where they are marked, which they often aren't fully, are not infrequently completely inappropriate or ludicrously long (or both).

Goudhurst, more than most places, has trouble enough with lorries without sending them down narrow country lanes.

I am going to ask another question at full council about this along the lines of how much the numbers of permits to close roads have increased in the past few years

It appears to most people that they are done for the convenience of contractors who instantly fall back on the health and safety mantra if challenged. The general public does not believe that cars crawling past roadworks, where only one side is being dug up, pose a serious threat to workers but it's easier for the contractor if they don't have to bother with any at all.

It also infuriates people when days pass with little, or often nothing, being done for hours. It should be a condition for every permit that long hours and weekends are worked to get the thing done in the fastest possible time, particularly crucial ones like the Goudhurst case.

The other thing that irks is when Road Closed signs are left up over the weekend when no work is going to be done and it is possible to drive past diggings where the road isn't actually completely dug up right across the carriageway.

Finally, the signs appear often not to have been removed immediately the job was finished.

I would like to see a review of how many of these permits are being given out and the establishment of a much higher bar before people are allowed to close off roads. The quality of life of our residents is more important than the convenience of contractors. I think it is something I wish to bring to the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee. Perhaps we can talk about that.

I'm copying this to the report's author and the chairman and clerk of Goudhurst Parish council.

Kind regards

Seán



Schemes Planning and Delivery Team working in Partnership with XXX Parish/Town Council* Highway Improvement Plan

Submission Date: xx/xx/xxxx

(Please remember that the HIP is for new initiatives/measures/schemes in your community – it is NOT to be used as a maintenance log, as these MUST be logged using the online reporting tool via this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>)

HIP Front Cover

HIP Version	Submitted by (Name)	HIP Date	Record Of Meeting Dates with KCC Virtual or Face to Face	Please list below the funding Opportunities/Sources for HIP initiatives/Measures		
1		16.08.2022		Parish Precept Donation, LTP bid		
Are you an active member of the Speed Watch Scheme?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Are you an active member of the Lorry Watch Scheme?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Name of HIP Representative	Cllr David Boniface	Contact Telephone Number	01580 211 430	Email Address	david.boniface@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk	
Name of Clerk	Claire Reed	Contact Telephone Number	01580 212 552	Email Address	clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk	
Name of Chair	Antony Harris	Contact Telephone Number	01580 211 329	Email Address	antony.harris@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk	
KCC Project Manager Name		Contact Telephone Number		Email Address		

- Please note the Priority column MUST be those issues which are regarded as the most important (No 1 being your highest priority, then filtering down)
KCC is unable to guarantee that all your requests will be deliverable, but Project Managers can investigate your top 1 or 2 priorities per year.

Live Priorities Record

Please Note: Highway Improvement Plans will only be accepted if they are in this prescribed template format. PLEASE DO NOT ALTER IN ANY WAY. Whilst this is intended to be a living document for your Parish/Town Council*, KCC can only make resources available to review your HIP annually.

Schemes Planning and Delivery Team working in Partnership with XXX Parish/Town Council* Highway Improvement Plan

Submission Date: xx/xx/xxxx

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Priority	Location	Problem/Concern	What do you feel are the potential solutions?	KCC Comments (This column is to be completed by Project Manager ONLY)
1.	0.9 mile stretch of A262 Iden Green (area to the east of Goudhurst village extending to the village 30mph area)	Speed and frequency of traffic on road with driveway junctions for 43 residences and 17 businesses	Speed limit reduction to 50mph. Verbal approval from Chris Koningen 09 Mar 2020. ATC speed survey obtained as requested - TSP14940 (28 Feb to 06 Mar 2022). There have been many collisions involving injury on this section including one death. Request to reduce speed limit as recommended in DfT 2013 Circular 'Setting Local Speed Limits'.	<i>27.05.2021 – Speed Survey requested and ordered 20.08.2021 – Speed Survey data shared with Parish</i>
2.	A262 Cranbrook Road – (near primary School on Beaman Close.TN17 1DZ)	Residents of the 85 households on roads north of Cranbrook Rd have to cross the A262 to get to the primary school. This road carries large volumes of traffic with 85th %ile speed of 37.4 westbound and 36.5 eastbound.	Permanent or p/t 20mph speed limit, or crossing, or other traffic calming method.	

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		Parents often accompanied by infant or child in push-chair etc.		
3.	A262 Goudhurst High Street.	Frequent conflicts between pedestrians and motor vehicles. <i>'Pedestrian/vehicle shared pavements'</i> lead to pedestrians having to walk out into the road to get past parked vehicles and vehicles having to swerve onto pavements to avoid oncoming vehicles. This creates anxiety and danger for all users of the highway, shops, hotel, pub, and church.	<p>(1) Reduce the amount of use of the shared 'pavements' by vehicles for parking (eg time limits). Possibly a trial period of the KCC and TWBC approved 2018 yellow lines plan.</p> <p>(2) Place warning signs about the shared status of the 'pavements'.</p> <p>(3) Establish a pedestrian crossing location near Antique shop to facilitate changing across to different side of road that might be less congested with parked vehicles.</p>	
4.	A262 Spelmonden to Blue Coat Ln.	Accident Black Spot. History of frequent Injury collisions in	Suggest reduction of speed limit from current 40mph to 30mph.	

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Schemes Planning and Delivery Team working in Partnership with XXX Parish/Town Council* Highway Improvement Plan

Submission Date: xx/xx/xxxx

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		area of several sharp bends and gradients alongside a new Housing development of 6 units, several older houses, and driveway junctions.	ATC speed survey obtained as requested - TSP14940 (28 Feb to 06 Mar 2022). Average speed eastbound and westbound 34mph.	
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Schemes Planning and Delivery Team working in Partnership with XXX Parish/Town Council* Highway Improvement Plan

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Historical Priorities Record

No	Location	Problem/Concern	What do you feel are the potential solutions?	KCC Comments
1	<i>EXAMPLE: Church Lane</i>	<i>Speeding off peak.</i>	Speed Reduction	After traffic surveys obtained, data showed that vehicle speeds were within the current speed limit, therefore no further action proposed.

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