

## **JULY 2022 UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Since my last report in June 2022, I have reported 2 further Highway issues to KCC. This increases the grand total to date to 89.

The new reports were for: -

30mph sign covered by ivy in Wises Lane

Illegal 20mph sign in Wises Lane

80 of the 89 have now been dealt with either in a satisfactory manner or with a satisfactory explanation. 9, including the two above are still outstanding.

The diseased tree in Wrens Road is under active investigation but no action has yet been taken. The temporary TRO covering the 30mph speed limit in Chestnut Street and Maidstone Road has now been reinforced by the 50MPH signs on the carriageway being replaced by 30mph. At long last a worn out SLOW sign has been replaced in Oad Street. This has only taken 13 months and 3 reports.

Other works still to be completed include the white line renewals in Pond Farm Road, Wises Lane and Oad Street.

No progress has been reported on flooding issues at Danaway or at the junction of Wises Lane and the A2.

The give way markings at the junction of Washley Hill and Hearts Delight have been provided but are hidden under stones and mud and have yet to be cleared.

### **Provision of Bench at junction of Mountview and The Street**

The provision of a bench at this junction has been asked for by a local resident. There is adequate verge available, but it is under the ownership of KCC Highways. These verges are provided to give adequate visibility for drivers emerging from Mountview. In my view it is unlikely that KCC will grant permission for a bench to be placed in these verges. However, an opportunity may emerge should the bus routes currently using this route be stopped by KCC as a result of recent proposals. If this was so then the bus shelter could provide hard standing for a bench. As it exists at the moment, it could not be argued that it obstructed vision from Mountview. If this option is not acceptable then I suggest a letter to KCC Highways asking for permission for a bench to be placed alongside the bus shelter. There is also the question of who is paying for the Bench, which needs to be discussed by Council.

### **M2/Junction 5 Stockbury roundabout improvements**

No further meetings have been held with National Highways, KCC Highways or Grahams concerning the impact of this scheme. Information about road closures and diversions continued to be supplied by Grahams and are displayed by the Clerk on our various social media pages. The report summarising the conclusions of the recent survey into the provision of further works in Oad Street has been sent with a covering letter to all interested parties for their comments as well as being posted on the Parish's website and various social media.

## **KCC Highways Service**

As outlined in my report to Council in June, KCC have refused to meet with Councillors to discuss major highway issues within the Parish. This situation is totally unacceptable and means that KCC as Highway authority are not accepting their legal responsibilities. As a result of the discussion around this at the meeting a formal letter of complaint invoking Stage 2 Complaint Escalation has been sent by The Clerk to Simon Jones, Corporate Director responsible for Transportation. This has been circulated to Councillors.

John Fassenfelt July 2022.