

BORDEN HIGHWAYS GROUP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES FROM MEETING 8TH APRIL 2024

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Baldock
In attendance: Cllr Bolas, Cllr Sims, Cllr Tumber
2. To agree to minutes from 8th February 2024.
The minutes for the 8th February 2024 were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Bolas as Chair.
3. Review actions from the February meeting.
The updates are from letters noted in point 4.
4. To receive an update on letters sent to KCC as agreed by the Full Council at their February meeting.
 - a. KCC – DEFRA Environmental Land Management Schemes and grants (Appx 1).
The letter from BPC was sent to KCC on 14/03/24. A holding email has been received ref: 12410009, from a Technical Support Officer at KCC advising of a 20-day response time.
 - b. KCC – Wises Lane 3 month road closure (Appx 2)
The letter from BPC was sent to KCC on 14/03/24. An initial response has been received on 15/3/24, from a Customer Feedback Advisor at KCC, confirming this is being investigated and a response will be received by 12th April 24.
 - c. KCC – Borden width restrictions (Appx 3)
The letter from BPC was sent to KCC on 14/03/24. A response has been received on 23/03/24, from the KCC Highways Community Engagement Team Leader, advising that the Parish Council can view the whole mapped area covered by the restriction on the following link – [Traffic Orders \(traffweb.app\)](#).
The reasons the restrictions were put in place is not know as they are historic schemes and the information is not held. However, reasons we may introduce a restriction of this nature include:
 - to prevent damage to the highway infrastructure (carriageway, footways, street furniture) and buildings
 - protect the character and environment of rural areas, villages and residential estates
 - manage congestion on our roads
 - reduce risks to vulnerable road users, including pedestrians and cyclistsAny width or weight restriction is supported by a Traffic Regulation Order which is a legal document that allows the Police to enforce any offences. Width restrictions will normally include a supplementary plate “for access” which allows for deliveries to businesses and properties.

It was agreed that at this time there is no further action required on this item.
5. To review the new government guidance for setting local speed limits:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits/setting-local-speed-limits#appraisaltool>
The above link detail how guidance on speed limits has now changed and it was noted that in the new guidance a 30-mph area does now not require an area to have street-

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lighting or continuous development on either side of the road anymore and should give consideration to potential or current active travel.

KCC Highways have confirmed that these changes will not impact the current agreement for the 20-mph speed limit which has already been agreed in previous meetings for Borden, or the 40-mph speed limit that KCC Highways has already agreed to for Danaway. They have, however, said that an informal resident consultation would be required for the Danaway speed limit change, and a TRO, which could take several months.

Regarding the Danaway speed limit, in October 2023, KCC Highways after consultation with the Police from the speed survey carried out in September 2023, stated that a permanent 30 mph speed limit for Danaway was not supported, and KCC Highways have recently said that the new guidance would not make any difference to this. However, with the new guidance the rules have changed, and the Highways Group felt that this may be something that can be further investigated and pursued at a later date.

It was agreed to ask the full council if they would support pursuing the 30-mph speed limit for Danaway.

6. To discuss the next steps for the 20-mph scheme for Borden including correspondence from KCC Highways. Estimated costs are:-
Traffic Regulation Order £3000 (to be covered by KCC Highways)
Design fee £1068 (due to rise on 1 April)
Cost to install the scheme would be confirmed once designs have been completed but from previous conversations with KCC Highways this could be anywhere from £15,000 to £20,000 in total.

The Parish Council at their March 24 meeting resolved to agree to the Highways Group moving forward with KCC Highways to implement the 20-mph scheme.

It was agreed to recommend to the full council that along with the 20-mph limit which they have already agreed to through Borden that they also agree initially to the 40-mph limit through Danaway, but that this is then reviewed 6 months after implementation.

It is also recommended to ask the full council to agree to an informal consultation for Danaway residents asking them to confirm if they want a reduction from the 50-mph to a 40-mph speed limit, and if they do would they prefer it to be a 30-mph speed limit. The results would then be shared with KCC Highways (appx 4 – proposed consultation wording).

7. Danaway speed limit: Signs are currently being changed from 30mph back to 50mph. To discuss the way forward for the 40mph limit which was agreed from the recent speed tests by KCC Highways.
It has been found that the change in the signage was carried out by a member of the public not KCC Highways. It was agreed that the Clerk would update the speed watch co-ordinator of this.

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8. Correspondence received.

- a. Email from a resident regarding the heavy vehicle usage of School Lane and damage being caused.

Highways England have been contacted and due to the Stockbury roundabout road closures heavy vehicles are looking for alternative routes. It was noted that access to Fourayes farm from the A249 via South Green has been cut off due to the current A249 improvement works and as soon as these have been completed the issue should stop. It was agreed to recommend to the full council that a response is sent to the resident outlining the above information.

- b. Hugo Fox email regarding road closures.

A resident has emailed his concerns about all the road closures.

It was agreed to recommend to the full council that a response is sent to the resident to assure them that the Parish Council do confront the utility companies and KCC when breaches occur but that they do not have the power to change, as this lies with the County Council.

9. Speedwatch

- a. Police speed check area signs: A supply of these signs has been requested by the Speedwatch co-ordination for Borden Lane, Borden, into Hearts Delight/The Street/Sutton Baron Road areas.

It was agreed to recommend to the full council that they write to KCC Highways asking that the sign installations are incorporated as part of the design of the 20-mph speed limit deterrent.

10. New and emerging Highway issues.

An email has been sent to SBC from Streetworks and copied to the Clerk regarding the Wises Lane road closure and the impact of their decision to not allow Sunday and bank holiday working.

SBC consulted with the Parish Council about this request and at their February meeting the Parish Council resolved to write to SBC with their concerns about allowing this.

It was agreed that the Clerk would share the email with the full council so this could be discussed further at their next meeting.

Meeting closed at 12:45

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Kent County Council

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on behalf of Borden Parish Council to express their keen interest in understanding the specific steps being taken by Kent County Council (KCC) to collaborate with landowners to use the DEFRA Environmental Land Management Schemes and grants to ameliorate flooding, reduce pollution, and enhance the environment on land adjacent to highways.

As you are aware, effective and sustainable management of the environment is of paramount importance, and leveraging DEFRA's schemes can play a crucial role in achieving these objectives. Therefore, can you kindly respond with information on the following:

1. Current Initiatives:

Could you provide an overview of any ongoing initiatives or plans that involve collaboration with landowners to implement DEFRA Environmental Land Management Schemes and grants, and how this is communicated.

2. Flood Alleviation Strategies:

Specifically, how is KCC working with landowners to address flooding issues through the DEFRA scheme? Information on strategies, proposed measures, and potential outcomes would be valuable to our community, where road flooding and soil erosion are becoming a cause for concern.

3. Pollution Reduction Measures:

Please share details on any planned or implemented measures aimed at reducing pollution arising from traffic (Nitrous oxides, particulates, tyre and brake particles) on land adjacent to highways. Understanding the specific actions being taken will contribute to our community's awareness, especially with the extensive building and road improvement schemes in our area.

4. Environmental Enhancement Plans:

We are interested in learning about plans for the environmental enhancement of land adjacent to highways. This could include habitat restoration, biodiversity promotion, or any other measures aimed at improving the local environment.

6. Grant Utilisation:

Could you provide information on the utilisation of DEFRA grants for these initiatives? Transparency in grant allocation and expenditure will contribute to a better understanding of the financial aspects of these projects.

Your attention to these enquiries is appreciated and your responses will contribute to a more informed and engaged community. Collaborative efforts between the Parish Council and KCC are crucial in achieving our shared goals for a sustainable and resilient environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your comprehensive response.

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Simon Jones, Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport

Dear Simon

Subject: Concerns Regarding 3-Month Road Closure of Wises Lane, Borden

I am writing on behalf of Borden Parish Council to express their deep concerns regarding the proposed 3-month road closure of Wises Lane, between Maylam Gardens and Cryalls Lane, whilst Coinford Construction installs new apparatus and S278 development works are undertaken. The Parish Council understands that this closure is scheduled to commence on 18th March with estimated completion by 30th June 2024.

1. Legality of Traffic Regulation Order (TRO):

They have noted that the TRO related to the road closure does not appear to be dated or signed, raising concerns about its lawfulness, and kindly request clarification on the status of the TRO to seek assurance that all legal requirements have been met.

2. Unreasonable Disruption and Diversion:

The road closure completely shuts the connection between lower and upper Borden for an unreasonable period. The suggested diversion route is extremely time-consuming due to heavy volumes of traffic. This may also put additional traffic on Cryalls Lane which is already suffering as a result of recent diversions and poses a potential safety risk to the public, other drivers, and wildlife.

3. Developer Benefits vs. Community Impact:

While the benefits to the developer in joining two separate sites, for the movement of materials and machinery are understood, emphasis is needed for a balanced approach that considers the significant impact on the local community.

4. Alternative Traffic Management:

What is the reason the work cannot be operated under a 2-way traffic control system, to mitigate disruption. Alternative traffic management options may help alleviate concerns about prolonged closures and traffic congestion.

5. Coordination with Utility Companies:

Considering recent closures on other parts of Wises Lane, and to minimise the likelihood of further road closures, could there be a direct liaison with other utility companies so that the road is not closed again at a later date, as has been seen on other parts of Wises Lane. Collaborative planning will help reduce inconvenience for residents and businesses.

We trust that the Kent County Council will address these concerns promptly and provide transparent information to the Parish Council and the affected community. Open communication and collaboration are crucial to finding solutions that balance the needs of developers and the well-being of our residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and a constructive dialogue to address the concerns raised.

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KCC Highways

Dear Highways Department

Subject: Inquiry Regarding Width Restrictions in Borden

I am writing on behalf of Borden Parish Council to seek details of width restrictions and locations within our parish. As we strive to enhance safety and facilitate effective traffic management, we believe that having clear insights into the area's width restrictions and their starting points is essential.

Specifically, we kindly request the following information:

1. Location of Width Restrictions:

Please provide a comprehensive list or map outlining the specific locations where width restrictions are in place and start within our parish.

2. Reasons for Width Restrictions:

Please share information on the reasons behind the implementation of width restrictions at each identified location. This insight will contribute to a better understanding of our Parish Council and community.

3. Impact on Traffic Management:

To enhance our understanding of the impact on traffic management, we request details on how width restrictions contribute to the overall road safety and flow in the specified areas, and if there is a legal right to enforce them, if so how should this be done.

We believe that having this information will allow us to engage more effectively with our community and ensure that residents and businesses are aware of and adhere to the relevant traffic regulations. Your cooperation and transparency in this matter are appreciated.

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry. We look forward to receiving the requested information at your earliest convenience.

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Dear residents of Danaway, Borden Parish Council is conducting a consultation regarding the speed limit for Danaway. Your input is crucial in determining potential adjustments to enhance road and community safety.

The normal speed limit for Danaway is 50-mph, this has been reduced to 30-mph whilst the A249 and Stockbury roundabout works are carried out but once the work is completed KCC Highways will increase the speed limit back to the original 50-mph. However, after consultation with the Parish Council last October, KCC Highways carried out speed tests at Danaway, and from the data both KCC Highways and Kent Police would support a reduction to 40-mph for Danaway.

The Parish Council are now seeking your opinion on whether you would support reducing the normal 50-mph speed limit to 40-mph. Additionally, we would like to gauge your interest in a further reduction to 30-mph.

Your feedback will help us make informed decisions that prioritise the safety and quality of life residents. Please take a moment to share your thoughts and preferences by emailing your response to the 2 questions below to clerk@bordenparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Thank you for your participation in this important consultation.

SURVEY QUESTIONS:

Q1. Do you support a reduction in the Danaway normal speed limit from 50-mph to 40-mph? Yes / No

Q2. If you have said 'Yes' to question 1, would you also support a further speed reduction, if possible, to 30-mph?

Please note that your responses will be shared with KCC Highways.