

## **APRIL 2022 UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Since my last report in March 2022, I have reported 3 further Highway issues to KCC. This increases the grand total to date to 82.

The new reports were for: -

Speed Camera not working in Wrens Road.

The legitimacy of the temporary 30MPH speed limit on Maidstone Road and Chestnut Street.

Diseased tree in Wrens Road.

70 of the 82 have now been dealt with either in a satisfactory manner or with a satisfactory explanation. 12, including the three above are still outstanding.

Other works still to be completed include the white line renewals in Pond Farm Road and Wises Lane. The provision of a new Slow sign on the road at the entrance to Oad Street from the Borden village direction is still outstanding and has been since June 2021. No progress has been reported on flooding issues at Danaway.

The fake camera in Borden Lane has been taken down.

The give way markings at the junction of Washley Hill and Hearts Delight have been passed to a contractor for installation, but as yet still not provided and other works identified in Hearts Delight have been rejected although a site meeting is still outstanding.

Despite the absence of any bend signs in Sutton Baron Road warning drivers of the junction KCC Highways have refused to erect them on the grounds they are not justified as no injury accidents have happened at this location.

Site meetings with KCC Highways to discuss the Parish wide 20mph limit and also for Bannister Hill/Hearts Delight, at Oad Street and at Maidstone Road have again been requested. But as yet KCC Highways have still not come forward with any dates.

### **Highways Improvement Plan**

The Highways Improvement Group have updated the Highways Improvement Plan which has been circulated. There has been one major change since it was approved in February 2022 and that is the provision of priorities, which can be seen in the first column. This has been necessary to be able to ask KCC Highways to start spending some money tackling the highway issues in the Parish. Council will be asked to approve this new Plan.

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

I have reported many times about recently vehicle accidents along Maidstone Road/Chestnut Street on the old A249 and the fact that letters have been sent by the Parish Chairman to all appropriate parties and a copy circulated to Councillors. There have been no further developments other than

the provision of signs stating that a new speed limit is now in place. As a result of comments received I have raised an issue as mentioned above as to the legitimacy of the temporary speed limit in Maidstone Road and Chestnut Street. I will report on this and any other developments at the meeting.

The survey designed for residents along Maidstone Road and Chestnut Street to comment on the proposed diversion of Maidstone Road and the widening of Oad Street has been delivered to 162 properties and 29(18%) have been returned. Of those returned some 66% felt the road should not be widened at Oad Street. Of those who thought it should be widened, 34%, 70% felt it should be used as a diversion route. Of those people responding 86% were over 45years and 80% had lived along these roads for more than 11 years. 21% used the buses every day or at least once a week and 38% never used the buses. Any further updates I will mention at the Council meeting.

John Fassenfelt April 2022.