

MINUTES OF THE ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

19th January 2023, 7.30pm
The Guildhall

Present:

Cllr Thomas Cllr Saunders
Cllr Reynolds Adrian Oliver

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)
Adrian Berendt from item 55 (via Zoom)

Public Comments

Cllr Thomas referred to a written question submitted by Carol Goatham as follows:

“The pedestrian crossing which has recently been installed at the junction of Love Lane and Graveney Road is not being used appropriately by pedestrians. Many are choosing to cross using the traffic island closer to the roundabout, instead of walking to the crossing.

This makes the junction more dangerous for both cars and pedestrians as cars are encountering groups of pedestrians crossing, or waiting to cross, as they come into the roundabout. A solution would be to install railings/fencing to prevent pedestrians attempting to cross at this dangerous point. I would like the council to consider this please before an accident happens. “

Cllr Thomas advised he would refer the comments to KCC Highways but would also refer to this situation again under a later agenda item.

46. **Apologies for Absence**

Received from Cllr Williams, Cllr Hook, Cllr Jackson, Tim Stonor, Adrian Berendt and Chris Oswald-Jones.

47. **Declarations of Interest**

None

48. **Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 17th November 2022.**

49. **LCWIP**

Cllr Saunders provided an update on the meeting of the LCWIP Working Group of 7th December 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Thomas, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the LCWIP Working Group dated 7th December 2022.**

50. Active Travel England Capability Fund 2023

Cllr Thomas advised KCC had been awarded just over £0.5 million in funding from the Active Travel England Capability Fund.

Adrian Oliver reported that Swale had been allocated £40,000 with £5,000 towards the review of the Faversham LCWIP, and £15,000 for the feasibility study of cross Faversham walking routes.

51. Active Travel England's Tranche 4

Two of the three bids for Swale had moved forward, one of these was for Faversham and further information had been requested by KCC before the bids could progress further.

In reply to the query from Cllr Saunders, Adrian Oliver responded that for the cross Faversham walking routes, resources would need to be in place by January 2024.

52. Informal Pedestrian Crossings

Cllr Thomas reported that Cllr Saunders, Tim Stonor and he had looked into the Stonebridge Pond informal intervention and had asked KCC to mark out the crossings. KCC had responded that it would not normally place road markings where a dropped kerb with tactile paving was already present. A meeting had been arranged with a KCC Officer to discuss this further and Cllr Thomas would also refer to the issue raised earlier at the junction of Love Lane and Graveney Road.

53. Stonebridge Pond Pedestrian Improvement Works

Cllr Saunders commented that although there had been improvements the designs the Town Council had been pushing for had not been delivered by the Contractor and following review by the safety team. KCC was due to inspect the works carried out and the outcome of this was awaited.

54. KCC Standards for Development Funded Works

Cllr Thomas recapped the junction works for the Perry Court development at the junction with the Brogdale Road and London Road. Cllr Thomas referred to comments from the relevant KCC Officer regarding the traffic impact for new developments. KCC was moving away from expanding road space for the private motorist and looking at more infrastructure for sustainable travel.

Cllr Saunders referred to the need to share the latest standards with councillors who sat on the Planning Committee. Adrian Oliver advised he would arrange for some training from WSP for both SBC and FTC Councillors involved in the planning process.

55. Cycle Hire

Cllr Thomas referred to the new flags positioned outside the Visitor Information Centre. The Town Clerk reported that enquiries to the Visitor Information Centre had increased as a result of the flags.

Permission was being sought for new cycle hoops to be installed outside the Post Office in East Street.

The Town Clerk referred to the paper detailing free bike hires for charities and community groups, other options could include lowering the E-bike hire charges or offering free rides to the general public on a promotional basis. It was agreed further promotion would be required from March 2023 onwards and the Town Clerk would discuss with App Bike how free rides to interested members of the public could be implemented.

Cllr Saunders queried the level of take up of the bike hangars. The Town Clerk reported that the Central Car Park bike hangar was full, and 2 spaces remained available in the Institute Road bike hangar. Cllr Saunders referred to the recent Faversham Crime Report and the longer-term desirability of expanding bike hangar provision.

56. Bid for Community Bus Funding

The Town Clerk reported the public consultation via SurveyMonkey had received approximately 140 responses to date. The Town Clerk had written to surrounding Parish Councils. The Parish Councils wished to promote use of the existing Kent Karrier network. As a result of bus service cuts, some villages would be without bus services and residents would be eligible to register for the Kent Karrier services. Other options being looked at included car sharing.

The closing date for submission of the bid would be mid-February and there were some logistical issues that would need to be addressed including where the vehicle would be kept and the recruitment of drivers.

Adrian Berendt referred to the increase of peer-to-peer lending of cars which could be of interest to parishes. The user logged on to an app to hire an available car and this overcame insurance issues. Cllr Saunders also referred to the Hiyacar Scheme.

57. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed not to hold a meeting in February but to meet as a working group if further discussions around the Bid for Community Bus Funding were needed before the meeting in March.