

MINUTES OF THE ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

3rd April 2025, 7.30pm
The Guildhall

Cllr C Martin (Chair)	Apology		Cllr BJ Martin	Apology
Cllr Saunders (Deputy Chair)	Present		C Oswald-Jones	Present
Cllr Gibson	Present		Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr Eyre	Present		M Anderson (SBC)	Apology
Cllr Hook	Present			

In Attendance:

Rob Gibbs (Office Manager)
Cllr Hook KCC (via Zoom) (from Meeting Item 157)
Adrian Oliver KCC (via Zoom) (from Meeting Item 157)
T Stonor (via Zoom)

153. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Cllr C Martin, Cllr BJ Martin, Cllr Golding and Michelle Anderson (SBC).

154. Declarations of Interest

None.

155. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Cllr Saunders highlighted previously agreed minor amendments under Minute Item 144:

“It was agreed to arrange a meeting with KCC for the crossing.”

and under Minute Item 147:

“Potential works at Soloman’s Lane might not happen, it was agreed to write to KCC.”

Subject to these amendments, it was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 6th March 2025.**

156. Faversham Hopper Community Bus Service

Rob Gibbs provided an update on the Faversham Hopper. Passenger loadings had increased on Wednesday afternoons and generally overall, helped partly due to the weather improving.

Four more prospective volunteers were being recruited, and it was hopeful this would stabilise the situation for driver cover.

The vehicle was being taken to the Heritage Vehicle Show/South East Bus Festival at the Kent County Showground, Detling, on Saturday 5th April, to help promote the service.

The Hopper would be providing a free service linking the villages similar to its usual FH2 route during the Faversham Festival of Transport Weekend on 17th/18th May 2025.

Chris Oswald-Jones highlighted that Acacia Court still appeared as Kiln Court on bus stops/timetables, and this would need to be amended in due course.

157. Current Projects

East West Route – Cllr Saunders reported that KCC would look at costs following the completion of Newton Road and the planting of trees and would look to arrange a meeting to discuss the Solomons Lane intervention.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to contact KCC to request a raised table intervention at Solomons Lane.***

Tim Stonor felt the East West Route had been successful and felt a review should take place including the range of interventions such as zebra crossings, marked yellow stripes, and raised tables. The raised tables appeared to work best due to traffic having to slow on the approach. There was an instance at William Street/Park Road where a raised table had been put in but without the yellow stripes next to a crossing with a raised table and yellow stripes. Cllr Hook referred to slight variances from the original plan but on the whole, it had been delivered as planned.

It was felt the East West Route was self-promoting through good usage and expense on promotional signage was not required.

North South Route – Cllr Saunders reported on a recent meeting with Shepherd Neame regarding possible future interventions around the brewery. The meeting overall had been positive, and Shepherd Neame had highlighted possible issues with lorries and electrical power supplies.

Meeting with KCC – Cllr Saunders reported a meeting was due to take place with KCC regarding the Highway Improvement Plan, A2 London Road Crossing, and 20mph Compliance Fund.

Cllr Hook referred to the A2 London Road crossing, Tim Stonor and he were planning to meet and walk along the stretch to assess where the best locations could be.

158. Influencing Private Developer Highway Plans

Cllr Saunders reported on a recent meeting with SBC to emphasise the need to highways proposals to conform with the Neighbourhood Plan and respond to the LCWIP. A further meeting had taken place with Sarah Jane Ellcock, Senior Development Planner, at Kent Highways, to explain the

Neighbourhood Plan and LCWIP and to learn more about how KCC managed the development of Section 106 and Section 278 Agreements.

Cllr Hook suggested a list of a Section 106 Agreements with unspent funding be requested.

A meeting had also taken place between the Chair, Deputy Chair, and the Town Clerk with Duchy of Cornwall staff to receive an update on plans for active travel linkages between their proposed development and the town centre. Extending the Faversham Hopper to include the Duchy development was discussed and possible funding to source a second bus.

Cllr Hook referred to recent cuts to the X3 timetable resulting in primary schools being left without a service and suggested future expansion of the Faversham Hopper could include the service running before 9.30am to help relieve the situation.

It was also agreed that the Deputy Chair would seek advice from the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk on process for making a further submission to SBC on the proposed Duchy of Cornwall development.

159. Active Travel Consultancy Support 2025/2026

Cllr Saunders summarised the paper setting out Specification for Consultancy Support 2025/2026 which included the criteria the Active Travel Consultant would support the Town Council on:

- Monitoring Private Sector Developments
- Maintaining the LCWIP and HIP
- 20mph Compliance Fund

It was agreed that the preferred option would be for the current Active Travel Consultant to continue to support the Town Council due to his depth of knowledge and strong relationships with KCC Officers.

160. KCC Active Travel Consolidation Fund 2025/2026

Cllr Saunders reported that a comprehensive proposal for new active travel funding had been prepared by Adrian Berendt, and himself, and signed off by the Chair, and submitted to SBC for the deadline requested. The list of interventions has gone into the Swale proposal but are alongside proposals from Sheppey and Sittingbourne. KCC Officers are now reviewing proposals, but an announcement is not expected whilst KCC are in pre-election period.

Adrian Oliver advised he expected announcements to be made in early May.

Tim Stonor referred to earlier survey work carried out in previous funding bids which had helped to build an evidence base for the setting of the priority of the interventions. Cllr Saunders felt this was a sensible approach, but time had been limited in preparing the submission.

161. Active Travel Month

Rob Gibbs provided an update on the organisation of the Active Travel Day on Faversham Recreation Ground on 1st June 2025. A much more comprehensive event was being planned to include local walking groups, £10 bike sale, Faversham Hopper, child activities, and healthy food stalls.

Various themed walks were being planned for the whole of June.

Chris Oswald-Jones suggested if the Active Travel Day was successful, it could be expanded across a whole weekend.

162. Matters for Report

Solar Cycleway – Cllr Saunders requested an update on this project at the next meeting. Adrian Oliver agreed to provide the update.

The meeting closed at 8:46pm.