

MINUTES OF THE ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

6th March 2025, 7.30pm
The Guildhall

Cllr C Martin (Chair)	Present		Cllr BJ Martin	Apology
Cllr Saunders	Present		C Oswald-Jones	Present
Cllr Gibson	Present		T Stonor	Present
Cllr Eyre	Present		Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr Hook	Apology			

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)
Adrian Oliver KCC (via Zoom)

142. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Cllrs Golding and B Martin.

143. Declarations of Interest

None.

144. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Cllr Hook provided a written update on the A2 crossing that KCC are now considering a zebra may be better. There is a concern about its proximity to three bungalows being built.

T Stonor raised concern that the crossing was not in the right place, that in the past this would have been discussed in an open forum, and felt there had not been the same level of engagement with this crossing. C Oswald Jones was happy with the location near to Egbert Road and there may be an opportunity for another crossing.

Cllr Saunders shared concern about the location and had previously resolved that the council had engagement with KCC, but felt they had remained elusive, which will not help in getting the best possible outcome. He felt the committee needed to refresh their resolution of last month for early engagement regarding the crossing.

Adrian Oliver reported that a lot of work had been done, but it is not on the desire line and would not help people coming from the new estates, or pupils from the school. He also felt it was not in the right location and would only assist people using the bus stop. He also noted that the crossing would need to be lit, as the traffic flow will need to be managed.

It was proposed by Cllr Eyre, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 6th February 2025.**

145. Faversham Hopper Community Bus Service

The Community Bus Officer's report was noted. A discussion on whether it was viable to continue Wednesday afternoon service will be brought to the next meeting, as passengers had started using the service at that time.

Cllr Saunders would like exploration as to why Oare is more successful. Questions were also raised as to what contribution each parish council were making and whether it was sufficient in relation to the number of users.

A discussion took place on how to increase the use in North Preston, including putting up timetables in prominent locations.

146. Draft Action Plan

The draft action plan was noted – including the Active Travel Month, working with developers to ensure any private sector input to highway development is sympathetic to the town council's active travel objectives. As identified, there are a number of things in the town that have not been sympathetic. The funds will provide specialist support. The Faversham Hopper funding. Public exhibition for north south project, updating LCWIP and supporting cycling infrastructure. 20mph compliance fund.

Swale has informed us that KCC has £5.5m for active travel, which may have some implications on what we want to spend the budget on and our priority.

Cllr Saunders proposed, seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree the annual actions for 2025-2026.**

147. East to West Walking Route

Having contacted KCC to see if there were any funds left, we were informed that there were actually insufficient funds to carry out the intervention works to Solomon's Lane. Cllr Saunders noted that it had been included in the public exhibition held on the route and suggested that we should write to KCC to express our disappointment and ask whether there was other funding available.

It was felt that seeing how the interventions were being used would be useful feedback. An audit of how funds had been spent was suggested.

Snagging – Wallers Road, physically amended but has it worked; 62 South Road under-kerb seems to be working, is it; 48/50 Lower Road sorted, confirmation; 2 more bollards needed on Napleton on the right turn. Puddle on anti slip outside Almshouses; St Mary's Road.

The junction at Stone Street and South Road was raised, in particular the number of vehicle hitting the wall of the Almshouses.

Cllr Saunders proposed, Cllr Gibson seconded and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to add Stone Street / South Road junction on the LCWIP if it's not already included.**

Cllr Saunders reported on the meeting with SBC officer Michelle Anderson and Emma Gibson. Michelle confirmed that KCC had £5.5m in funding for active travel. He had worked up a number of projects to put forward for inclusion in the bid, which included concluding east west walking route and completing Solomon's Lane; relating to 20mph for design work in Bysingwood Road area, an over speed road which hasn't benefited for any interventions so far; funding for extending 20mph at Love Lane, A2 at Ospringe and Graveney Road; extending 20mph limit into Oare; North south walking route funding for the 3 interventions already designed out; crossing at Stone Street.

Adrian Oliver confirmed that KCC is looking to implement things as soon as possible as the funds had a March 2026 delivery.

Cllr Saunders proposed, seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the proposed list of proposals.***

148. Flood Lane

Cllr Saunders noted the poor state of the road and foot way. Faversham Footpaths Group has been raising this with KCC and SBC, which own some of the grass area. There seems to be a commitment from SBC for improvements for the area, but it would be helpful to write to ask for the walking route to be improved.

T Stonor noted the character of the area and asked that anything done can be sympathetic and be done in liaison with the Friends of Westbrook Stream. It was agreed to write to SBC on these points.

149. Pedestrianisation and Parking in the Town Centre

Cllr Saunders noted the concern regarding the amount of parking in the town centre. SBC confirmed that the proposed pedestrianisation cannot be delivered as there is not a way of distinguishing blue badge holders from other road users and there is no funding. This has led to a fresh parking scheme which involves re-yellow lining the Market Place around the Guildhall, Market Street and East Street.

However, it does not include yellow lining in Court Street, which SBC feels is too expensive to do at this stage. The proposal came to the JTB last Monday and there had been a previous meeting with Swale officers where it was noted that parking would just be directed to that area. Additional disabled bays were suggested to be placed outside Shepherd Neame. At the JTB Faversham councillors agreed that it was a step forward but that it would not resolve the issue as it does not deconvince people driving through. Cllr Gibson disagrees and thinks that this will resolve the problem with fire engines being able to get through. The impact on market traders and café owners was noted.

150. Active Travel Month

A brief update was given on the event, which is going well.

151. Wayfinding

The Town Clerk gave an update on the second phase of the wayfinding signage following funding from SBC.

152. Matters for Report

Snag list

Solar Cycleway

Meeting closed at 21.02