

Ensuring that the Active Travel priorities in the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan and Faversham and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan are implemented

Introduction

Over the last few years there have been a number of local examples of developer funded highway interventions endorsed by Kent Highways, which have been unsympathetic to the active travel priorities identified in our developing LCWIP and Neighbourhood Plan. The widening of the entrance to Brogdale Road, the widening of Oare Road at its junction with Ham Road and the failure to move straight to a 20mph speed limit on Love Lane are three specific examples. Where KCC have actively involved the Town Council in the development of projects, for example the layout of the A2/A251 junction and the development of the East West Cross Town Walking Route these projects have ended up being far more sympathetic to pedestrian and cyclists needs.

Now that the Town Council has an active agreed Neighbourhood Plan and LCWIP it will be important to ensure that these are actively noted by developers and KCC officers and that any privately funded highways development meets the requirements of these plans, promotes walking and cycling and other forms of active travel and improves the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and assisted mobility users.

This paper proposes some initial steps that we should take to ensure that this happens

Proposed Actions

1. Ensure that KCC officers and developers involve the Town Council in pre-application discussions related to proposed road layouts and cycling and walking provision
2. Ensure that KCC officers involve the Town Council in discussions about the most effective allocation of S106 highways funding and other developer funding to achieve our active travel objectives
3. Ensure that the Town Council Planning Committee actively reviews all planning applications to ensure that they meet our Town Council active travel objectives and comments appropriately.

In order to progress actions 1 and 2 it is proposed that a meeting is set up with relevant East Kent Highways officers to share information about our Neighbourhood Plan and LCWIP and their approach to pre application advice and S106 funding.

In relation to action 3 we have requested a sum of £2,500 to provide consultancy support in reviewing planning applications from an active travel perspective next year and a sum of £4,500 to pay for specialist design advice to support requests for improvements in design.