

## MINUTES OF THE ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

05 February 2026, 7:30pm  
The Guildhall

Cllr C Gibson (Chair)	Present	Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Saunders (Deputy Chair)	Present	Cllr A Hook (KCC)	Present
Cllr Coniam	Apology	Michelle Anderson (SBC)	Apology
Cllr Cook	Present	Chris Oswald-Jones	Present
Cllr B Martin	Apology	Tim Stonor	Apology
Cllr T Martin	Present		

### In attendance:

Rob Gibbs (Office Manager)

### Public Questions:

See Appendix One

### 236 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

The meeting commenced with the Chair asking for apologies for absence and any substitutions. Apologies were received from Councillor B Martin, Councillor Coniam, and Tim Stonor. There were no substitutions.

### 237 Declarations of Interest

None.

### 238 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee Meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

**Decision:** The minutes of the previous Active Travel Committee meeting held on 8th January 2026 were agreed upon by the members present.

### 239 Faversham LCWIP

The Chair introduced the standing item for any matters for decision on revisions or additions to the LCWIP. It was noted that no papers with suggestions had been received and no members had any burning additions to discuss at this time. There was a brief discussion about the process of reviewing the LCWIP, with the last formal sign-off having occurred in autumn 2024. Cllr Saunders suggested that a total review might be considered later in the calendar year. Councillor Martin raised a specific issue regarding a small section of the footpath by Strode Park, suggesting the addition of a pavement to improve

accessibility. This was agreed upon to be added to the LCWIP intervention list. The item concluded with the agreement to keep the LCWIP on the agenda for future meetings to allow for ongoing updates and additions.

**Decision:** A specific issue regarding a small section of the footpath by Strode Park was agreed to be added to the LCWIP intervention list.

## **240 Highway Improvement Plan**

The discussion on the Highway Improvement Plan focused on agreeing the process for its review. Councillor Hook introduced the item, explaining that the officers at KCC were keen on the plan as a way to manage requests from parishes. However, there was some frustration noted due to the limited funds available and some proposals being turned down due to not fitting KCC policies. Councillor Hook suggested a revision of the plan, with a focus on items that are more likely to receive funding. There was agreement that the plan should be revised but not spend excessive time on it this year. It was proposed that Rob Gibbs works with the Chair and Deputy Chair to come up with a revision, and other committee members could put forward particular items.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED for Rob Gibbs to work with the Chair and Deputy Chair to revise the Highway Improvement Plan for approval at a future meeting.***

**Decision:** The proposal to revise the Highway Improvement Plan with a focus on items more likely to receive funding was agreed upon.

**Task:** Rob Gibbs to work with the Chair and Vice-Chair to come up with a revision of the Highway Improvement Plan. @Rob Gibbs

## **241 Faversham Hopper Community Bus Service**

Rob Gibbs presented a report on the Faversham Hopper Community Bus Service, noting a 69% increase in passenger numbers from January 2025 to January 2026 despite persistent wet weather. Timetable changes had been agreed with KCC and the Traffic Commissioner, set to start in April. The bus had passed its MOT and service, and there were now 17 volunteer drivers who had completed their Midas training. Passenger feedback forms had been very complimentary, and these would be used for future funding bids. Cllr Martin raised a question about the reimbursement process for concessionary passes, which Rob explained, noting monthly reimbursement from KCC. The item concluded with positive remarks about the service's progress and no decisions required.

Cllr Hook suggested the finances of the Hopper should be scrutinised by the Committee and it was agreed that Rob Gibbs would provide a report of Income and Expenses.

**Task:** Rob Gibbs to provide a financial report for the next meeting.

## 242 Faversham Bus Users Forum

The Chair introduced the draft proposal and terms of reference for the Faversham Bus Users Forum. There was general agreement that the terms of reference felt right, with an initial need for the forum to be chaired by a councillor but ideally transitioning to a non-councillor chair in the long term. Chris Oswald-Jones suggested appointing a town councillor as a representative to monitor the forum without controlling it. The importance of empowering the forum to act independently and engage directly with operators like Stagecoach was emphasised.

Cllr Hook hoped the Bus Users Forum would help to grow the Hopper with regards to promoting the Service to potential passengers and recruiting more volunteers.

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the establishment of a Faversham Bus Users Forum as an advisory and engagement body to support the improvement of local bus services for the benefit of residents and the wider community.**

**Decision:** The draft proposal and terms of reference for the Faversham Bus Users Forum were agreed upon.

## 243 South East Faversham

The final version of the Active Travel submission for the South East Faversham Planning Application was discussed. Councillor Cook raised concerns about the need for the submission to be more planning-oriented.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for Cllr Cook to amend the draft submission to remove the reference to a business plan and to require that the design meets DDA standards and should be completed for phase 2.**

**Decision:** The submission for the South East Faversham Planning Application will be revised to be more specific and time-bound, removing references to the business plan for a new bridge.

## 244 SBC Local Plan Review Regulation 18

The committee reviewed the Active Travel elements of the SBC Local Plan Review Regulation 18, with Councillor Saunders presenting a document outlining his thoughts based on the committee's positions over the years. The document highlighted the importance of integrating Active Travel into new developments and ensuring strong links between new developments and the Town Centre. The committee members discussed the need to provide feedback that acknowledges the positive aspects of the plan while suggesting improvements to strengthen it. Councillor Perkin suggested emphasising the needs of people with disabilities and impaired vision in the plan, ensuring that references to walking and cycling include considerations for users with

disabilities. It was agreed to incorporate these suggestions into the feedback, making minor edits to the document.

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Saunders, it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Saunders would make the minor amendments to the document and submit to the Deputy Town Clerk.**

**Decision:** The committee agreed to incorporate suggestions into the feedback for the SBC Local Plan Review Regulation 18 and submit the revised feedback to the Deputy Town Clerk.

#### **245 East – West Walking Route**

The committee received a snagging list for the East-West walking route, with Chris Oswald-Jones identifying issues. The committee discussed the importance of resolving these issues to ensure the safety and accessibility of the walking route. Councillor Saunders emphasised the need to manage the relationship with the Active Travel team carefully, acknowledging their efforts in securing funding and managing the project effectively. It was agreed to present the snagging list formally, noting that the issues should be addressed by the relevant authorities, whether it be the Active Travel team or Kent Highways. The committee aimed to maintain a constructive approach while ensuring that the necessary improvements are made.

**Decision:** It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Saunders, it was **RESOLVED for Rob Gibbs to present the snagging list in a formal way for submission to KCC.**

**Task:** Present the snagging list for the East-West walking route to the relevant authorities for addressing the issues.

#### **246 20mph Compliance Fund**

The committee reviewed updated lists of 20mph roundels and dropped kerbs. Councillor Saunders suggested that dropped kerbs should be funded by KCC while new roundels would come out of the reserves. The committee agreed to submit the lists to KCC for detailed costings and confirmation of implementation.

Cllr Saunders provided an overview of Adrian Berendt's report on the Athelstan Road/Cambridge Road consultation, highlighting residents' concerns, particularly in the Athelstan Road area. Adrian Berendt suggested organising feedback sessions with residents to explore concerns and potential solutions. The committee agreed to involve ward councillors in these sessions and voted in favour of proceeding with the proposed approach.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept Adrian Berendt's report and recommendations.**

**Decision:** The committee decided to submit the updated lists of 20mph roundels and dropped kerbs to KCC for detailed costings and confirmation of implementation.

**Decision:** The committee agreed to the organisation of feedback sessions with residents to explore concerns and potential solutions regarding the Athelstan Road/Cambridge Road consultation.

**Task:** Submit updated lists of 20mph roundels and dropped kerbs to KCC for detailed costings and confirmation of implementation.

**Task:** Organise feedback sessions with residents to explore concerns and potential solutions regarding the Athelstan Road/Cambridge Road consultation.

### **247 Zebra Crossing on the A2 London Road**

Cllr Hook provided an update on the surface level crossing on the A2 London Road. KCC has shown a positive attitude towards the proposal, with technical drawings indicating a location slightly west of the bridge. The crossing would be traffic light-controlled rather than a zebra crossing, ensuring safety during peak times, especially for school children.

The committee discussed the implications of the crossing, including potential changes to road priorities and restrictions on turning into the crossing area. Locations for further potential crossings on the A2 were discussed.

### **248 Matters for Report**

Chris Oswald-Jones reported on ZFA18 footpath near the Abbey School along to Perry Court Oasthouse was due to be upgraded.

Cllr Cook reported he was due to hold a meeting with Andersons regarding footpaths and traffic calming measures.

The meeting closed at 9:42pm.

## **Appendix One Public Questions**

Mrs Sylvia Hill raised her concerns about the poor public transport provision in Faversham. This was causing issues for people trying to access healthcare in Canterbury and restricting access for school children for cultural activities and learning. One bus per hour on the X3 route was not sufficient and these were quite often late or cut completely. There was an additional problem that the buses did not connect with the trains.

Cllr Hook suggested a letter be sent from the Town Council to Stagecoach with specific examples of poor running.

**Task:** A letter to be sent to Stagecoach regarding the poor level of provision on the X3 service.

Cllr T Martin suggested Mrs Hill additionally raise her issue at the Swale Eastern Area Committee.

Cllr Perkin suggested a letter be sent from the Town Council to the local Integrated Care Board (ICB) regarding the relocation of mammogram facilities from Faversham to Canterbury and the difficulty of Faversham residents being able to access the facilities using public transport.

**Task:** A letter to be sent to the local ICB regarding the difficulties faced by residents using public transport to access mammogram facilities in Canterbury.

Additionally, it was agreed to write to KCC requesting their stance on bus provision in Faversham and what their future priorities were.

**Task:** A letter to be sent to KCC regarding their future priorities for bus services in Faversham.