

MINUTES OF THE ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

5th June 2025, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

Cllr C Gibson (Chair)	Present	Cllr T Martin	Present
Cllr Saunders (Deputy Chair)	Present	Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Coniam	Apology	Cllr A Hook (KCC)	Present
Cllr Cook	Absent	Chris Oswald-Jones	Present
Cllr BJ Martin	Present		

In Attendance:

Rob Gibbs (Office Manager)

Adrian Berendt (via Zoom) (from Minute Item 168)

Adrian Oliver KCC (via Zoom) (from Minute Item 168)

163. Election of Chair

Cllr Saunders chaired for this item.

Cllr Gibson was nominated by Cllr T Martin and seconded by Cllr Saunders.
Cllr Gibson was duly elected Chair.

164. Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Gibson took the Chair from this item onwards.

Cllr Saunders was nominated by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr T Martin.
Cllr Saunders was duly elected Vice Chair

165. Non-Councillor Members

An application was received from Chris Oswald-Jones.

Chris Oswald Jones was co-opted to the Committee.

It was agreed Tim Stonor should be invited to make an application to be co-opted and that Cllr Hook (KCC), Adrian Berendt, Adrian Oliver (KCC), and Michelle Anderson (SBC) should continue to be invited to future meetings.

166. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Coniam and Tim Stonor.

167. Declarations of Interest

Cllr BJ Martin DNPI – Minute Item 173 Proposed Active Travel Submission on SE Faversham 23/5055533/EIHYB

Cllr Perkin DNPI – as Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group at Swale Borough Council.

168. Active Travel – the National and Local Context

Cllr Saunders delivered a presentation under this item – see slides under Appendix 1.

169. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee meeting dated 3rd April 2025.**

170. Action Plan and Current Projects

A discussion took place on the care requirements that needed to be considered for trees planted on the East to West walking route.

Cllr Hook queried whether a crossing was still planned to be installed at Solomons Lane. It was agreed to write to Jamie Watson of KCC to seek assurance that this was still to proceed. Adrian Oliver confirmed his team was still pursuing a crossing at Solomons Lane, but he could not confirm funding was available at this time.

Cllr Saunders advised of an issue that had arisen where pedestrians were diverting off the East to West walking route and stepping over low railings near the toilet block at the Recreation Ground. There was an ongoing dialogue between SBC and KCC Officers to try and resolve this.

Cllr Gibson agreed to consult with Ospringe Parish Council on the desire to see the 20mph zone extended to Water Lane and to have entry gates to the 20mph zone on Ospringe Road.

The Action Plan and Current Projects were noted.

171. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference document was reviewed.

It was agreed to add:

“The Committee’s prime aim is to promote sustainable transport and active travel including cycling and walking.”

“To oversee and support the continuation of the Faversham Hopper Community Bus Service.”

It was agreed to amend paragraph 8 to read “Active Travel Month” instead of “CycleFest”.

It was agreed to delete paragraph 9 referencing the cycle hire trial and paragraph 10 referencing the bike rack hire trial.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr BJ Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Terms of Reference subject to the changes listed.**

172. Town Centre Parking Options

A discussion took place regarding options for parking restrictions in Market Place and Court Street.

Cllr Perkin referred to the restriction on the residents of flats in Court Street which meant they could not apply for Resident Permits or Visitor Vouchers to park on adjacent streets.

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr BJ Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to respond to Mike Knowles that the double yellow lines around The Guildhall should be reinstated as soon as possible and the double yellow lines should be extended up Court Street.***

173. Proposed Active Travel Submission on SE Faversham 23/5055533/EIHYB
Cllr BJ Martin left the room.

Adrian Berendt summarised his paper.

Cllr Perkin referred to the need to include ramps and dropped kerbs for people with accessibility issues including wheelchair users.

Cllr Hook referred to the need to design the road layout for buses. A primary school was proposed, and it was important that was included as well as retail units.

Cllr T Martin referred to cuts to bus services including the X3 and potential extending into the development, which could result in extended travel times and could lead to greater car use. There could be scope to extend the Faversham Hopper to serve the development.

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED:***

- 1) For Adrian Berendt to write a report incorporating comments on accessibility and the need to incorporate bus services and for the report to be circulated to Committee members via email.***
- 2) Adrian Berendt to write a report on the proposed development of Perry Court looking at the active travel element of that development.***

174. 20mph Compliance

Cllr BJ Martin re-entered the room.

Cllr Saunders referred to discussions with KCC regarding the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) specifically 20mph roundels for Athelstan Road. KCC had provided plans to paint 20mph roundels along stretches with four in total. The plans were noted.

Cllr Saunders referred to the 20mph Compliance Fund set aside for improving compliance with the 20mph zone.

Chris Oswald-Jones provided a list of roads where it would be desirable to see improvements including:

- North Lane
- Dark Hill West Bound
- Whitstable Road, which he had been informed by KCC had been delayed due to funding issues
- Forbes Road near the recently revamped zebra crossing
- Forbes Road near entry to Briton Road and near Co-op
- Newton Road crossing near Solomons Lane

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to update the 20mph Compliance Fund Project Plan with the list provided by Chris Oswald-Jones.***

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr BJ Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED for Adrian Berendt to assist in the development of a consultation questionnaire for areas identified as suffering from speeding and rat runs including Cambridge Road and surrounding roads.***

175. Faversham Hopper Community Bus Service

Rob Gibbs provided an update on the Faversham Hopper and referred to the report provided by the Community Bus Officer.

A full update including specific passenger numbers per village and associated costs was requested for the next meeting.

Cllr BJ Martin suggested that as the Aldi bus stop showed good usage that Aldi be encouraged to provide funding for a permanent bus stop and that Premier Inn could also be approached.

176. Cycle Solar Way

Adrian Oliver provided an update. Negotiations were ongoing with landowners to provide an upgrade to the current footpath to cycle tracks. KCC were relying on the goodwill of the developer to deliver this project.

It was agreed that Cllr Gibson would write a letter to the developer to indicate support for the Cycle Solar Way project.

177. Active Travel Month

Rob Gibbs provided a report on the Active Travel Day at Faversham Recreation Ground on 1st June 2025.

Cllr T Martin felt more could be done to utilise the Bike Repairer including demonstrations of bike repairs. The bike jumble sellers had not attended this year and Cllr T Martin felt they should be included in future. It was also felt rebranding the day could help.

Cllr Saunders referred to a number of walks and cycling events going on throughout the month. Cllr Saunders was himself leading a walk along the Creek on 28th June 2025.

178. Bike Hangars

Rob Gibbs provided an update on the 3 bike hangars installed by the Town Council. The bike hangars at Central Car Park and Institute Road Car Park were now full, and the recently installed bike hangar at Faversham Recreation Ground may only have one space remaining after a resident was in the process of applying for four spaces.

Cllr Perkin suggested a possible location for a fourth bike hangar being Edward Vinson Drive and suggested a consultation take place. A possible second bike hangar at Central Car Park and a bike hangar at Queens Hall Car Park were also discussed.

Cllr T Martin suggested promoting that the bike hangars were being well utilised.

179. Matters for Report

Bike Hangars – Cllr Hook suggested the hire rates for Bike Hangars be reviewed as well as future sites for bike hangars. Cllr Hook suggested a reduced rate for those on low incomes.

Lower Road Street Signage – Chris Oswald-Jones suggested a road sign for Lower Road was required opposite the Stonebridge Way/Beech Close junction. Bus clearway markings had been painted along Lower Road, but no time plates had been installed on the bus stops.

Footpath Lighting – Cllr Perkin referred to the need for better lighting along the footpath that led from the new build flats at the Creek, from Belvedere Road to the boatyard.

Town Centre Gates – Cllr Perkin advised the gates at Court Street and East Street still had signs promoting social distancing, which were no longer required and should be removed.

Brenley Corner to Love Lane Speed Reduction – Cllr BJ Martin suggested the stretch of the A2 from Brenley Corner to Love Lane should see a reduction in speed as well as improvements such as a cycle path and that other local parishes should be consulted.

Love Lane Roadworks – Cllr BJ Martin suggested it needed to be checked that the red road markings along Love Lane should be checked once roadworks are completed along that stretch to ensure they are reinstated.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Active Travel

An introduction to the national and local
context for committee members

Funding and Policy Making Structures

Key Bodies

- Active Travel England
- Kent Highways
- Swale Borough Council

Key Staff Teams and Decision Makers

- Secretary of State for Transport
- KCC Active Travel Team, East Kent Division, Cabinet Member Highways, Joint Transportation Board
- Active Travel Officer, Environment Committee, Joint Transportation Board

What Funders Like

- local political support for AT
- resident support for AT
- good communications and relationships
- Up to date and active LCWIP and HIP
- Popular realistic project ideas
- 'Oven ready' designed project interventions

Where are we currently and how might we improve

- Track record of success – 20mph scheme, Cross Town Walking Route
- Established relationships and the active support from key officers
- An upto date LCWIP
- A pipeline of potential project ideas (North South route)
- Good community and external support
- Understand the impact of what we have done
- Build the understanding and engagement of councillors, staff and public

Annual Action Plan

Ref	Description	Key Actions	Timescale	Budget	Resources	Lead Officer
ACTIVE TRAVEL						
1.1	East West Walking Route	Support KCC in successful completion	Sept 2025	Nil		LB
1.2	North South Design Project	Complete final design, hold public exhibition	Dec 2025	£1,000		
1.3	20mph Compliance Project	Finalise interventions, contract with KCC to carry out work, monitor progress and support successful completion	Mar 2026	£18,000		LB
1.4	Active Travel Month	Develop public event, publicise in month activities	June 2025	£3,000		LB
1.5	Revision of LCWIP and HIP	Amend documents as new items agreed and projects completed	Ongoing	£500	LCWIP and HIP	
1.6	Compliance with LCWIP and HIP	Appoint consultant, review of applications, proposals, S106 carried out, design commissioned as needed	Ongoing	£7,000	LCWIP and HIP	
1.7	Faversham Hopper	Maintain existing service	Ongoing	£9,840		
1.8	Cycling Infrastructure	New cycle racks, signage	Mar 2026	£1,000		