

Update on Petitions submitted to Kent County Council

A report by the Head of Transport & Development to the Joint Transportation Board

Summary

1. A report to update the Board on the current status of petitions received by Kent Highway Services (KHS).

Traffic Calming Measures, Heath Road, Coxheath

2. A petition was submitted in April 2008 by 59 residents, lead by Mr A R Monk of Westerhill Road, Coxheath. It sought action to improve the traffic calming measures installed along Heath Road, Coxheath as the petitioners felt these were dangerous.
3. A number of changes have been carried out to the traffic calming since the submission of this petition and as previously reported KHS had agreed to carry out a review of the safety record in Coxheath, further speed checks and complete the safety audit of the current scheme. This work has been completed and sent to the both the County Councillor and Parish Council. The Parish Council have recently held an exhibition to consult the community of Coxheath on alternative proposals put forward by their independent consultants prior to further discussions with Kent County Council.
4. Arrangements are currently being undertaken by the Cabinet Member in organising a meeting with Coxheath Parish Council to discuss a way forward.

Request for the Implementation of a Weight Restriction through Yalding

5. A petition was submitted in September 2008 by Yalding Parish Council with over 570 signatures supporting a previous request for a weight restriction through Yalding and that surveys of lorry movements through Yalding and East Farleigh be undertaken.
6. It was reported at the last meeting of this Board that surveys, paid for by the local County Councillor and Parish Council, had been carried out in November 2010. KHS received the results of these surveys in February 2011 and have subsequently circulated these to the relevant Councillors and Parish Councils. Once the Councillors and Parish Councils have had opportunity to consider these results further discussions will be held with the local community on the way forward. A verbal update on the Freight Action Plan for Kent will be given at the meeting.
7. Kent County Council has undertaken a meeting with Cllr Wilson, Cllr Stockell, and Cllr Blackmore together with Mrs Brown of Yalding Parish Council. It has been agreed that Kent County Council will trial a Weight Restriction on a section of the B2162 to seek the effects of the restriction on surrounding roads. KCC Officers are currently working on the scope of the restrictions, funding is being sourced from Cllr Stockell's Member Highway Fund.
8. Proposals were sent to Cllr Stockell regarding the restrictions. The same proposals were sent to Mrs Brown of Yalding Parish Council. Discussions are still ongoing between Kent County Council and Yalding Parish Council over the extent of the restrictions. This request will now be updated through Cllr Stockell's Member Highway Fund.

Postley Road, Maidstone

9. A petition has been received from the residents of Postley Road, Maidstone which raises concern over the dangerous and increasingly unacceptable use of the road by buses including speeding. Kent Highway Services have met with the lead petitioner and are investigating the issues raised by the petitioners. KHS are currently arranging a meeting with the local Councillors to discuss a way forward with respect to this petition.
10. The above meeting was held between local Councillors and it has been agreed that Postley Road will be proposed as part of the Speed Reduction pilot project with measures to be implemented to reduce vehicular speed on Postley Road.
11. Designs are currently being made and discussions are ongoing with the County Councillor regarding the scheme.
12. Design has been approved; Kent County Council will now undertake formal consultation regarding the location of Interactive Signs associated with the scheme with the view to advertise the Traffic Order Associated with the works.
13. Consultation has now finished, Kent County Council Officers are liaising with one resident regarding the location of an Interactive Sign to appease concerns. The Experimental Order has been written and advertised allowing officers to install the signage.

Boxley Road and Beechen Bank Road

14. At the a previous meeting of this Board a petition was received requesting a reduction in the speed limit along Boxley Road and Beechen Bank Road. KHS commissioned a speed survey and have now received the results from its consultants and have reviewed the personal injury crash records along Boxley & Beechen Bank Road. KHS are currently arranging a meeting with the local Councillors and Parish Council to discuss a way forward with respect to this petition.
15. A meeting was held between Officers, Boxley Parish Council and Cllr Carter regarding speed limits along the above-mentioned roads. The results of the surveys showed that the existing speed limit could be reduced and Boxley Parish Council is liaising with officers regarding funding for these works.
16. Boxley Parish Council is funding the speed limit reduction on Boxley Road, designs and costs have been approved by Boxley Parish Council. Negotiations are ongoing regarding the delivery of the works.
17. It has been agreed that Kent County Council will deliver the work. The Traffic Order has been drafted and advertised. The consultation period expires on July 16th 2012. Officers will provide an oral update on the evening regarding the outcome of the consultation and the next phase.

New Petitions

18. There are currently no new petitions to report to this Board.

Update on 20MPH Zones in Maidstone

19. Kent County Council Highway Services are in the process of installing the said measures at locations previously agreed. Surveys are currently being undertaken onsite identifying the existing vehicle speeds in the vicinity of the schools.
20. Designs are currently being drafted at selected locations with the view to install the measures in 2012. Kent County Council will be working with Schools trying to reduce any congestion during the construction phase.
21. Discussions are still ongoing with County Councillors regarding each individual scheme ensuring that the trialled 20Mph Zones meet the requirements of the County Councillors.
22. Designs have been agreed; Experimental Traffic Orders have been written and advertised. Kent County Council Officers are now in the process of programming the work. For updates on the 20Mph zones, I encourage Members of this board to contact the Highway Officer working on the scheme.

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