

Minutes of the 6th Hunton Parish Traffic and Road Safety Working Party (TRSWP) – 17th May 2018

Present : Helen Ward (HW), Jonny Goddard (JG) , Celia Kennedy-Sloane (CK), Liz Oliver (LO), Mike Summersgill (MS), Roger Lee (RL)

Apologies: James Forster(JF), Tony Stanbridge, Steve Wyles, Annette Trought

1. Vicarage Road Development

Planning conditions included the submission of a traffic plan before construction. The Parish Council (PC) wrote to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) to complain that this had not been done and received an unsatisfactory response. The documents have now been submitted which revealed that the HGV traffic will be routed through Hunton. KCC highways are now involved and Gary Thomas has requested a meeting with the KCC representative, Terry Drury. Gary has also spoken to the developers (Countryside Properties) who agreed not to send HGV's past Hunton School during drop off/ pick up times, however, we have evidence that this is NOT happening. A suggestion was made that we should hold a day long Speedwatch or Lorrywatch session to monitor HGV traffic. Residents are urged to comment on the current planning application which includes the traffic plan.

2. Wares Farm Development

JF met Nick Allen their Chief Operations Officer and Duncan Mills Head of Supply Chain. He drove them around the dangerous parts of the village and showed them pictures of HGVs from Wares Farm in the 7.5t weight limit zone. A meeting is being arranged between them and the PC. We should recommend that a 'No HGV traffic' sign is placed where they could turn left out of the site towards Hunton. We should propose other highway signage required and JG will liase with KCC to get costings after the PC meeting. Wares Farm may fund these signs.

3. Hunton Hill Closure and Fruition HGV traffic

Work starts on the 18th June at the Lughorse Lane, Hunton Hill, East and West Street junction where traffic lights will be in operation. About 2 weeks later, Hunton Hill will be completely closed for 9 weeks and finally another few days of Lughorse Lane closure. SE Water will be working 6 days a week. KCC plan to resurface the Hill after these works.

Fruition have suggested a one-way system for HGVs which would come in via Yalding Hill and Vicarage Road and leave Fruition via East Street and Marden. Approximately 20 HGVs come and go each day. It was agreed that this was the least worst of the options available. However, this needs to be agreed by KCC who would have to suspend the 7.5t limit in East Street. It was suggested that 'Hunton Hill Closed' signs need to be placed further afield such as in Marden, the Linton end of Redwall Lane and the Linton crossroad.

4. KCC Highways issues

Costings have now been received for the critical signs :

- Green Lane/ Hunton Road 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign £220

- East Street/ Stonewall 'Slow' signs on the road £80
- Hunton Hill top '15% gradient slow' sign £200
- East Street narrow section 'Road Narrows' sign £265

JG has contacted Paulina Stockell (MBC and KCC councillor) to see if any funding is available. KCC have agreed to reinstate the painted 'Stop' sign on Redwall Lane where it meets East Street. JG is trying to get KCC to fund a 'Pedestrians in Road' sign for the Greensand Way section of Hunton Hill. The obsolete 3t sign at the top of Hunton Hill will be removed. It was noted that there is another such sign at the bottom of Barn Hill.

5. East Street 7.5t restriction

HGVs are still being recorded. JG asked that even incomplete evidence is forwarded to him so he can send this on to KCC Lorrywatch.

6. Speedwatch

One new volunteer has come forward and the new MBC councillor, Lottie Parfitt-Reid, has also offered to help. No new sessions are currently planned.

7. Any Other Business

CK reported that some manhole covers in East Street outside her drive are loose and noisy. MS had also reported to KCC that one of them was in danger of collapse but when KCC came out they looked at the wrong manhole. CK will report this again. Water is also leaking from the BT chamber which is being filled from one of the cable ducts and needs reporting. JG will ask Lottie Parfitt-Reid and Paulina Stockell if they would support a 30 mph restriction along East Street. MS will ask our Ward Councillors if other Parish Groups are tackling traffic issues as well, with a view to more co-ordination.

8. Date of Next Meeting

No date was set – the next meeting will be agreed after KCC and Wares Farm meetings have taken place.