

BAPCHILD VILLAGE HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

UPDATES JANUARY TO MAY 2022

Our Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) is a “live document” and continues to be an Agenda item for our Parish Council meetings. We continue to receive reports of speeding vehicles, particularly along The Street. We have provided an update below on how matters have progressed since November 2021.

JANUARY 2022 - SPEED SURVEY

A speed survey was carried out along The Street by Kent County Council (KCC) in January 2022. Upon receiving the results, we requested clarification of the implications of the data to enable us to progress the speeding issue. We also requested analysis of the results and enquired what steps needed to be taken to reduce the amount of speeding, and for further guidance.

MARCH 2022 – SPEED SURVEY ANALYSIS

We were informed by the KCC Officer that the data showed that during the 7-day survey period over **46%** of all traffic was exceeding the posted 30mph speed limit. However, when speed data is reviewed the industry approach is to analyse the **average / mean speeds** which meant when our speed survey results were reviewed, they were close to the maximum 30mph limit.

We wrote back following this analysis to state how disappointed we were, and we felt the average / mean speeds do not, in our opinion, reflect the amount of traffic at a standstill during the day, and therefore would bring the average speeds down.

PHYSICAL MEASURES TO REDUCE SPEED OF TRAFFIC

We also requested whether further physical measures could be introduced to reduce the speed of the traffic through Bapchild and were informed there wasn't anything which could be installed due to the following:

- The Street is an A class road that provides a large-scale non-motorway transport link between two major towns, Sittingbourne and Faversham and therefore has strategic importance, with a through traffic function;
- It is KCC policy not to install physical traffic calming measures on any A or B class roads;
- The Street has a main bus route and physical calming measures can have a detrimental effect on passenger comfort, bus journey times, driver health and vehicle maintenance costs;
- It can lead to increased patient discomfort in ambulances, or cause damage to equipment carried in ambulances or fire appliances who need to be able to utilise A roads as emergency response routes.
- Physical calming features can lead to delays in response times for emergency vehicles.
- Traffic calming features can be unpopular with nearby residents due to the increase in noise, vibration and pollution.

ANY ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE POSSIBILITIES

In terms of additional signage in the form of 30mph repeater signs or roundel road markings, we were informed The Street is what the law states as a Restricted Road. Section 82 of the Road Traffic

Regulation Act 1984 defines a road that has a system of street lighting as being a restricted road and Section 81 specifies that the speed limit along such a road shall always be 30mph unless an order has been made to state otherwise.

As The Street has a system of carriageway lighting throughout, the Highway Authority are prohibited from erecting 30mph repeater signs of roundel markings. This is national policy set by the Department for Transport.

KCC also informed us they looked at Crash Map data www.crashmap.co.uk and over the past three years and could not find a pattern of incidents that demonstrates The Street could benefit from their intervention.

We were further advised the lead enforcement agency for speeding offences is Kent Police; KCC have no powers of speed enforcement. Anyone who is concerned about vehicles speeding should report this on their non-emergency 101 number.

SPEED WATCH SCHEME

It was suggested the village might like to set up a self-help Speed Watch scheme with resident volunteers. We were also given the details of how to contact Kent Police Speed Watch Team by going to <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/community-support/speedwatch/> who can provide training on community led speed action.

KCC NEW SCHEME – 30MPH TOOLKIT

We have been informed KCC are currently working on a new scheme to assist with highlighting to drivers when they are in a 30mph speed limit. This new toolkit contains temporary 30mph stickers which can be attached to wheelie bins and non-static/non-permanent street furniture. We have requested details of the scheme via KCC Officers and the Road Safety Team and how to obtain a toolkit. We are currently awaiting an update on when the toolkit will be available.

APRIL 2022

Although we understood the reasons for not providing physical measures, we asked if there were any other suitable measures for the A2.

SLOW ROAD MARKINGS

We were informed the only suitable features would be the introduction of additional painted SLOW road markings. We requested a site visit to clarify if SLOW markings could be installed and this was carried out by KCC Officers who identified 4 suitable sites where such road markings would be possible. We are currently waiting for updates on whether this has been approved and a timeframe for installation of the white markings.

MAY 2022 - REQUEST TO PCSO TO CARRY OUT SPEED CHECKS

We have asked our PCSO Katie Jordan to conduct a speed watch along The Street.

Parish Clerk
19th May 2022