



BOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL
www.boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent. ME5 9RU

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Clerk Mrs Pauline Bowdery **Assistant Clerk** Mrs Melanie Fooks

A G E N D A

To All Members of the Council, Press and Public

There will be a meeting of the **Environment Committee** on **Monday 5 February 2018** at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade ME5 9RU commencing at 7:30 pm when it is proposed to transact the following business:

- 1 **Apologies and absences** (7.30)
To receive and accept apologies for absence.
- 2 **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying** (7.31)
Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.
3. **Pre-application consultation Kitewood - INFORMATION** (7.32)
To receive an update from Kitewood on the land at Impton Lane
4. **Pre-application consultation DHA - INFORMATION** (7.50)
To receive from DHA on proposed development at Newnham Court Shopping Village. See report (page 3).
5. **Minutes of the Meetings 8 and 22 January 2018.** (8.10)
To consider the minutes (pages 3-6) and if in order sign as a true record.
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** (8.12)
 - 6.1 Minute 3062/4.2 Development Wildfell Close. See report (page 7).
 - 6.2 Minute 3062/4.3 Ancient Woodland and TPOs. The issue will be taken by Maidstone KALC to the 15/01/18 MBC liaison meeting. No response yet received. Next Maid KALC meeting 05/02/18.
 - 6.3 Minute 3062/4.4 Boxley Road, Walderslade, KCC tree/verge maintenance. Work is being undertaken update will be supplied at the meeting.
 - 6.4 Minute 3062/4.5 Traffic Speeds, Boxley Road/Beechen Bank Road. See report (page 7).
 - 6.5 Minute 3062/4.8 Flooding Boxley Road near junction Longwood. Awaiting response from KCC.
 - 6.6 Minute 3063/7.7 Obscured signage Boxley Village. Request for maintenance made.
 - 6.7 Minute 3064/8 Fixed plate pedestrian crossing signs Grovewood Drive North. Request for these to be installed made to KCC.
 - 6.8 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.
- To adjourn to allow members of the public to address the meeting** (8.20)
7. **Planning Applications for Consideration - DECISION** (8.30)
To receive and decide on responses to planning applications. See reports (page 7-8).
8. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions - INFORMATION** (8.40)
STEM School New Cut Road, Grove Green. No Public Inquiry date yet received.

9. **Highways and Byways - DECISION** (8:42)
 9.1 Yellow lines at junctions on Provender Way. Outcome of 16 January meeting with County Councillor Paul Carter. See report (page 8).
 9.2 Yellow lines Provender Way. See report (page 8).
 9.3 Chatham Road design, Sandling. Outcome of 16 January meeting with County Councillor Paul Carter. See report (page 8).
 9.4 Solar powered sign south of M2 bridge Lidsing Road. See report (page 8).
 9.5 KCC Highway Works Programme. See report (page 8).
 9.6 Junction 3 M2. See report (pages 8-10).
10. **20mph speed limits** (8.52)
 Item requested by Cllr Constable. Deferred from January meeting briefing note enclosed with previous agenda, copy available on request. See request (pages 10-12).
11. **Policy and Procedures - REVIEW** (9.02)
 10.1 Street Maintenance policy and pro forma. See report (pages 12-16).
 10.2 Risk assessment volunteer litter pickers. See report (pages 16-17).
12. **Members Reports - INFORMATION** (9.08)
 To receive any reports or notification of issues from members.
13. **Volunteer Groups - INFORMATION** (9.13)
 To receive any reports.
14. **Matters for Information – INFORMATION** (9.20)
 15.1 KALC notification (e-mail 09/01/18) of KCC update to Household Waste Recycling Centre Policies. Amendments on length of trailer allowed, cost of disposal of tyres etc,
15. **Items for Next Agenda** (9.22)
 Councillors' reports and requests for items to be included on the agenda to be submitted no later than 5th March 2018. See report (page 18).
16. **Next Meeting** (9.23)
 Next Environment Committee meeting 12th March 2018 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

In view of the confidential nature (personal details and data) on the Enforcement item about to be transacted, it is advisable that the public and press will be excluded from the meeting for the duration of or part of the item.

17. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC** (9.24)
 To receive a confidential update at the meeting.

Pauline Bowdery

Pauline Bowdery
 Clerk to Boxley Parish Council

Date: 29 January 2018

In accordance with policy the meeting should close no later than 9:30pm but the Chairman has devolved powers to extend it by 30 minutes.

Items to be returned to agenda: Minute 3031/15.1 MC/17/2341 Proposed development Darland Farm (checked 20/12/17). February 2018 T&MBC Local Plan update.
 March 2018 Minute 3030/7.1 Lidsing Road. Request for road painted chevrons at all its junctions.
 August 2018 Minute 3028/4.6 Speed Reduction Walderslade Woods Road.

Minute 3011/8.3 Westfield Sole Rd/Yelsted Lane/ Harp Farm Rd, return if any fundamental changes.
Minute 3028/4.1. Land to the rear of Tesco Grove Green. Parish office will undertake the work when it is able.

Legislation allows for meetings to be recorded by anyone attending. Persons intending to record or who have concerns about being recorded should please speak to the Clerk.

Supporting agenda papers for the Environment Committee Meeting 8 February 2018. The Chairman will assume that these have been read prior to the meeting. Councillors wishing to suggest changes to any policy or procedure document in this agenda should notify the office, in writing, at least three working days in advance of the meeting to allow details to be circulated at the meeting (or in advance if particularly contentious).

Item 4 Pre-application consultation DHA

Pre-application consultation. Visitor Jonathon Buckwell DHA (e-mail 26/01/18). *"The owners of the Newnham Court Shopping Village have submitted a planning application to enclose some of their existing external retail display area within a new building to provide enhanced garden centre facilities, including an improved café, and also to reconfigure the existing overflow car park to make it work better and be better landscaped."*

Item 5 Minutes of the Meetings 8 and 22 January 2018

Item 5.1 Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 8 January 2018 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present: Mrs Wendy Hinder (Chairman), Mr Ivor Davies, Mr Bob Hinder and Mr D Hollands together with the Clerk.

1 **Apologies and absences**

Cllrs Dengate (work commitment), Clarke (unwell) and Constable (holiday).

2 **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

None.

3 **Minutes of the Meetings 4 & 11 December 2017**

The minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

4.1 Minute 3045/5 Kitewood Land Impton Lane. Kitewood will attend the 5 February meeting to update members on a proposal. **Noted.**

4.2 Minute 3045/4.1 Development Wildfell Close. An amended planning application was being prepared for submission to the Planning Officer. **Noted.**

4.3 Minute 3045/4.2 Ancient Woodland and TPOs. The issue will be taken by Maidstone KALC to the 15/01/18 MBC liaison meeting. **Noted.**

4.4 Minute 3045/4.5 Boxley Road, Walderslade, KCC tree/verge maintenance. The Chairman notified members that KCC's final stage of maintenance work was planned for February 2018. **Noted.** Cllr Bob Hinder would identify the property storing a compost bin on the verge in order that the office could send a letter asking for its removal. **Action: Cllr Bob Hinder and office.**

4.5 Minute 3045/4.6 Traffic Speeds, Boxley Road/Beechen Bank Road. Awaiting response from Medway Council. **Noted. Action: Clerk was asked to send a reminder that a response was still outstanding.**

4.6 Minute 3045/4.7 Chatham Road design, Sandling. KCC has insufficient funds to complete the whole design. Issue to be taken to the 16th January scheduled meeting with Paul Carter. **Action: Cllr Wendy Hinder.**

4.7 Minute 3057/7.1 Junction 3 M2. The issue is being taken up with the Minister responsible for Highways. Response awaited from Helen Whately MP. **Noted.**

- 4.8 Minute 3057/7.2 Flooding Boxley Road. Awaiting response from Southern Water. After brief discussion it was decided **no further action on the reservoir issue**. Cllr Davies raised the issue of the flooding on Boxley road near the junction of Longwood. The issue to be raised with the Highway Inspector to see if some minor local work could allow excess water to drain away to the side. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.9 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. None.

As no members of the public were present the meeting was not adjourned.

5. **Planning Applications for Consideration**

17/506237/FULL - Erection of a single storey front extension to existing garage (re submission of 17/502798/FULL) at 39 Coltsfoot Drive Weaving. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting members, *The Parish Council has no material planning reason to object.*

17/506340/FULL. Proposed detached double garage. Hillside Harbourland Close Boxley. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting members, *The Parish Council has no material reasons to object however there are concerns about the parking and access/egress on and at the junction of Harbourland Close.*

17/506339/FULL. Single storey side extension. Hillside Harbourland Close Boxley. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting members, *The Parish Council has no material reasons to object however there are concerns about the parking and access/egress on and at the junction of Harbourland Close.*

17/506384/FULL Two storey front/side extension combined with first floor side extension above existing ground floor extension and external alterations. 6 The Covert Walderslade. *Wish to see refused but not reported to the Planning Committee. Members felt that due to the topology of the site there will be a loss of privacy to the neighbours and there would be an adverse impact on the street scene due to over development of the site.*

17/506439/FULL. Amendments to existing car park to provide 29 additional spaces. Towergate House Eclipse Park Sittingbourne Road. *The Parish Council has no material reasons to object.*

17/506440/FULL. Variation of condition 3 to application MA/07/1773 with amendment to allow the provision of additional 29 parking spaces. Towergate House Eclipse Park Sittingbourne Road. *The Parish Council has no material reasons to object.*

18/500039/TPO PROPOSAL: TPO application to reduce the crown of two Ash trees by 30% and to thin the crown on one Hazel tree by 25-30%. 14 Trotwood Close Walderslade. *Do not wish to object, defer to the views of the landscape officer.*

6. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions**

17/505399/FULL. Garage/Store (works started). The Stables, Street Farm, The Street, Boxley, Kent, ME14 3DR. Cllr Bob Hinder attended the MBC meeting. GRANTED. Cllr Bob Hinder gave a verbal report on his attendance. He had highlighted to the meeting that by continually allowing retrospective planning applications they were depriving themselves of the right to set conditions to mitigate any harm.

7. **Highways and Byways**

7.1 Yellow lines at junctions on Provender Way. The report on the problems faced by parents parking inconsiderably and dangerously and the lack of support from other organisations was **received** and **noted**. After discussion it was **agreed** that the issue is taken to the Paul Carter meeting and the school was to be approached about involving South East Today. **Action: Cllr Wendy Hinder and office.**

7.2 Yellow lines Provender Way. MBC's failure to yellow line a bus stop box. It was **agreed** to write to Alison Broom cc ARRIVA. **Action: Clerk.**

- 7.3 Yellow lines Boxley Road/Travertine Close. Request from resident to have yellow lines installed to stop vehicles parking on the small verge by the junction of Travertine Road. Members thanked the resident for bringing the issue to their attention but currently it was felt that his request could not be taken further. **Action: Clerk.**
- 7.4 Gleamingwood Drive/verge to rear of Yew Tree Close. The MBC explanation as to why the trees had been felled was **received** and **noted**.
- 7.5 Councillor Wendy Hinder has a scheduled meeting on 16 January with County Councillor Paul Carter concerning outstanding or new highway issues. Issues identified for discussion were
- Old Chatham Road new design, the parish council has just been notified that there is insufficient funding to do all the work.
 - Junction 3 of the M2 and the local North Ward traffic issues.
 - Yellow lines Provender Way.
- 7.6 Maidstone Pantomime at Maidstone Studios. A couple of complaints have been received about the parking on Grovewood Drive North and Provender Way however two known families attending the pantomime (from outside the area) managed to easily park within Maidstone Studios. A resident and Cllr Hollands reported that the parking on the verge had not appeared to have damaged it. **Noted.**
- 7.7 Cllr Hollands reported that almost all the signage in Boxley Village was obscured by vegetation. **Action: Office to report.**
- 7.8 Solar powered sign south of M2 bridge Lidsing Road. KCC to be asked what the sign, which has never been seen working, was for. **Action: Office.**
8. **Safer Crossing Point Grovewood Drive North**
The information on the fixed electronic signs was **received** and **noted**. After discussion members **agreed** that KCC would be approached to put up fixed plate warning signs for pedestrians crossing. **Action: Clerk.** No further action was identified, the Clerk was thanked for her work on the issue.
9. **20mph speed limits**
As Cllr Constable was not present the item was deferred until the next meeting. **Action: office.** Cllr Bob Hinder notified members that a recent press report on a Bath City audit of its recently installed 20 mph limit zones highlighted the fact that in the year after they were installed there were more accidents. A copy of the audit report to be located. **Action: office.**
10. **Street Maintenance Budget**
Barrier the Spinney, Walderslade. The report on the issue of quad bikes using footpaths was **received** and **noted**. After discussion it was **agreed** that the situation would be monitored. The Chairman thanked Cllr Davies for delivering the letter to residents.
11. **Policy and Procedures**
Policies and Procedures Review Calendar (review). **Agreed.**
12. **Members Reports**
None.
13. **Volunteer Groups**
Friends of Boxley Warren. The sudden death of Steve Wright was reported with Cllr Bob Hinder saying that the group and many people had been devastated by the news.
14. **Matters for Information**
Maidstone Joint Transportation Board 17 January 2018 5.00 pm Town Hall.
15. **Next Meeting**
Next Environment Committee meeting 5 February 2018 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7:30pm.
16. **Enforcement and Section 106 confidential updates from MBC**
Members **received** and **noted** updates on the outstanding issues.

Meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Item 5.2 Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 22 January 2018 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 9.25 pm.

Councillors present: Mrs W Hinder (Chair), Mrs A Brindle, Ms L Clarke, Mr C Constable, Mr P Dengate, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr Bob Hinder and Mr D Hollands, together with the Clerk Mrs P Bowdery.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Brindle to the committee.

1. Apologies and absences

None as all members were present

2 Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None.

The meeting was not adjourned as no members of the public were present.

3. Planning Applications for Consideration

18/500122/TPO application - 1 x Oak, 3 metre crown reduction, remove dead branches and clear epicormic growth, cut back branch overhanging roof of 26 Violet Close. 30 Violet Close Boxley Walderslade.

Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

18/500069/FULL Part single/part two storey rear extension, two storey side extension and single store front extension. Broadview Grove Green Road Weaving.

The parish council can see no material reason to object.

18/500087/FULL Single storey front extension, part first floor and two storey side extension. 17 Galena Close Walderslade.

The parish council can see no material reason to object.

18/500193/TPO Application for 1 x Ash - remove limb over hanging property boundary due to excessive shading and low amenity value. 1 x Cherry - reduce crown and spread to approx. 20ft and 15ft respectively. 6 Gean Close Walderslade.

Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

Members raised concern about the inappropriate description of the Ash Tree which are considered to be extremely valuable trees.

17/506545/FULL Conversion of basement and existing garage to additional living accommodation, erection of a double garage with playroom over, and erection of orangery on existing balcony. 16 Podkin Wood Walderslade.

Lengthy discussion took place as members felt that the development might have already taken place as a large imposing structure could be viewed from PRow KH32. A query was also raised about whether the current garage, which was being redeveloped, had planning permission and members asked for clarification to be sought on these issues. Concern was raised about over development of the site and adverse impact on the street scene from the rear and possibly also the front of the property.

The Clerk was asked to obtain the information and to agree with members the response.

Action: Clerk.

18/500241/TPO Oak (T1) - Lift secondary branches to achieve ground 7m ground clearance.

Thin canopy by 15% focusing on conflicting branches. Remove dead wood. Reasons for work - excessive shading and good forestry practice. 8 Travertine Road Walderslade.

Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

4. Next Meeting

Next full environment meeting 5 February 2018 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Item 6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Development Wildfell Close. Update from Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure, KCC (e-mail 22/01/18).

"We have agreed a position with MBC following the discussion that we had at the end of the year with Paul. The scheme has been updated by the architect and revised valuation has been produced which confirms that the scheme still meets its objectives with all outstanding issues having been resolved. MBC have confirmed that they are minded to make a positive recommendation for approval based on the changes that have been made. I have asked DHA to confirm that we are still on track for the planning committee in Feb as discussed with Paul prior to Christmas".

6.4 Minute 3062/4.5 Traffic Speeds, Boxley Road/Beechen Bank Road. Response received

"Following your e-mail, I spoke with Medway Council Highways Officers and requested they revisit your concerns and report back. The response is not expected until the end of January 2018 so regrettably, there is nothing that we can report for your meeting.

Having been elected to represent Walderslade (Medway) in 2007, I have become aware of your concerns. What I can tell you is that the existing road layout was designed and implemented back in the days of KCC over which Medway Council as it was had little or no say in the scheme.

Once further information is available, then I will contact you again.

Cllr. David Brake

Member for Walderslade Ward"

Item 7 Planning Applications for Consideration - DECISION

17/506545/FULL Conversion of basement and existing garage to additional living accommodation, erection of a double garage with playroom over, and erection of orangery on existing balcony. 16 Podkin Wood Walderslade. To **ratify** the Clerk's decision, after liaising with members.

17/506433/FULL PROPOSAL: Erection of a single storey extension to the rear. 8 Grey Wethers Sandling ME14 3DW. Deadline 9 February 2018

18/500312/FULL Removal of condition 37 of 16/507292/OUT – Outline Application with access matters sought for development of medical campus comprising up to 92,379 m² of additional floorspace (including additional hospital facilities, clinics, consultation rooms and a rehabilitation centre (classes C2/D1); education and training facilities with residential accommodation (class C2/D1); keyworker accommodation for nurses and doctors (class C3); pathology laboratories (class B1); business uses (class B1); ancillary retail services (class A1, A2, A3); and up to 116 bed class C2 neuro-rehabilitation accommodation; internal roads and car parks, including car park for residents of Gidds Pond Cottages; hard and soft landscaping including creation of a nature reserve (to renew existing consent 13/1163) - condition relating to limited only to occupiers directly associated with the life science, health care and medical sectors. Newnham Park Bearsted Road Weaving Kent. Deadline 16 February 2018

Clerk's note: The above description on the application gives no clue (as it reproduces the description from the previous applications) as to what the applicant wants to replace the condition with.

Condition 37 of 16/507292/OUT

The occupation of any B1(a) office buildings and (B1(b) research and development buildings hereby permitted shall be limited only to those occupiers directly associated with the life science, health care and medical service sectors, and for no other purpose (including any other purpose in Class B1 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) or permitted under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 or any statutory instrument revoking and re-enacting those Orders with or without modification;

Reason: To ensure the development remains a mixed use and medical-based development in accordance with draft policy RMX1(1).

Clerk's note: The supporting letter, which is quite long, gives examples of the types of businesses in Kent Science Parks and implies (see extract below) that this is what the owner wishes to attract however the removal of condition 37 would allow standard and non-medical related offices, research and development.

However, the current wording of the condition would prevent other businesses who would benefit from being co-located with medical companies from occupying even a small part of the KMC facilities, even though such co-location would be mutually beneficial. It also prevents the use of the site by small start-up businesses if these are not directly associated with the life science, health care and medical sectors, even though the provision of such floorspace would benefit the local economy.

Item 9 Highways and Byways - INFORMATION

- 9.1 Yellow lines at junctions on Provender Way. MBC, KCC. Cllr Hinder's meeting with County Councillor Paul Carter has raised £2,000 from his devolved budget to pay for some yellow lines at the junction. St John's School has been contacted and a list of the worst junctions has been requested. It is not currently clear how far this funding will go.
- 9.2 The yellow lines at Provender Way have been repainted after the parish office asked for the work unfortunately it appears that they are being ignored by inconsiderate drivers. MBC has been asked to enforce them. MBC refused to yellow paint a bus box as it was a request bus stop, this decision has been challenged by the parish council. Update to be supplied at meeting.
- 9.3 Chatham Road design, Sandling. The work is programmed for April. Due to the layout and length of the road there will need to be a closure for a period of time and also traffic control and periodic temporary closures. Local residents will be receiving leaflets from KCC
- 9.4 Solar powered sign south of M2 bridge Lidsing Road. Response received from Matt Watson Senior Network Response Officer KCC.
We have a flashing speed sign in this location which should illuminate if a vehicle is approaching in excess of the speed limit.

I will arrange for an engineer to attend and check the sign. Our reference for this is TR 917812.
- 9.5 KCC Highway Works Programme, as reported to Maidstone Joint Transport Board meeting 17 January 2018. The following works have been programmed no other works for the parish have been identified.

Developer Funded Works (Section 278 Agreement Works) Maidstone Borough

Maidstone Studios, New Cut Road. Zebra crossing and pedestrian crossing points. Submission received

St Michaels Close, Aylesford. Waitrose car park, new access Awaiting technical approval.

- 9.6 Junction 3 M2. Response from Helen Whately MP letter to Cabinet Member. Cllr Wendy Hinder met with County Councillor Paul Carter 16 January and he has now received a copy of the letters received.
Councillor Bob Hinder has contacted Helen Whately to thank her for her support but also to point out that the "adjusting" of the traffic light sequence has not been working as traffic exiting or wanting to access the M2 are stopped by other queuing vehicles.

Mr Bob Hinder
Chairman, Boxley Parish Council
c/o Beechan Hall
Wildfell Close
Kent ME5 9RU

HW/JW/170738

17 January 2018

Dear Bob,

Further to my letter of 6 December, I enclose the response I received from Jesse Norman, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport.

I will ask for this issue to be included at a future meeting of Kent MPs and Paul Carter, as more information is needed about the improvement schemes KCC proposes to introduce to respond to the increasing volume of traffic around the M2 Junction 3 area.

If there is anything else you think I can do in the meantime to help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Let's also take a close look at the more detailed traffic forecasts due to be published later this year & use those to campaign for investment in the junction.

Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent

*Yours,
Helen*



Helen Whately MP
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Jesse Norman MP

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Our Ref: MC/214395
Your Ref: HW/JW/113403

15 JAN 2018

Dear Helen

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2017, enclosing correspondence from Mr Bob Hinder, Chairman of Boxley Parish Council, Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 9RU, about congestion around junction 3 of the M2 and the impact of the new Lower Thames Crossing.

Highways England are aware that M2 Junction 3 has exceeded its design capacity and carries more traffic than the junction and surrounding local road network were ever intended to handle. In this context, there is a need for improvement and Kent County Council (KCC), which manages the local road network, are considering options. In the meantime, they are continuing to monitor and adjust the traffic light timings to achieve a better balance for the local roads that join the junction. The timing is set up to minimise queuing on the motorway slip roads for safety reasons. Highways England will work with KCC on any improvement schemes it identifies.

The economic assessment that informed the selection of the preferred route for the Lower Thames Crossing included traffic forecasts for affected roads, including the M2. This high level appraisal was reported in section 4 of the Post-Consultation Scheme Assessment Report Volume 5.

Highways England are now undertaking more detailed consideration of the traffic impacts of the proposal across the local and strategic road networks. This includes producing comprehensive forecasts of traffic volumes and journey times based on updated travel demand data. This will inform detailed design of the scheme and will be published in 2018, ahead of the scheme's statutory consultation. This work will also inform Highways England's regional route planning, ensuring a comprehensive and co-ordinated assessment of the impacts.

Jesse Norman

JESSE NORMAN MP

Item 10 20mph speed limits – Review and decision

Clerk's note.

Cllr Ivor Davies notified the office of a Jan 2018 report in The Telegraph concerning a review of the 20mph speed limit introduced by Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES).
Extract from the articles

‘Safer’ 20mph zones led to rise in number of road deaths but too costly to reverse, council admits

Reducing the speed limit to 20mph has caused a rise in death and serious injuries, a council has admitted, but is refusing to reverse the scheme because it will cost too much.

Bath and North East Somerset Council spent £871,000 bringing in the 13 new speed zones just 12 months ago. But one year on, a report has found that the rate of people killed or seriously injured has gone up in seven out of the 13 new 20mph zones.

The review of the traffic control measures warns that this is a problem nationally, adding: "There is no simple explanation for this adverse trend but it could be that local people perceive the area to be safer due to the presence of the 20mph restrictions and thus are less diligent when walking and crossing roads, cycling or otherwise travelling."

Despite the council's own report concluding that there is "little in the way of persuasive argument for continuing the programme in the future", deputy leader Patrick Anketell-Jones has admitted there simply isn't the money available to reverse the 20mph zones".

B&NES report Setting Local Speed Limits. A review of recent installations of 20mph area schemes (signage only)

Clerk's note. The report was undated and could not be found on the B&NES website, a copy was found on a bloggers page and as it reflects what was reported in The Telegraph and as internet comments and local newspapers seem to quote from the report it is being taken as the report that B&NES produced.

The report contains various statistics and analyst and the following information/quotes are taken from the report when shown in italics. In the statistics tables blue colouring indicates an improving situation with yellow indicating a worsening one (an increase in "KSI" which refers to the casualty classifications "killed or seriously injured"). The following is a summary of the statistics in the report.

Chapter. "Change in casualty severity"

"In this analysis, the picture has changed substantially. Three areas have remained constant with zero KSI rates, but now the yellow changes outweigh the blue by 7:3. [Clerk's note the previous year summary stated "the blue cells outnumber the yellow cells 8:5,"] This suggests that, overall, the schemes have seen a worsening of the casualty severities, although the control area also shows the same trend.

Nationally, this adverse trend is also prevalent in other authority areas. In one notable case in Portsmouth, one of the earliest area based projects, it was reported that "the number of people killed or seriously injured actually went up, not down, after the limit was lowered". There is no simple explanation for this adverse trend but it could be that local people perceive the area to be safer due to the presence of the 20mph restrictions and thus are less diligent when walking and crossing roads, cycling or otherwise travelling".

Chapter. *Conclusions.*

The study has found that,

a) Broadly speaking, speed reduction in line with national trends has been achieved, but in real terms the overall reduction in average speed is very small (1.3 mph) and thus is not persuasive in terms of the money spent on these schemes.

b) Some accident reduction has been observed in Bath, but accident increase, albeit slight, has been seen in outlying towns. Again, this mixed outcome seems to be reflected across the country.

c) Casualty severity has worsened marginally in Bath and more so in outlying towns. Again, this is reflective of the national situation for reasons which are not yet clear. A number of the schemes have not yet been in place for 3 years and thus the casualty picture might alter over the remaining months.

d) Overall, the speed limit programme in B&NES seems to have provided little in the way of persuasive argument for continuing the programme into the future.

e) Indeed, the rise in casualty numbers and severity as per the national trend (albeit with relatively small numbers in B&NES) would suggest against further expansion of area based schemes.

f) This analysis could be updated when all areas have 36 months of after data available and in the light of the anticipated DfT study on this subject (expected in 2017).

Clerk's note. A 2017 report could not be located on the Department for Transport site but The Telegraph had a previous article on 3 July, which contained the following information. A full copy of the articles can be supplied to members on request. It is important to highlight that the second article (below) did have quotes that residents needed to be consulted on what they want as in some cases local authorities were not undertaking consultation.

“Most drivers ignore 20mph speed limits, official figures show

Twenty mph speed limits are ignored by more than eight in ten drivers, new official statistics suggest.

Figures released by the Department for Transport show that 81 per cent of cars recorded at nine sites across the country in 2016 broke the limit, with a handful - 15 per cent - travelling at more than 30mph”.

“Twenty mph speed limits have been in place in the UK since 1991, with 250 introduced by the end of the decade. The law was then liberalised to give local highway authorities the flexibility to impose limits without applying for permission from central Government, as well as introducing traffic calming measures such as speed humps within the zones.

Many 20mph zones now come with speed humps, however last year the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE), which sets NHS treatment policy, called for them to be scrapped on the basis they increase pollution”.

“Speed humps, found in many 20mph zones, actually increase pollution CREDIT: ALAMY

The intervention followed a study by Imperial College London which found that forcing drivers to slow down and speed up again results in notably more harmful emissions”.

Item 11 Policy and Procedures - REVIEW

Item 11.1 Street Maintenance policy and pro forma (review).

Street Maintenance Policy and procedure for budget expenditure.

When suggesting additional work individual members are asked to identify the following:

- what additional work they want;
- why they consider it is needed (whether it is for practical or aesthetic reasons);
- (if known) whether the land/vegetation is highway or private. If private can they identify the property owner/house number etc.
- have they reported the problem to the Highway Authority at any time (reference number to be given if possible)?

The Environment Committee will consider requests for the budget to be allocated and has identified the following criteria/requirements that need to be considered before a decision is made.

Is the issue on Highway property (verges/footways) and have reasonable attempts been made to get the Highway Authority to do the work?

Encroaching vegetation from private property. The Highway Authority can send a letter requiring the work be done and this can be arranged via the Highway Inspector¹. Alternatively the parish council will send its own letter.

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Encroaching vegetation from private property. The Highway Authority can send a letter requiring the work be done and this can be arranged via the Highway Inspector². Alternatively the parish council will send its own letter.

Footways, especially if on a school, cycle or access to public facilities route are considered a priority by the Environment Committee. Salt bins are now only supplied if the County Councillor pays for them.

Vision splays are a H & S issue if they are overgrown and should be cut as and when required. This is the same as vegetation around speed signs and highway directional signs. KCC now works to a safety critical policy³ which often means work requested is refused.

When considering projects Environment Committee should consider the following

- Whether the request is commensurate with the possible cost.
- H & S issues if it is going to arrange for work to be done.
- Who uses the footway, footpath etc?
- Why is it used (does it connect to a bus stop etc.)?
- Benefit to the wider community.
- Is it a 'make it pretty' request or a practical request?

There is a limited budget for work and where possible problem areas will be given priority. The Environment Committee can consider work for aesthetic reasons but these should not take priority over work needed for practical reasons. Funds will be normally be released in quarterly amounts.

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¹ In the past it has proved difficult to get KCC to send such letters.

² In the past it has proved difficult to get KCC to send such letters.

³ KCC has never, despite requests supplied the safety criterial criteria

Street Maintenance Procedure for submitting projects for consideration.

Members identify precisely what work they want done. Where possible this is to include site plans, approx.. measurements and photographs.

The request is submitted to the Environment Committee to decide whether they agree in principle to the project, at this stage it might be possible to give an indication of cost of the work.

The parish office will work with the members to draw up a job specification.

Quotes can then be obtained and the Environment Committee can then agree whether to fund the project. The office will then obtain any permissions required or arrange the work.

See advice note	Project funding application. Checklist for requests for funding				
1	Description of work required and why it is needed				
		practical		aesthetic	H&S issues
2	Location and site description. Please be precise use house/road numbers/names or draw a plan on a separate sheet.				
3	If the land is not highways do you know who owns it? Give details.				
4	Have you reported the problem to the Highway or relevant Authority? YES / NO If yes give reference number and date reported.				
5	Any other relevant information.				
6	Why benefits of work would be commensurate with potential cost				
7	Possible knock on effects				

Advice notes

These are to help you complete the pro-forma and also to help you produce the information that the parish council will need.

Ref.

1	Description of work required and why it is needed (practical, aesthetic, H&S issues)
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	<p>When identifying the work you wish to suggest you will need to give clear instructions so that your colleagues can, if necessary prioritise the budget allocation.</p> <p>Example: Cut back encroaching vegetation for the length of the path between ??? and ???? (approximately 20 metres).Cut back shrubs to 1 metre from the path. Cut overhanging branches to clear head height.</p> <p>Photographs would be helpful.</p>
2	<p>Location and site description. Please be precise use house/road numbers/names or draw a plan on a separate sheet.</p> <p>Other information that would be helpful is whether the work is adjacent to a highway. You could also identify the area if it is close to a street light column with a number.</p>
3	<p>If the land is not highways do you know who owns it? Give details.</p> <p>If the issue is coming from land that might be a private garden then please give details.</p>
4	<p>Have you reported the problem to the Highway or relevant Authority?</p> <p>KCC website or on telephone 03000 41 81 81</p>
	<p>If yes give reference number and date reported.</p> <p>If you have chased the report what response were you given?</p>
5	<p>Any other relevant information.</p> <p>Is the work in a conservation area or is the tree, to your knowledge, covered by a TPO? Have you been approached by residents about the problem?</p>
6	<p>Why benefits of work would be commensurate with potential cost</p> <p>This is your opportunity to highlight local issues. Example. The path is the route that school children take. If possible identify the people in the area that will benefit from the work.</p>

7 Possible knock on effects

Example. If requesting barriers to stop cars parking where would they likely go? By taking action would the parish council just create more problems elsewhere?

General advice.

Use common sense. Just because one person has spoken about an issue does not mean that everyone else wants the action. Beware of a complaint about a private property there may be a neighbours dispute going on so just keep to facts.

Item 11.2

Boxley Parish Office Risk Management for litter picking by volunteers.

All volunteers should read and follow this safety advice

Risk	Area of Risk	Specific issues.	Potential Mitigation
Trip, slip hazards, over reaching etc.	Medium reduced to low if instructions and advice followed.	Rough land, rubbish, broken footpath surfaces etc. Wet grass or surfaces.	Proper and sensible footwear must be worn. If working adjacent to an open road then a fluorescent jacket will be provided and must be worn. Ultimately it is up to the volunteer to take care and look for any potential hazards and either arrange for their removal or a repair by contacting the parish office. A volunteer should only collect litter within arm reach using a litter picker and only if it is light enough to pick up without causing the volunteer to slip or be pulled over. Volunteers are advised not to walk into bushes or shrubbed areas and should watch for any branches over overhanging vegetation that might be at face/head height.

Working adjacent to roads	Medium reduced to low if instructions and advice followed.	Being hit or clipped by a passing vehicle.	The parish council would prefer no volunteers to work in a road as they are safer working from footways. Collecting should be done in good light and volunteers should collect walking towards the on-coming traffic. Fluorescent jackets must be worn at all times. Care should be taken at all times to avoid unexpected incidences such as: pulling at rubbish and losing one's balance; on narrow footways watch for any over lapping lorry wing mirrors; collecting litter from a road gutter may bring you into conflict with cyclists and vehicles so always check what traffic is heading your way before putting the litter picker into the road. You may be working on a cycle/footpath so ensure that you are vigilant and watch for any cyclists.
Cuts from 'sharp' materials.	Medium reduced to low if instructions and advice followed.	Items left by public	Broken glass can rip through plastic bags so it is preferable that any glass is placed within a cardboard box, so it is good to take something like an empty cereal box with you, or leave the broken glass alone and instead report its location to the parish office. ANY INCIDENCES OF SYRINGES OR NEEDLES MUST IMMEDIATELY BE REPORTED TO THE PARISH OFFICE AND POLICE.
Clearance of dog mess - infection	Medium reduced to low if instructions and advice followed.	Dog waste not being cleaned up or left in plastic bags at the site.	Volunteers should not clean up any unbagged dog waste.
Strains .	Low/Medium.	Strains from leaning over or overfilling bags.	Volunteers should not attempt to lift or carry heavy flytipped items or bags. Large flytipped items can be reported directly to MBC via its website or to the parish office.

Any cuts, accidents etc. must be reported to the parish office who will arrange for an accident report to be completed.

Item 14 Items for Next Agenda

DfT consultation - Proposals for the Creation of a Major Road Network

A briefing note (unless Clerk is otherwise instructed) will be included in the next agenda

The Department for Transport is currently consulting on proposals for the creation of a Major Road Network

(see <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-for-the-creation-of-a-major-road-network>). **The deadline for comments is 19 March 2018.** The consultation asks for views on:

- how to define the Major Road Network
- the role that local, regional and national bodies will play in the Major Road Network investment programme
- which schemes will be eligible for Major Road Network funding

DfT expect that:

A new MRN would help deliver the following objectives:

- reduce congestion
- support economic growth and rebalancing
- support housing delivery
- support all road users
- support the Strategic Road Network

The creation of an MRN will allow for dedicated funding from the National Roads Fund to be used to improve this middle tier of our busiest and most economically important local authority 'A' roads.