

## Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with Mereworth Parish Council Highway Improvement Plan

Submission Date: 12.10.23

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### HIP Front Cover

| HIP Version                                         | Submitted by (Name)                 | HIP Date                 | Record Of Meeting Dates with KCC Virtual or Face to Face               | Please list below the funding Opportunities/Sources for HIP initiatives/Measures |                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3                                                   | Gill Kirby                          | 12.10.2023               | 09.11.23 Face to face                                                  | i.e County Member, Parish Precept Donation, LTP bid                              |                                                                                                                    |
| Are you an active member of the Speed Watch Scheme? |                                     |                          | Yes <input type="checkbox"/><br>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Are you an active member of the Lorry Watch Scheme?                              |                                                                                                                    |
|                                                     |                                     |                          |                                                                        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/><br>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>           |                                                                                                                    |
| Name of HIP Representative                          | Charlotte DuBern                    | Contact Telephone Number | 07963 661066                                                           | Email Address                                                                    | <a href="mailto:charlotte.dubern@mereworthparishcouncil.gov.uk">charlotte.dubern@mereworthparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> |
| Name of Clerk                                       | Gill Kirby                          | Contact Telephone Number | 01732 846192                                                           | Email Address                                                                    | <a href="mailto:mereworthvh@gmail.com">mereworthvh@gmail.com</a>                                                   |
| Name of Chair                                       | Neil Hart                           | Contact Telephone Number | 07747 781155                                                           | Email Address                                                                    | <a href="mailto:neil.hart@sipp.co.uk">neil.hart@sipp.co.uk</a>                                                     |
| KCC Project Manager Name                            | West Kent Community Engagement Team | Contact Telephone Number | 03000 418181                                                           | Email Address                                                                    | <a href="mailto:west.highwayimprovements@kent.gov.uk">west.highwayimprovements@kent.gov.uk</a>                     |

- Please note the Priority column MUST be those issues which are regarded as the most important (No 1 being your highest priority, then filtering down )  
KCC is unable to guarantee that all your requests will be deliverable, but Project Managers can investigate your top 1 or 2 priorities per year.

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#### Live Priorities Record

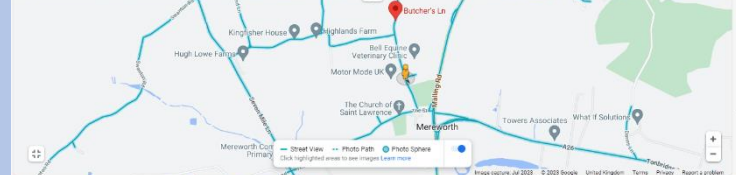
| Priority | Location      | Problem/Concern                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | What do you feel are the potential solutions?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | KCC Comments (This column is to be completed by Project Manager ONLY)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| 1.       | Butchers Lane | <p>Narrow bend just south of the close is dangerous for pedestrians as vehicles come fast downhill and cannot be seen by pedestrians walking up (no footpath).</p> <p>Children use this to access buses at The Street for secondary school.</p> <p>Horse boxes come into conflict with other road users on this bend (accessing the nearby equine clinic).</p> <p>Fast speeds of traffic traveling south on</p> | <p>A priority turn-taking design with a side refuge for pedestrians.</p> <p>We are considering removing the hedge alongside the playing field; this would allow for a slight widening of the carriageway between the bend and junction with The Street which could permit vehicles to pass one another.</p> <p>Therefore, a vehicle could wait its turn to go uphill round the bend, and a vehicle traveling downhill would have space to pass it by.</p> <p>Installation of a wooden post on the curve of the bend could</p> | <p><b>09.11.23</b> - At the site meeting it was explained that it is not possible to install kerb build outs where no street lighting is present.</p> <p>In addition, the proposed scheme to create a footway in the recreation ground by removing hedges would need to be led and funded by the Parish Council as KCC is only able to carry out works on publicly maintainable highway.</p> <p>However, there may be some signs that KCC can install to warn drivers of the upcoming playground on Butchers Lane at the blind bend.</p> <p>ET has passed to the Planning &amp; Advice Team to advise on suitability of installing a children warning sign with 'Playground' plate at the below location, and whether this can be complemented with a SLOW marking on the carriageway (dependent on required carriageway width):</p> |

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|  |  | <p>Butchers Lane. Cyclists in conflict with vehicles at this bend.</p> | <p>allow for pedestrians to walk alongside.</p> <p>Road markings could be used to ensure vehicles travel this one width section in the centre of the carriageway, not tight to the bend.</p> |   <p><b>12.12.23</b> - The Planning &amp; Advice Team support this request and ET has raised with the Design &amp; Delivery Team for them to arrange for the installation of a children warning sign with 'Playground' plate on the footway nr to the jct with the dog leg near no. 98 Butchers Lane, complemented with a SLOW marking on the carriageway. Also 30 roundels at the repeater signs on the bend at the same location as the repeaters are obscured by vegetation. ET will look to fund this where possible at the start of the new financial year and will keep the Parish Council up to date as this scheme progresses.</p> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p><b>02.02.24</b> - The Design &amp; Delivery Team has noticed that there is another entrance to the recreation ground on the cul-de-sac off Butchers Lane. They have concerns that a playground warning sign won't have the desired impact of slowing drivers round the bend so were looking for a better solution which would be to remove the concern entirely by redirecting pedestrians to the entrance off the cul-de-sac rather than having them walk along the road to access the recreation ground via the side entrance.</p> <p>ET informed the Parish Council that we would be happy to install a directional sign at the cul-de-sac entrance, but we are struggling to ascertain ownership of the footway and path into the recreation ground at this point. Parish Council asked if they have any background as to who owns this and/ or have any insight as to why pedestrians travelling south down Butchers Lane choose to continue down the road rather than use the access at the back of the field.</p> <p>We would also look to install a sign on The Street to direct pedestrians via the cricket club entrance thus</p> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>removing as many pedestrians from Butchers Lane as possible.</p> <p><b>14.02.24</b> - The Parish Council provided relevant details around the back entrance to the recreation ground explaining why this is not used by pedestrians and confirming that it is on Clarion Housing land. The Design &amp; Delivery Team is satisfied that we have justification for a sign and SLOW marking for southbound traffic, just south of the cul-de-sac (there isn't any space on the northbound approach). This scheme will now be taken forward, funded by KCC.</p> <p>Update 13.03.24 - ET informed the Parish Council that the work to install a playground warning sign with SLOW marking has been ordered and the works are scheduled to be carried out in May. In addition, as speeds along this section of Butchers Road remain, KCC has offered to conduct a speed survey at the 30 roundel on the bend just south of the cul-de-sac (as below) now that the vegetation obscuring the sign has been cut back, and DR will let the Parish Council know when the tubes will be in situ.</p> |
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|  |  |  |  |   <p><b>25/04/24 DR – ATC</b> surveys were installed however the road was closed due to emergency works. New survey has been ordered and has been scheduled for installation on May 7<sup>th</sup> and to start on the 8<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>06/06/24 DR - ATC results have now been shared with the PC and the data showed good compliance with the posted speed limit.</p> <p>Update 01.07.24 - The scheme to install a playground warning sign with SLOW marking is now complete. ET updated the Parish Council.</p> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>30/10/24 DR – following recent HIP review the PC have advised that the works to install a footway in the playing field has been completed and the access point (NORTH) is on Butchers Lane. Currently there are warning signs but now the works have been completed, the area will need to be reviewed. Pedestrians are using approx. 35m of carriageway to access the park. There is no footway and a bend. PC have advised a road safety auditor has (Paul Martin) undertaken a review and suggested potentially installing a virtual footway. Please could Planning &amp; Advise undertake a safety review and recommendations. Furthermore, the vegetation around the existing 30 repeater, which was cut back previously (see history above) has started to grow back again. <b>DR to confirm with ET who owns this and maintains.</b></p> <p>Access point (SOUTH) is located at the junction with The Street. The adjoining footway comes out onto a pedestrian dropped access. The private safety auditor has assessed and advised the existing slope of the highway footway is above</p> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>the standard and the drop does not meet the current standard. Please could Planning &amp; Advice undertake an assessment of the existing dropped kerbs. Additionally, the existing advisory HGV sign is now in an awkward position, the mounting height may need to be changed, and the sign seems large for this location. Please could the sign be reviewed and relocated to a more suitable location. Please note, the sign has been damaged and will need to be replaced. The PC have advised that the sign is not seen by HGVs as they have already completed the manoeuvre by the time the sign is visible. HGVs are turning off the A228. Potential relocation site for the sign on the existing directional signpost. Image below.</p> |
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|  |  |  |  |  <p>Existing image:</p>  |
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| 2. | Seven Mile Lane<br>B2016 | <p>A speed limit of 40mph has been introduced but is not as effective as it could be.</p> <p>Firstly, it is not quite in the right place: vehicles have to brake hard coming downhill from the junction with Beech Road in order to reduce their speed from 50mph to 40mph on a steep hill; this surprises traffic behind.</p> <p>Traveling in the opposite direction traveling north from zero mph at the Alders roundabout/A26, traffic has nevertheless sped up to 50mph by the time</p> | <p>The speed limit should start at the junction of B2016/Beech Road and continue to Alders Roundabout/junction with A26.</p> <p>There should be more obvious road markings where the speed limit starts (both ends).</p> <p>Speed cameras are required to enforce the limit on what is otherwise a very fast road with few overlooking properties; this would deter motorists and motorcyclists from speeding.</p> | <p><b>09.11.23</b> - At the site meeting it was explained that the section of road from Beech Road to the start of the 40mph, just before Willow Wents, is not suited to a 40mph and would be unlikely to achieve compliance, especially given concerns of compliance in the existing 40. An ATC carried out just south of Swanton Road indicated that there would be less than 50% compliance with a 40mph speed limit.</p> <p>However, KCC can reconsider the extent of the 40mph with a view to extending it to the roundabout with the A26.</p> <p>With regard to enforcement, this site does not meet the criteria for a safety camera, and we have recently made the existing 40 repeater signs 50% bigger. However, we can review the possibility of installing further 40 roundels on the carriageway at the upright terminal/ repeater signs (this will be dependent on traffic management).</p> |
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|  |  | <p>the 40mph speed limit is reached.</p> <p>The junction of Willow Wents and B2016 remains very dangerous to exit onto the B2016 and is heavily used by slow farm vehicles.</p> <p>The 40mph limit is not enforced; traffic continues to speed in this section including very numerous noisy motorbikes at weekends.</p> |  | <p>Whilst the Parish Council were disappointed that the 40mph speed limit cannot be extended further north towards Beech Lane, they were happy for KCC to proceed with extending the 40mph speed limit further south to the Alders Roundabout.</p> <p>The Parish Council also asked if red surfacing could be considered at the northern terminals. ET explained that this is only used in exceptional circumstances due to maintenance costs but is conferring with colleagues and will keep the Parish Council up to date with proposals for Seven Mile Lane.</p> <p><b>14.11.23</b> - It is not possible to use red surfacing at this location as this is not a crash cluster site and therefore does not qualify for exceptional circumstances. However, we can certainly install carriageway roundels at the terminal points, and these will be installed once the TRO process to extend the existing 40mph further south to the roundabout is complete. Proposed scheme has been passed to the Design &amp; Delivery Team to draw up a</p> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>consultation plan. This will be done after Christmas, for scheme delivery in 2024/25.</p> <p><b>03.01.24</b> - The design for the consultation plan to extend the 40mph speed limit further south to the Alders Roundabout is now complete. This has been passed to the TRO team to advertise.</p> <p><b>16.01.24</b> - ET informed the Parish Council and Member that the TRO notices will be placed on site w/c Monday 5 February and the consultation will run until Monday 4 March 2024 (<i>done 06.02.24</i>).</p> <p><b>13.03.24</b> - ET informed the Parish Council that the consultation to extend the 40mph along Seven Mile Lane to the roundabout is now closed. We received a total of 38 comments of which 34 are in support and 4 objections which are all comments. However, KCC is legally required to contact each of the objectors answering any questions that they have and to provide any additional information that may help them to reconsider their objection. We have to allow seven days to receive any responses but once done, ET will then move ahead to get approval to deliver this</p> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>scheme from the Head of Transportation and DR or ET will keep the Parish Council up to date as this progresses (<i>TRO objectors written to 25.03.24 with a deadline to withdraw objection by 5 April 24 and TR contacted to approve the TRO to be made under his delegated powers</i>).</p> <p><b>10.04.24</b> - ET informed the Parish Council that the deadline for objectors to respond has now passed. KCC received no withdrawals but as we only received four objections (all classed as comments), the Head of Transportation was asked if we can proceed, and he has agreed. We will now be moving forward with the detailed design and delivery of this scheme.</p> <p><b>Update 24.06.24</b> - ET informed the Parish Council that the scheme to bring the existing 40mph speed limit along Seven Mile Lane closer to the roundabout with the A26 has been passed to our contractors.</p> <p><b>This work is planned to take place at the end of August to tie in with an existing road closure by KCC's Resurfacing team.</b></p> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>04/09/2024 - Scheme complete – PC updated.</p> <p>30/10/24 DR – Following recent HIP review with the PC, they have expressed their concerns with the current location of the 40mph limit near to Willow Wents junction by Beach Road. Residents want the 40mph to start nearer the Weald Granary. Is there a reason this was not included originally in the speed reduction. Could this be investigated? The junction of Willow Wents 40mph speed limit is too close to the bend north of the junction and drivers don't have enough time to slow down because the terminal is around the bend and downhill, so drivers are breaking and endangering vehicles driving behind.</p> <p>PC were advised they could not have speedwatch due to the 40mph limit. Kent Police made an agreement with a private landowner to situate the mobile speed van on Hugh Lowe Farm entrance (The Pack House entrance) however, this has never happened. DR to investigate this and find the contact for the mobile van co-ordinator.</p> |
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| 3. | The Street, Mereworth | <p>Congestion and speeding. There is considerable congestion on The Street at school drop off and pick up times because parked cars reduce the carriageway to long stretches of single lane and there are not enough passing places, nor can drivers see if the way through is clear or not.</p> <p>Residents' drives are blocked on occasions but the biggest issue is lack of progression along The Street. The impact is delay to bus journeys, aggression/frustration for road users and</p> | <p>Please note that the MPC does not agree with all the proposals carried across in the right column from previous discussions about The Street (2022/23 HIP).</p> <p>The dog bones marking driveways work well but are wearing off. We would like new dog bones in white preferably and would like to know what happened with CSM REF 12408761. If white is not possible we would consider double yellow.</p> <p>The driveway at Springview, The Street, should have a longer dogbone/double yellow painted across it in order to create a passing place long enough for a bus to pull in. This</p> | <p><b>2022</b> - Dogbone markings – KCC do not install new road markings of this kind however, DR has asked for the highway maintenance steward to refresh the existing dogbones along here. CSM REF 12408761.</p> <p><b>15.12.22</b> - ATC results have been received and show the following:</p> <p>The Street (east) - 28.3mph (85% 33.2mph)<br/>The Street (west) - 26.3mph (85% 31.8mph)</p> <p><b>25.04.23</b> - Following a site visit with Sarah Hudson (SH), Sarah asked if measures could be installed along The Street to reduce rat running and encourage drivers to use the A-road network instead, via Seven Mile Lane and Kent Street. Sarah's preferred solution would be the introduction of physical traffic calming measures such as build outs, but this would require street lighting and a budget of at least £20k (possibly as much as £100k depending on costs to install street lighting). ET has added this to the list of Local Transport Plan (LTP) scheme bids to be submitted in Winter 2023 for possible funding in 2024/25 financial year.</p> |

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## Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with Mereworth Parish Council

### Highway Improvement Plan

Submission Date: 12.10.23

(Please remember that the HIP is for new initiatives/measures/schemes in your community – it is NOT to be used as a maintenance log, as these MUST be logged using the online reporting tool via this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> )

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|  |  | <p>children becoming late for school.</p> <p>The traffic often sits for 10 minutes at an impasse until some of it pulls onto residents' drives to create spaces.</p> <p>Residents are concerned that emergency vehicles would not be able to reach them. Early in the morning (c6am) cars speed along The Street.</p> | <p>would alleviate a lot of congestion.</p> <p>Build-outs are likely to cause even more congestion, nor are residents in favour of street lighting. For the rat running we would prefer to look at speed bumps that would slow traffic, so long as they accommodate buses.</p> | <p><b>26.04.23</b> - SH discussed the introduction of street lighting (two lights, one at each end, where the proposed build outs would be) at the Parish Council meeting this week. Everyone felt that as the proposed locations are not outside a specific property, that this was something that they would support, especially if it meant slower speeds and reduced volume of traffic. The only concern was the potential for parents to park badly and block the one entry point into the village from Seven Mile Lane. SH is trying to find out about possible additional land availability to create an off-road car park which would remove the issue.</p> <p><b>27.04.23</b> - Following the concerns raised by the PC, outlined above, Ryan Sheil confirmed that we would most likely need to install a short length of DYL parking restrictions in the vicinity of the proposed build outs to deter drivers from parking directly alongside them and ensure that such restrictions can be enforced by TMBC. This would be something which would be considered in any design should the LTP bid be successful.</p> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p><b>Update 09.11.23 - The HIT team does not refresh any existing lining. This is a function of the Highways Asset Management (HAM) team. 12408761 was reviewed by HAM but was closed as KCC no longer refreshes dog bones as they are not enforceable, and ET confirmed at the site meeting that this position hasn't changed. However, some Borough Councils will refresh these markings so the Parish Council was advised that they may wish to speak to TMBC to see if they carry out this work.</b></p> <p><b>Speed bumps are often unpopular in residential areas, especially on bus routes, due to the noise and vibrations they cause and would also require the installation of street lighting as we are unable to install traffic calming on un-lit roads. The Parish Council confirmed that residents are not supportive of additional street lighting.</b></p> <p><b>The main concern is the congestion caused by parked cars and Nu Venture have said to the Parish Council that it is the most difficult road on their route to get buses down.</b></p> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>We could consider Double Yellow Lines but these would require a full TRO consultation process and we would need to consider the displacement of parked vehicles so determining the most pressing locations for these parking restrictions is essential. The Parish Council suggested replacing the dog bones with DYs, with an extension outside no. 51/ op no. 54, as these are currently being parked over due to their current condition. This would still allow on-street parking for the school but provide passing places to reduce congestion.</p> <p>The Parish Council is discussing with residents to get an idea as to their appetite for parking restrictions in the village.</p> <p>30/10/24 DR – Following recent HIP review with PC – The PC have advised they wish to keep this on as it is still ongoing.</p> |
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#### Historical Priorities Record

| No | Location          | Problem/Concern                                                                                                                                                                 | What do you feel are the potential solutions?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | KCC Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | A228 Malling Road | <p>Lack of safe pedestrian access from Kent Street to The Street due to narrow footpath close to fast highway.</p> <p>Junction of Kent Street and A228 extremely hazardous.</p> | <p>Hedges need to be cut back, both top growth and at the roots.</p> <p>MPC intends to explore whether a footpath inside the hedge linking up to the recreation ground could be an option.</p> <p>Junction improvements are now planned at A228/Kent Street for implementation in late spring 2024.</p> | <p><b>09.11.23 - The cutting back of vegetation along Malling Road, if not owned by the Parish Council, is a maintenance request and would need to be raised with the Highways Asset Management Team via the on-line fault reporting tool or parish portal.</b></p> <p><b>The proposed scheme to create a footway on the other side of the hedge would need to be led by the Parish Council as KCC is only able to carry out works on publicly maintainable highway.</b></p> <p><b>The Kent Street scheme is being delivered by KCC's Active Travel Team.</b></p> <p><b>ET confirmed with the Parish Council that there is no further action for HIT.</b></p> |

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