

Agenda Item: 7.1
Report to: Planning, Transport & Environment Committee
Date: Wednesday 3rd March 2021
Subject: 20 mph
Summary: To consider speed limit on Kings Hill

Recommendation

To consider undertaking a project plan for a 20 mph speed limit across Kings Hill to be included in the 2022/ 2023 budget.

1. Background

1.1 A resident wrote to the parish council regarding a blanket 20 mph speed throughout Kings Hill. The parish council responded by asking him to join the Speedwatch campaign.

1.2 The resident responded with the following email:-

"I appreciate you getting back to me but this a Speedwatch campaign,, which will not occur for ages, is a wasted exercise as speeds around Kingshill are excessive and won't be helped by such a campaign. What is needed is a 20mph speed limit now and thus I would like you to let me know how this can be achieved before a child of person is killed or seriously injured.

Where I live on Forest way is very dangerous with the increased walkers and cyclists but every road on Kingshill is equally bad.

A speedwatch campaign will only delay action but another year which I believe as do many others to be unacceptable risk to the health and Safety of residents

Please advise on how we may proceed."

2. Kent County Council Procedure

- 2.1 Kent County Council have to make tough decisions on where to invest in traffic and road safety, and this means they cannot always make changes that residents feel are needed. As a top priority they invest in locations where evidence shows crashes are occurring, which are resulting in personal injury and where there is an engineering solution that may reduce the number or severity of these.
- 2.2 Every year Kent County Council develop a priority list of changes to locations to be undertaken in the next 12 - 18 months, which is called the Casualty Reduction Programme. The changes to the road are safety focused prioritised, which include changes to the highways layout or new features.

3. How to request change

- 3.1 Gathering data and local knowledge is really important to help with the decision making. Kent County Council review incidents within the last 3 years involving personal injury (validated by Kent Police).
- 3.2 There have been 12 "slight" accidents and 1 "serious" accident on Kings Hill in the last 5 years.

<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/Search>
- 3.3 To suggest safety changes to the highway, the first point of contact is the local parish council or local district councillor or your county member. They will need the crash data obtained in step 1 or reasons for promoting the changes. It may also be that your county member or parish council are able to financially support this request.
- 3.4 If the parish council/ borough councillors/ county member is not supportive it is difficult for Kent County Council to proceed with the request

4. Considerations

- 4.1 If the council wanted to proceed the following items would need to be discussed.

- Need or Issue the project is addressing.

Is there a problem, have you received lots of correspondence on this issue?

- Consultation with the community

How would you do this?

Survey Monkey - Team Advantage

The Team Advantage plan is £300 including VAT per annum which includes many useful features. This can be paid £25 per month and is a 12 month contract.

Surveys could be printed and delivered to all residents.

Cost of printing one sheet black and white) (3250 at 1.5 p)	£4,875.00
Cost of delivery	£350
Total	£5,225

Financial Implications

The Planning, Transport & Environment Committee do not hold a budget.

5. Risks to the Council

To undertake anything with a financial cost in this year's budget would be a high risk strategy for the council. The financial investigation laid out that the parish council does not have the required amount of reserves to function and the council is in a three year replacement programme, to spend any of these reserves whilst they are being replaced puts the parish council at risk.

The recommendation would be if the committee would like to pursue this project that they defer it to 2022/ 2023 and include the cost in the budget.

Decision Required:

To consider undertaking a project plan for a 20 mph speed limit across Kings Hill to be included in the 2022/ 2023 budget.

Contact Officer: Georgina Jackson, Deputy Clerk
Date: 16th February 2021