

Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with Brenchley and Matfield Parish Council

Highway Improvement Plan

Submission Date: **7.3.24**

(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>)

Brenchley and Matfield

HIP Version	Submitted by (Name)	HIP Date	Record Of Meeting Dates with KCC Virtual or Face to Face	County Member	
3	Cllr Christine Churchill	04.03.24	12.03.2021 25.06.2021 24.07.2021 13.1.2022 Submission 29.11.2022 Zoom 9.1.2023 Zoom 10.1.23 virtual 28.11.23 In person 12.02.24 virtual		
Please list below the funding opportunities/Sources for HIP initiatives/Measures				County Member, Parish Council precept	
Are you an active member of the Speed Watch Scheme?		Yes ☒ No ☐	Are you an active member of the Lorry Watch Scheme?		Yes ☒ No ☐
Name of HIP Representative	Cllr Christine Churchill	Contact Telephone Number	01892 722789	Email Address	Christine.churchill@pc.brenchleyandmatfield-pc.gov.uk
Name of Clerk	Chantal Brooks	Contact Telephone Number	01892 723586	Email Address	clerk@brenchleyandmatfield-pc.gov.uk
Name of Chair	Cllr Jonathan Buttery	Contact Telephone Number	01892 724383	Email Address	Jonathan.buttery@pc.brenchleyandmatfield-pc.gov.uk
KCC Project Manager Team	Nigel Rowe	Contact Telephone Number	03000 418181	Email Address	west.highwayimprovements@kent.gov.uk

Please Note: Highway Improvement Plans will only be accepted if they are in this prescribed template format. **PLEASE DO NOT ALTER IN ANY WAY.** Whilst this is intended to be a living document for your Parish Council, KCC can only make resources available to review your HIP annually – **Brenchley and Matfield's review is on or after 1st November each year.**



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- 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	USRN	Problem/Concern	What do you feel are the potential solutions?	KCC Comments (This column is to be completed by Project Manager ONLY)
1.	Windmill Hill/Crook Road/Pixot Hill/Blind Lane, Brenchley.		Problem: Dangerous Junction (& accident blackspot) Speed of traffic at this junction, and disregard of “give way” and existing advance warning signs. Traffic coming from Windmill Hill has view obstructed by bends on Crook Road and Blind Lane, so cannot see approaching vehicles before embarking on crossroads. Poor road markings, poor sight lines from vegetation, worn high-friction surface, history of frequent crashes. Parking on Windmill Hill approaching crossroads causes visibility difficulties HGVs approaching junction from Pixot Hill unable to cross or turn without stopping (taking a run at it). HGV evidence has been repeatedly provided.	Reduce speed limit on approaching roads (Blind Lane, Pixot Hill and Crook Road at this point, should be 30mph not 40mph). Houses on Blind Lane and Pixot Hill mean that these roads should qualify for 30mph as they form part of the village and for safety the 30mph should extend onto Crook Road Improve road markings and speed signage on approach to crossroads including dangerous junction sign. Max safe speed 25mph signs on Crook Road and Blind Lane. Re-instate high-friction surface or higher grade PSV to warn approaching traffic of the junction and also road markings warning of dangerous crossing.	DR 28/11/22 Checked HADMs – Average 85th %ile all appear to comply with the existing posted speed limits on each approaching road to the junction. Crash data checked - 1 slight in the most recent 3-year period and 2 reported damage only incidents. All 3 incidents to not indicate a pattern of crashes or anything related to the junction layout / speed. No Incidents on the junction itself. Seed data from Dec 2020 analysed and recorded data shows good compliance with the existing posted speed limits. It was noted that two of the locations where survey was carried out were outside of the 30mph speed limit and in NSL. DR 29/11/22 Enquiry raised for maintenance to investigate the existing signage and lining on each approach to the crossroads ensuring all signs are clear and not damaged or obscured by vegetation. (12408866) DR 29/11/22 Feasibility investigation enquiry raised to Planning and Advice to look into the reduction of the existing 40mph speed limit to 30mph. DR 29/11/22 Email sent to District Manager to enquire about the reinstatement of the HFS. NR 09/01/23 P&A advise Windmill Hill 30mph due to being part of village and density of houses. All other roads leading to the junction are classified as rural and do not meet DofT criteria for 30mph. NR 10/01/23 Situation regarding HGV’s using Pixot Hill to be monitored by PC and feedback to NR.

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			One.Network Blind Lane/Brenchley Road is incorrectly labelled as Crook Road. The PC is in the process of applying for a change of name back to Blind Lane.	Install route direction signage for HGVs along Mascall's Court Road. NR to investigate One.Network road designation.	
2.	Brenchley and Matfield School, Market Heath		Problem: Speed and volume of traffic, poor road markings, lack of street signs. Children have to cross the road to reach the parking areas. Although there is a lollipop person during school arrival and pickup times, before and after school activities and the pre-school mean that children also have to cross outside the times when the lollipop person is present. Pre-school child knocked down and injured in 2023 Some cars entering and exiting KCC-owned car park in the wrong direction owing to poor signage	Proposal: PC have undertaken observation of traffic speeds and volume. SID data has been used to identify excess speed. A meeting held with the School JM/LM/NR/CC/CA. Ensure all hedging cut back from school signage achieved Introduce 20mph limit outside school. Install updated wigwags. 20mph painted on road in each direction outside school,	

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				Refreshing all road signs and at KCC car park including positions and condition of the In/Out signs. Ensure vegetation obscuring street signs and pedestrian sight lines is cut back (achieved through request by PC councillors to landowners)	
3.	Standings Cross Junction, Maidstone Road, Matfield		Problem: Difficult for pedestrians to cross the Maidstone road safely due to volume and speed of traffic, poor visibility especially in winter darkness, accident blackspot eg fatality in Chestnut Lane and recent (January 2024) serious pedestrian accident opposite the Poet. Speeding vehicles on Maidstone Road Children alighting from the 267/268 bus with no apparent designated bus stop or layby and no shelter.	Proposals: Crashmap data needs to be updated by KCC/Police as not a true representation of the accidents that have occurred there. Safety Engineering Report to be obtained and an on-site meeting with KCC/Police. KCC to assess options to provide a crossing facility on Maidstone Road, with street lighting, via meeting with Police/PC/KCC: to include zebra crossing with belisha beacons and whether further streetlights are needed in the approach to a zebra crossing Consideration of footpath widths to go with crossings Average Speed Cameras.	

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				Consideration of declassification of the B2160 to allow for traffic calming measures. Surveys to be undertaken for traffic speeds and volumes from Gedges Hill into Matfield (ATC) in particular Pedestrian Survey, at two different times of the day and at several locations along Maidstone Road (around busstops particularly) KCC and PC to consider provision and siting of bus stop and bus shelter for school buses coming from Paddock Wood and turning towards Brenchley. KCC Public Transport Team to review locations, in consultation with HAMS, and to include consideration of how parents cars can be accommodated in the vicinity of the busstop. Traffic management to address speeds and volume	
4.	Crook Road, Castle Hill/Pearsons		Problem: Speed of vehicles on dangerous bend and through Castle Hill:	Proposals: Warning signs from both directions for dangerous bend	<i>NR 10/01/23 - HADMS shows 1 injury collision in last 3 years. PC report various collisions damaging domestic boundary fencing. Desktop maps study</i>

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	Green junction, Brenchley		In both directions along this area, sight lines, illegal parking and speeding from Pixot Hill crossroads which is 60mph on the approach and through the hamlet. Repeated demolition of fences of houses in Castle Hill.	on approach to this junction. Note: Horsmonden have achieved this further on the same stretch, Emma Tilbury unaware reasoning for this. Reflective posts or chevrons on the bend and by the Castle Inn NR to consult with ET as Horsmonden has these at the other end of Crook Road (Yew Tree) in July 2023 and they had been approved for our location but not delivered. Reduce the speed limit through Castle Hill per the village designation number of properties. Note: Horsmonden HIP also requesting a lower speed on this road. NR to assess one.network information where it shows Crook Road running to Brenchley Road/High Street opposite the village Hall, which is inaccurate – impact is that traffic is being diverted down an unsuitable Lane. Area of hedge immediately before the Castle Inn to be significantly cut back to make	<i>demonstrates sharp bend with lack of signage. NR to raise P&A enquiry to review speed limits and signage. KCC funding ATC in the first instance</i>
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				the bend visible – KCC to progress or with landowner.	
5.	Brenchley Road, Matfield, by Corsica Villas		Problem: Speeding traffic, pedestrians crossing road: Vehicles are parking opposite properties therefore pedestrians are crossing in the road on a blind bend, where traffic is still speeding. The verge is also too narrow for parked vehicles, numerous incidents of cars being damaged and personal injury	Proposal: Signage warning of people in road, including children using play area adjacent, was approved – must be delivered. Re-visit road markings to ensure clear 30mph (DIARISED BY KCC BUT NOT ACHIEVED, must be delivered)	<i>DR 29/11/22 - Speed surveys to be commissioned and KCC to fund.</i> <i>DR 30/11/22 - Speed survey request from sent.</i> <i>KCC own the verge and PC would like to look at options to make the verge official surface / width.</i> <i>NR 10/01/23 Awaiting speed surveys then review situation. Expected mid Feb 23.</i>
6.	Burrs Hill, and Mile Oak, Brenchley		Problem: National speed limit too high for rural road through residential hamlet with no pavements	Proposal: Introduce 40mph speed limit with associated 'Gateway' features. NR agreed to consider village designation to achieve lower speed limit at Burrs Hill	<i>NR 10/01/23 - KCC funding ATCs in the first instance</i>

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Historical Priorities Record

No	Location	Problem/Concern	What do you feel are the potential solutions?	KCC Comments
1	Standings Cross crossroads, Matfield	Problem: Dangerous Junction & Accident Blackspot Standings Cross junction is an accident blackspot, made worse by vehicles parking very close to the junction and blocking sight lines. Vehicles cannot safely exit Chestnut Lane onto Maidstone Road.	Proposal: Introduce double yellow lines on all roads at this junction, to prevent dangerous parking close to the junction from any direction. These should extend 10 metres in line with Highway Code provisions. Risk: Could lead to greater number of cars parking further along Chestnut Lane & Maidstone Rd	Double Yellows installed in 4 directions on Standings Cross junction
2	Pixot Hill/Blind Lane, Brenchley	Problem: HGVs using inappropriate routes Pixot Hill Junction unsuitable for container lorries. Blind Lane unsuitable for container lorries.	Proposal: Restriction on container lorries /lorries over a certain weight from using these roads. In meantime, dialogue with Transport bodies to dissuade HGVs using roads not suited to HGV traffic. Pressure all Sat Nav operators Garmin/TomTom and Google to prioritise and optimise this route. Risk: Place more pressure on other unsuitable roads in the locality COMPLETED 20 SEPT 2021	Paul Leary of KCC has confirmed in an email of 16 th Feb, that KCC have agreed to install "Unsuitable for HGVs" signs on both Blind Lane and Windmill Hill.
3.	Speeding through Matfield village		Proposal: Mitigation items	SIDs installed and Speedwatch activity

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4.	Kippings Cross roundabout at the junction of Maidstone Road with the A21	Problems: Traffic Congestion & Accident Blackspot Congestion on the roundabout preventing vehicles exiting Maidstone Road from joining roundabout to turn right onto the A21 & traffic going southbound blocking the left turn to Matfield causing unnecessary congestion. Highways England installed “Keep Clear” road markings, which have helped, but further improvements required, especially to cope with the growing traffic from additional housing at Paddock Wood	Proposal: Highways England meetings held – aware of traffic congestions and accident hotspot. Aware of cutting through to Pembury via Romford Road.	Hashes installed, KEEP CLEAR installed
5.	Kings Toll Road	Problem: Very narrow winding lane, unsuitable for large vehicles. It already has, following Pembury PC intervention, a sign at the Western end advising “single track road, no passing places”.	Proposal: Arrange for a similar sign to be affixed at the Eastern end of the road, where it joins Maidstone Road.	No HGV Sign and no right turn sign in place