

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 7 OCTOBER 2008

REQUEST FOR SPEED REDUCTION AT CHART LANE, BRASTED

Report of the: Local Transport & Development Manager

Status: For Consideration

Chairman Mr. David Brazier

Head of Service Head of Transportation & Planning (KHS) – David Hall

Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that Members:

- (a) note the progress made on the investigation into this matter; and
- (b) endorse the officers' proposed strategy for taking the matter forward.

Background

- 1 A report was presented to the Board on 11 March 2008 from the campaigner, Brasted Residents Acting to Keep Everyone Safe (BRAKES). This related to a petition from local residents about the general safety of vehicles and pedestrians movement. The campaign seeks possibility of reducing the existing 40mph speed along a section of Chart Lane to 30mph.
- 2 At the meeting, Members requested that officers investigate possible traffic calming measures and the reduction in the speed limit to improve the safety of pedestrians and vehicle travelling along Chart Lane and in due course, report back to the Board. There were also concerns of HGVs using Chart Lane.

Progress

- 3 KHS Officer met on site with a Brakes' Committee Member, Mrs Cowan to discuss the issues on site. Mrs Cowan showed and demonstrated the difficulty in accessing the highway from private driveways of properties. The KHS Officer explained that safety of vehicles accessing private driveways is the responsibility of the house owner and can be achieved by improving the visibility by cutting back vegetation or widening the access.
- 4 The Officer was driven into the side roads off Chart Lane where there are more properties and farm/ horse stables. It is agreed that additional signing for horse crossing at such side roads and bridal ways is required and would help reduce the speeding of vehicles.
- 5 At the "built up" section of Chart Lane the width of the carriage way is narrow that is less than 5m. The road marking guideline in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions states that centrelines would not be present where the width of the carriageway is less than 5m and only the edge

markings should be present to define the narrow width of the carriageway. The removal of the centreline in such cases has given rise to slow vehicles as drivers take extra care without the guidance of the centreline. Chart Lane has both markings and would therefore benefit the removal of the centreline where necessary except on bends. As explained on site to Mrs Cowan, the Officer's view was to not re mark the centre lines in future.

- 6 In 2006, the government issued new guidance on criteria for setting local speed limits. KHS is currently investigating what implications there are in implementing the government's requirement for reviewing the speed limits on all "A" and "B" roads by 2012. It has been suggested that KHS should review every existing limit, and with over 8000Kms in Kent, it will need to prioritise how it does. Chart Lane is a "C" classification road and therefore will be reviewed at a later date. Until a county wide programme is devised, the Cabinet Member has stated that KHS will not be processing for speed limit changes on its roads. The decision is confirmed by Keith Ferrin's letter of 25 August 2006 (Appendix).

FINANCIAL

- 7 Any action or works arising from the proposed investigations will be carried out by the end of the current calendar year.

Sources of Information: Jacobs and KCC Road Safety Team

Contact Officer(s): Aziz Jiwaji – 08458 247 800

DIRECTOR OF KENT HIGHWAY

Geoff Mee

30 AUG 2006



Letter Sent to:

All Parish Councils

Transportation Managers

Mike Smith

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Your ref:

Our ref:

Date: 25 August 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

Circular Roads 1/2006 "Setting Local Speed Limits"

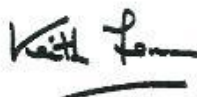
As you may be aware the Department for Transport have just issued the above document. It provides guidance for the introduction of speed limits nation-wide and is likely to lead to the introduction of lower speed limits initially on the "A" and "B" road network.

The KCC will be arranging meetings with the Kent Police and other agencies including the Kent Association of Parish Councils to consider the content of the new document and what it will mean to the road users of Kent.

An initial report will be placed before the members of the Highways Advisory Board on 19th September 2006. This will advise members of the new document and sets out the preparatory work and meetings that are now needed. The council can then put into place the programmes and the funding that will be required to implement any changes. Once this is done further reports will be prepared allowing members to agree the way forward for Kent. I expect the first of these reports to be early in 2007.

Whilst the County Council is investigating the best way forward on this matter it will not be progressing new speed limit applications. I trust that we can establish a sound basis to progress applications for the future.

Yours faithfully



Environment, Highways & Waste

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