

BOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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ESTABLISHED 1934

David Brazier Cabinet Member for Highways KCC

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BOROUGH GREEN TRAFFIC SCHEMES

Dear David,

Now that difficulties caused by the pandemic and the election have quietened down, I would like to revitalise our local campaigns to address the various traffic problems in Borough Green, some of which were first mooted in the 2014 KCC/Amey Traffic scheme, and then transferred to the 2018/19 Parish Highway Improvement Plan scheme, where they have languished ever since.

1. Quarry Hill Rd 7.5 tonne limit

This was originally a planning advisory in 2013 to prevent construction traffic for the 172 houses at Hazelbourne from short cutting. It was never implemented, and now a new consultation period has long finished, and the scheme has full funding earmarked from KCC.

2. Darkhill/Borough Green Rd 40mph limit

This was proposed in 2014 by KCC but the TRO was not written correctly. This has funding earmarked from BGPC and Cllr Rayner's Members Grant. We have the accredited contractor to carry out the works, but KCC have not yet decided whether the scheme should be just from Darkhill roundabout to the existing BG 30 limit, or should be set back onto the Ightham Bypass, so the 40 limit incorporates Darkhill Rd and Borough Green Rd into Ightham. It would make sense for KCC to draft and lodge the TRO, funded by BGPC/Harry.

3. Maidstone Rd Recreation Ground Pedestrian Crossing.

This has been a year's long saga of KCC Officers rigidly applying DfT Advisories as Ironclad Rules. We want the crossing activation delay reduced to the same as the other controlled crossings in the village - zero delay. This crossing currently has a 35-45 second delay after the demand button is pushed. That is not a long time when written on paper, but if you are Mum with two kids going to the Primary School in the rain, it is an age. Again, the Parish Council has the funds allocated for the work, and is in contact with Telent. We would really appreciate a site visit by someone with the authority so we can explain exactly what we want, and what is wrong with the current timings.

4. A25 Maidstone Rd Traffic Speed Management Minters Orchard to Esso

This was the main part of the 2014 Traffic Scheme, and whilst speed surveys statistically show a small drop on speed, the engineering solution adopted has not generated the promised psychological impact on drivers. The danger to pedestrians does not come from those more or less obeying the 30 limit, but from those who travel between 35 and 65 mph. We would like to see the proposed chicanes installed.

5. A25 Maidstone Rd/Sevenoaks Rd resurfacing

Whilst the existing surface is fine with regard to vehicle damage, the A25 carries a huge volume of HGV traffic, largely generated by local quarries. The potholes, dropped drains and service covers generate constant illegal levels of noise in our urban areas 24 hours a day. We were promised a resurfacing from Darkhill to the High St, and that it "would start in Spring 2021". It hasn't.

6, Speed Cameras

We have tried for many years to get extra speed cameras installed on the A25 at Platt and Sevenoaks Rd, only to be blocked by KCC, the Police and KMSCP all passing the buck back and forth.

7. Speed Indicator Devices

We wanted extra Speed Indicator devices installed, had funding and an accredited contractor arranged by local sandpit operator, but again were blocked by KCC. We could only have one of these multi-pole small screens that just give a speed reading as in Offham.

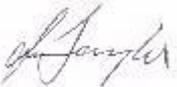
8. A25 Road Closures

I would be remiss if I did not mention the chaos caused by the road closure at Askew Bridge for sewage works, which we incidentally totally support. Whilst we understand that signage for these operations are the responsibility of the utility company, but KCC have a duty to ensure that clear contingency plans are in place for the utility companies to follow. The local road system was in chaos for weeks because of poor signage. We tried through the JTB to get KCC to call meetings with all interested parties to draft plans for future road closures on this crucial part of the road network, and were completely ignored. Platt and BG PCs are happy to fund a set of signs to be stored at a local signage contractor to be deployed by them at a moment's notice, but it needs a coherent plan.

Borough Green Parish Council is a very pro-active council, and has funding available for many of these small works, but we are constantly blocked from carrying them out by KCC Officers. We quite understand the financial difficulties that KCC has got itself into may prevent you from carrying out the works, but why block us from carrying them out, albeit with your advice and guidance?

We have known each other for many years, and I was heartened when you were reappointed to the Cabinet post, and look forward to a wind of change blowing through Highways that will allow our very real concerns about traffic to be finally and properly addressed.

Yours Sincerely, and welcome back



Mike Taylor
Chairman, Borough Green Parish Council
TMBC Ward Member Borough Green & Longmill