

Minutes of Movement & Net Zero Working Group meeting held at the Council Chambers on 29th July 2024, 6:00pm.

Working Group members present – Quorum minimum of six members:			
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Apologies	Cllr Lionel O’Hara – Vice Chair	Present
Cllr Tony Clayton	Apologies	Cllr Claire Shea	Present
Cllr Dr Peter Dixon	Apologies	Cllr David Skinner OBE – Chair	Apologies

Substitutes	For
Cllr Libby Ancrum (Mayor)	Cllr Dr Peter Dixon
Cllr Victoria Granville	Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet
Cllr Nigel Wightman (Leader)	Cllr Tony Clayton

Also in attendance:

Responsible Finance Officer / Deputy Town Clerk

Planning Committee Clerk

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Lionel O’Hara as Vice Chair led the meeting.

106 Apologies for absence

As above.

107 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Movement & Net Zero Working Group meeting held on 10th June 2024 were received and agreed.

108 Update on Sevenoaks Town 20mph

a) The following timetable for delivery of the Sevenoaks Town 20mph speed limits was received and noted:

- **12th August 2024 to 1st September 2024:** Signage to be installed including gateway signs and repeater signs
- **1st September 2024:** KCC to publish intention to adopt the new speed limits via a “Has Made” document, allowing 21 days for public comments
- **22nd September 2024 to 30th September 2024:** KCC to consider public comments
- **1st October 2024:** 20mph limits to become enforceable
- **After 1st September 2024:** Installation of any additional gateway treatments including road tarmac and painted roundels on the highway

b) It was noted that an informative leaflet had been circulated to local businesses, schools and residents associations on Wednesday 24th July 2024, announcing the upcoming changes. This had been advertised on social media, with some misinformation having since been posted by commenters. Councillors agreed that any factually inaccurate comments should be responded to, in order to ensure that residents are correctly informed about the changes.

c) It was noted that 1st September was the correct date from which the “Has Made” document would be published and the 21 day comment period would start.

109 Highway Improvement Plan

It was noted that the Movement & Net Zero Working Group had replaced the Planning &

Environment Committee as author of the Highway Improvement Plan, with recommendations to be made to the Planning & Environment Committee or Finance & Delivery Committee, as per the new Terms of Reference.

b) The Working Group received and discussed Priority Items on the Town Council's draft Highway Improvement Plan, which had been updated throughout the year as and when new priorities were approved by the Planning Committee.

c) Cllr Shea requested that note be added on the 20mph scheme's entry under "Historical Priorities Record" that it had not been delivered via the Highway Improvement Plan process, which continues to be unsuccessful.

d) Councillors considered that the proposed pedestrian crossing at Seal Road/Greatness Park should be ranked higher on the priority list, and it was therefore **agreed** that this be swapped with priority 5 (crossing points outside Sevenoaks Hospital).

e) The Group received Cllr Gustard's request for HGV movements to be redirected from country roads such as Ashgrove Road via restrictive signage, and it was **agreed** that Priority Item 2 be amended to include redirection of HGV movements from country roads as well as the Town Centre.

f) It was **agreed** that the Highway Improvement Plan be updated with the above amendments, and recommended for approval to the Planning & Environment Committee.

g) Councillors expressed the following concerns about the design of the roundabout proposed at Bat & Ball junction:

- How up to date the traffic data would be by the time of the 150th occupation – being the trigger after which the roundabout must be delivered
- The timing of the delivery of the infrastructure. It was felt that delivery would be more beneficial prior to construction of the houses
- The lack of Active Travel solutions incorporated into the design, such as signal crossings or cycling route incorporation

h) Councillors questioned whether the Highway Liaison Officer, Nigel Rowe, could help the Town Council get in contact with the Officer in charge of such negotiations, to ensure that the scheme when delivered, is done so holistically. It was **agreed** that STC investigate the potential for "round-table" talks with Tarmac, Sevenoaks District Council's Active Travel team, Kent County Council's Active Travel as well as Highways/Engineering team, and Councillor representatives from all three local authorities.

110 **St John's Area Parking & Beat Survey**

It was noted that Sevenoaks Town Council's Finance & Delivery Committee had resolved to commission a parking and beat survey for the St John's Area. This would inform recommendations in the St John's Masterplan on how parking issues experienced by residents could be improved.

Meeting concluded at 6:45pm.