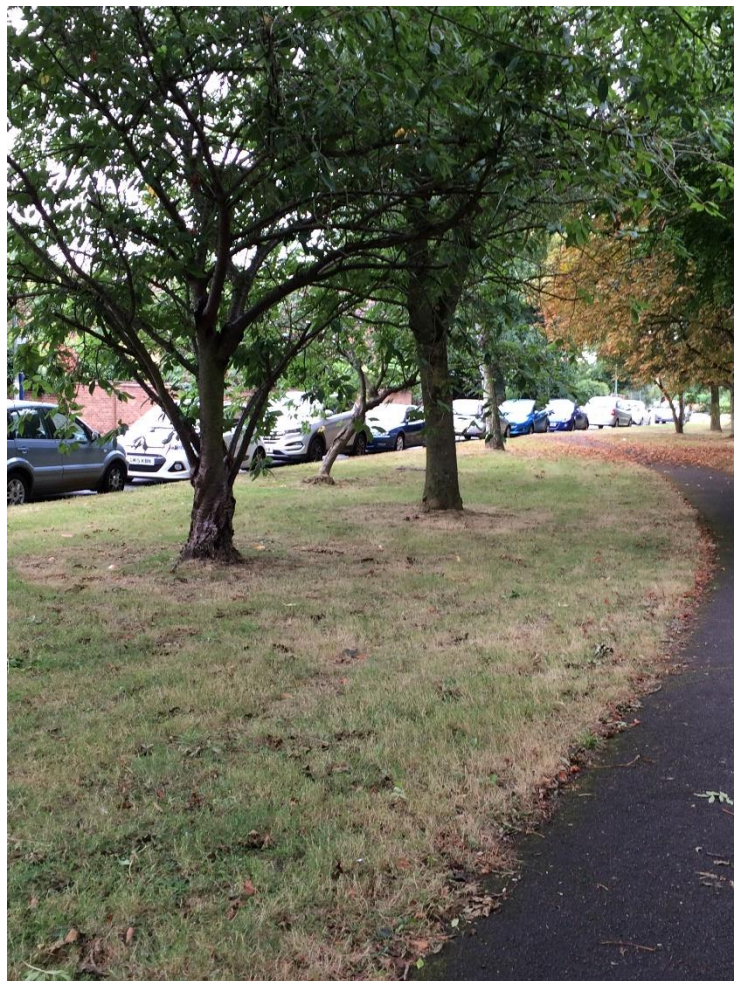


Boxley Parish Council Highway Issues

Report for County Councillor Paul Carter



8th Feb 2017

Ref. Highway& PRow/2017 Highway Projects/ Highway issues report for CC Carter 26 01 2017

Highway issues report for County Councillor Paul Carter 26 01 2017

During the meeting with Paul Carter, held on 18 January 2017, he requested that the issues referred to and issues outstanding be included in a single report for him to consider.

Yellow lines

Currently there are three yellow line/parking issues at Grove Green.

Yellow lines on Provender Way, at all the road junctions, to stop cars blocking drop down kerbs and sight lines.

The school approached the PCSO to take this up. Residents have also contacted the parish office.

KCC Highways has said no to the parish council's initial request for yellow lines as there is no supporting injuries to warrant its intervention and insufficient funding available. The standard letter advised the parish council to approach the local parish council and County Councillor Carter for possible funding (appendix 1). The school has written to the parish council about the problem (appendix 2). The school had been requested to approach the KCC Education Department as well but so far there is no evidence that this is happened. The issue of inconsiderate and dangerous parking on the bends by parents is a long-standing issue and the school has taken numerous action e.g. articles and newsletters, directly approaching parents etc. but to no avail. As there are no yellow lines the PCSO is only able to advise inconsiderate parkers (appendix 3). Appendix 4 -Examples and photographs of the problem.

Yellow lines on Grovewood Drive South, to stop commuter parking.

This is a recently occurring issue created by the MBC closure of the Old Sittingbourne Road Park and Ride and the introduction of car parking fees at Mote Park. These actions have resulted in commuters parking on Grovewood Drive South (appendix 5). KCC Highways refused to fund the parish council's request for yellow lines as there is no supporting injuries to warrant its intervention and insufficient funding available (appendix 6). KCC Highways referred the parish council to Maidstone BC and MBC has referred the issue back to KCC with a recommendation that yellow lines be put in for safety reasons (appendix 7). KCC Highways refused again as there are no supporting injuries to warrant its intervention. MBC will not introduce yellow lines to stop commuter parking unless there is a provable impact on residents parking and as the vehicles are not directly outside residential properties it does not meet MBC's criteria for action.

Over 26 residents have contacted the parish office about this and residents regularly send up to date photographs of the parking (appendix 8). The school has written to the parish council about the problem. The school had been requested to approach the KCC Education Department as well but so far there is no evidence that this is happened.

This a safety issue for other drivers trying to safely access and egress New Cut Road/Grovewood Drive South, Provender Way, Weavering Street and Harvesters Way. Commuters are parking on and opposite junctions, the vehicles narrow the road and park right down to the junction of New Cut Road/Grovewood Drive South. Vehicles Park directly on the junctions which restrict the views of drivers trying to exit.

More importantly Grovewood Drive South must be crossed by schoolchildren accessing the local schools. Primary school aged children from Franklin Drive going to St John's School now cross between parked cars. Secondary school children from Grove Green going to the three schools at Huntsman's Lane cross Grovewood Drive South at this point to access New Cut Road.

Grovewood Drive South is one of only two roads that service residential development, both roads are accessed from New Cut Road. Any delays within the estate or on either Grovewood Drive South, Grovewood Drive North or New Cut Road resulted in rat-running to the two only access/egress points.

Parking on verges at Grovewood Drive North, Provender Way etc. due to large events at Maidstone Studios.

MBC has previously refused to put in temporary parking restrictions during Maidstone Studio events. The largest studio at Maidstone Studios holds an audience of 1,000 people. The owner of the studios has made numerous attempts to deal with the issue of up to 5,000 tickets being released for 1,000 seats but unfortunately he has no control over ticketing as a company hires the studio to make a program and it employs a ticketing agency. The studios still organise a coach to run from the Old Sittingbourne Road Park and Ride site to the studio and once its own car park is full drivers are directed to the old park-and-ride site or parking at Tesco's. Unfortunately, many people attending shows decide to park on the verges and on the local roads.

Parking on verges could be made illegal with a Road Traffic Order, progressed by KCC. Until there are restrictions put in place the PCSO cannot act.

The problem with the parking is periodic are most likely to occur November or December when companies are making Christmas specials and the show Take Me Out, the audience of the latter show appear to be the main problem parkers.

During the periods of problem parking cars are regularly parked directly on junctions, opposite junctions, on footways and verges and restricting access to residential drives. This is a long-term problem with complaints been received from 2014 (appendix 9).

Other issues

Safer crossing point on Grovewood Drive North.

A resident contacted the parish council and the County Councillor about this and a petition has been raised which the resident is expecting to submit to KCC at the beginning of February 2017.

This long-standing concern of residents are that the current pedestrian safety refuges are narrow and cannot easily accommodate an adult with a buggy or small children. The layout of the road, junctions, a bend and poor sight lines add to the problem. Some two years ago, County Councillor Carter was approached about the possibility of a crossing but it is not known if a KCC investigation took place.

The resident has been warned that the road layout may not accommodate a pedestrian crossing, such as a zebra crossing, and just recently she has wondered whether, if the crossing was refused, whether speed bumps could be put in place.

Grovewood Drive North is an extremely busy road as is the main road to a 24-hour Tesco and one of only two roads going into the large residential development at Grove Green. Over the years there have been complaints about speed of vehicles along the road but previous investigations did not identify a large speeding problem. In the Clerk's opinion, the road layout, poor sight lines and the amount and flow of traffic is the main problem in trying to safely cross this road, as it is very difficult to judge the speed of an approaching vehicle.

The north part of Grove Green has 10 residential roads/closes it also has Weaving Heath which is a major open space serving Grove Green. Any person from the northern part of the estate wishing to access facilities at the minor shopping centre, schools or the public bus service must cross Grovewood Drive North.

It is likely that if the estate was designed now the crossing points would not be allowed.

Permanent design for the new cycleway and parking provision on Old Chatham Road, Sandling.

KCC Highways needs £110,000 but only has £85,000 to do the cycle route, this means that the previously hoped for parking restrictions by the residential area on the lower part of the road will not be properly progressed until other funding streams are located.

Councillor Hinder believes that there is a design for the work and has been attempting to locate it.

Traffic calming and speed restrictions.

Request for traffic calming/improvements on Weavering Street. Due to the lack of footways along much of this road residents and small children are forced to walk in the road which has no street lighting. Residents are concerned about the speed of traffic as this road can be used as a rat run if there is delays on Provender Way.

HGVs on rural roads.

This is a particular problem in the north of the parish and north of Boxley village (Pilgrims Way). It is noted that KCC has just released a consultation on its Freight Action Plan with its five key actions:

- To tackle the problem of overnight lorry parking in Kent
- To find a long term solution to Operation Stack
- To effectively manage the routing of HGV traffic to ensure that such movements remain on the strategic road network for as much of its journey as possible
- To take steps to address the problems caused by freight traffic to communities
- To ensure that KCC continues to make effective use of planning and development control powers to reduce the impact of freight traffic

The parish council's Environment Committee will be responding to the consultation however, it is sad to report, that previous requests to try to control HGV usage of rural roads have been unsuccessful for numerous reasons including:

- HGV drivers slavishly following out of date satnavs.
- KCC's reluctance to put up signage and when it does if these are damaged or stolen it is extremely difficult and time-consuming to get replacements.
- Foreign drivers.
- HGV drivers rat running because they are given delivery drop times that allow for no delays.

The increase in HGVs, white vans, food delivery vans etc. traffic was not foreseen many years ago. Road infrastructure improvements generally only take place if there are large-scale planning developments where S106 money is available. Traffic congestion forces vehicles onto the rural roads which were generally designed for horse and carts. Rural roads have had no or very little investment in improving the conditions e.g. passing places.

A current major concern for the parish council is the situation at Westfield Sole Road and Yelsted Lane. A local farmer has blocked up, due to land erosion, the informal passing places on his land at Yelsted Lane. The traffic including large lorries on Westfield Sole Road make it difficult to drive down this narrow lane. Due to the congestion experienced on this lane drivers are trying to use Yelsted Lane, which runs parallel, but due to the road layout and now lack of informal passing places it is becoming dangerous. At the very least drivers are often faced with having to reverse, sometimes 80 to 100 yards, before there is room for a lorry to pass. Whilst for one car this is 'uncomfortable' if there are 3 to 4 cars it can become nearly impossible.

Partnership working.

With the restrictions being faced by local authorities on funding the parish council is hoping to find a way forward to ensure that reasonable action, which is often preventative action, is undertaken to improve the safety and quality of life of residents in the community.

Currently KCC Highways requires parish councils that wish to undertake work to:

- Employ a traffic consultant to undertake a risk assessment and design the alterations that could be needed.
- Obtain proof of local support via either a formal or informal consultation.
- Cost the alterations.
- Employ a contractor to implement the changes if approval is given.

- Employ traffic consultants and contractors that have knowledge of KCC's procedures KCC will provide a list of the contractors that have this knowledge.

KCC has notified the parish council that *"some years ago the parish numbers in Kent highways were cut suitably and we are unable to risk assess individual sites which are not part of our strategic casualty reduction programme"*.

KCC assures the parish council that it takes road safety very seriously but unfortunately due to financial restrictions doesn't undertake preventative work. All agreed work has to be supported by statistics showing there are casualties.

In its 2017/2018 budget Boxley Parish Council has included £55,000 (including £40,000 from reserves) that is available for agreed highway and maintenance work. The parish council has approved a procedure and criteria list to assess projects put forward however this amount will not go very far but combined with some support from County Councillor Members Devolved Budget it may be possible to undertake several projects.

The Clerk considers that one of the main issues that will reduce the number of projects that can be undertaken is the cost of employing a traffic consultant to undertake the risk assessment and design any alterations. It is not known if a County Councillor putting forward a project to KCC Highways has to employing external traffic consultant to undertake a risk assessment and design the alterations that could be needed. Would a County Councillor obtain a better price for such work?

Clerks comment: KCC highways has for many years been putting in yellow lines at junctions, MBC has been putting in yellow lines to stop commuter car parking. There is a wealth of background information that could, if not offered freely, be obtained by Freedom of Information requests and as every Parish Clerk knows you don't have to reinvent the wheel. You see what has been done before, you check that it is relevant to the situation you are facing and you reproduce it. Is a possible way forward to keeping costs low that the next KCC Highways Seminar is actually a training session on what paperwork needs to be produced, what evidence needs to be gathered etc. to produce a document that would meet KCC Highways or MBCs design criteria. Whilst the Parish Clerk or volunteer could not hope to do all the intricate work I cannot see why a competent person could not submit a design if a) they have some training/insight or b) they researched the issue.

Appendix 1

KCC RESPONSE

APPENDIX 1

Clerk Boxley PC

From: traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2016 12:43 PM
To: Clerk@boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Subject: CSM 193209 Provender Way, Boxley.

Dear Mrs Bowdrey,

Ref: CSM 193209 Provender Way, Boxley.

Thank you for your enquiry on behalf of the Parish Council and others regarding the parking issues experienced on the various junctions with this road due to parents and visitors to Maidstone Studios, and a request for parking restrictions to be installed.

KCC Highways, Transportation and Waste (HTW) receive many requests for parking restrictions, and as such all requests must be prioritised. This is especially important at the current time due to the economic climate and the reduced budgets which are available as a result. The main method of prioritisation is analysing the personal injury crash record for the past 3 years of available data to assess if there is a pattern of crashes which could be addressed by engineering methods.

Having assessed the data for this road, and as there have been no reported incidents in the last 3 years, we conclude that no changes are required and we would not be looking to make any improvements here.

I appreciate that this means that local concerns and issues are not addressed, and a number of schemes have been put in place to assist local groups in taking action locally, namely:

- Combined Members Grant
- 3rd party funded local schemes (PC, Resident Groups or District / Borough funding)

Some years ago the staff numbers in Kent Highways were cut considerably and we are unable to risk assess individual sites which are not part of our strategic casualty reduction programme. If however you are able to gain local support and funding to consider a local traffic scheme, or would like to know how to access the above schemes, please do not hesitate to contact the Traffic and Safety Team at traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk and we can explain how to take this forward.

Please find below some information for St John's Primary School with regard to the issue of parking issues at school pick up/drop off time. They may be aware of this already, but in case not I thought I would include it.

Irresponsible parking is a constant issue for the Highway Authority and schools. KCC is working hard to educate Parents through a Responsible Parking Campaign and School Travel Plan initiatives such as Jambusters. The Responsible Parking website www.responsibleparking.co.uk is a toolkit for school use and once a school register they are able to download the resources. The website will give help and advice so that schools are able to set up campaigns to raise awareness to the school community and hopefully ease their issue.

The Jambusters website is KCC's travel plan database. All schools have their own page and once they register, they are able to gain access to all the information connected to their travel plan, correspondence and annual reviews. Schools are also able to apply for a capital grant of up

to £5k. Schools can only apply if they complete a review (this is requested annually in approx. April/May).

Thank you for contacting us.

Yours Sincerely,

Fiona Wiles | Liaison Officer, Schemes Planning & Delivery Team | Highways, Transportation & Waste | Kent County Council | Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD | 03000 41 81 81 | www.kent.gov.uk/highways



@KentHighways

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Appendix 2

APPENDIX 2

T.D. Harrington, B.Ed.(Hons.)
Head Teacher



St. John's C.E. Primary
Provender Way
Grove Green
Maidstone
Kent ME14 5TZ

Tel: (01622) 735916

January 2017

To whom it may concern

Re: Road markings and parking congestion along Provender Way, side roads leading off Provender Way and Grovewood Drive South.

I write to express my extreme concern about the above issue. This concern is shared by all my staff, the Governing Body of St John's CEP School and many of the parents.

Provender Way

Provender Way is a dangerous road. The fact that it curves as it passes the school and leads up towards Grovewood Drive North means that visibility is restricted for both pedestrians and road users. The fact that it is also a bus route only adds to the danger.

At the moment the double yellow lines which have been painted on the road are badly worn and difficult to see. This leads to parents parking in areas of the kerb side where they shouldn't, particularly leading to and across the bus stop adjacent to Blacksmith Drive. These lines need repainting.

Road junctions with Provender Way

Unfortunately, despite constant requests and reminders in our weekly Newsletter, our parents continue to park up to, across and, sadly, often protruding out from the junction onto Provender Way.

This is not only dangerous it also breaks the Highway Code.

Such parking poses a significant hazard for vehicles driving along Provender Way and for any residents trying to enter or leave a side road.

It also increases the danger for pedestrians crossing the road as they are unable to see approaching vehicles.

Such dangerously parked vehicles also block the dropped kerbs meaning that wheelchair users are unable to cross the road.

We request that all these junction areas be double yellow lined to prevent such dangers occurring.

Grovewood Drive South

This is a relatively new problem but an extremely serious one.

Cars and vans now park in an unbroken line from the junction of Grovewood Drive South with New Cut Road right up to and sometimes beyond the junction with Provender Way.

The cars park along the south side of Grovewood Drive South.

This makes it extremely dangerous for vehicles travelling along Grovewood Drive South as the road becomes single lane with little hope of passing should a bus, refuse or delivery truck or even another car come from the opposite direction.

Appendix 3

APPENDIX 3

PCSO Adlington's request
dated Feb. 2016

.....
Hi Pauline,

Would you be able to assist or point me in the direction on how to get yellow lines put on the junctions along Provender Way, Weaving.

As you well know, Provender Way is a busy road and it suffers with parking issues. Please see the attached photograph a resident sent to the police after becoming frustrated with this on-going problem. This isn't the only resident to express their concern to me. As well as having cars parking on the verges and on the junction with Grovewood Drive, St Johns School are concerned with Children's safety going to and from school.

For years St Johns School have suffered with controlling parents parking before and after school times and I therefore regularly patrol Provender Way on their behalf to help give parents advice on inappropriate parking and ask them to move on. The double lines near the school are wondrous in keeping the road and the school children safe. I have brought this road regularly to the attention of the Civil Enforcement Officers and they assist me in patrolling the road. The problem we have is keeping the junctions along Provender Way clear of vehicles.

The council have put yellow lines down the road which has helped resolve past safety issues. With no yellow lines on the junctions, the Civil Enforcement Officers and I have no powers to issue tickets to deter parents from continuing to park in the dangerous locations. The school is fully supportive with yellow lines being placed on the junctions as they fear it won't be long before a child walks behind a car to cross the road and get hit. The school is expanding in the near future so the worry is that the problem will get worse.

Many thanks

PCSO 59078 Matt Adlington

.....
This request was reported to KCC Highways and the following response was received

....
Dear Mrs Bowdrey,

Ref: CSM 193209 Provender Way, Boxley.

Thank you for your enquiry on behalf of the Parish Council and others regarding the parking issues experienced on the various junctions with this road due to parents and visitors to Maidstone Studios, and a request for parking restrictions to be installed.

Appendix 4

APPENDIX 4

PROVENDER WAY

Clerk Boxley PC

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

Dear Sirs

I read with interest the article in the Downs Mail concerning parking at Grove Green. I live in a small cul-de-sac off Provender Way and during school dropping off and school collection times often struggle to get my car off my drive due to the often completely inconsiderate parking by parents visiting the primary school in Provender Way. There are a lot of Home Carers who need to come up and down this road to visit elderly residents. On the odd occasion when I have politely asked a parent if they could move their car up or down the road a bit this has been met with verbal abuse. I understand from fellow residents that pretty much all the roads off Provender Way suffer with the same problem. It seems that the vast majority of children attending the school actually live on Grove Green but the widespread parking problems suggest that the Walk to School bus is little used. I have to say I have never actually seen the Walk to School bus in action. Provender Way is also extremely hazardous as parking at junctions/across junctions and also directly opposite junctions is a frequent occurrence despite this contravening The Highway Code.

I have also witnessed over the years the ever increasing commuter parking on Grovewood Drive South added to the ever increasing number of Learner Driving Schools using Grove Green as a test route for carrying out their manoeuvres. Grove Green used to be a quiet, pleasant residential estate, sadly not any more.

A Grove Green Resident

Shearers Close looking across Road towards Restharrow Way





Shawers Close, Grove Green
(junction with Roseville Way)



Appendix 5

APPENDIX 5





Boxley Parish Council, Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 9RU



Boxley Parish Council, Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 9RU

26 plus complaints received.
Clerk Boxley PC

Appendix 5

From: Clerk Boxley PC <clerk@boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk>
Sent: 13 October 2016 08:32
To: 'parkingoperations@maidstone.gov.uk'
Subject: Yellow lines Grovewood Drive South

Boxley Parish Council is receiving numerous complaints about the commuter parking that has appeared on Grovewood Drive South since the closure of the Park and Ride and the introduction of charging at Mote Park.

20 – 25 vehicles now park from the junction at New Cut Road to Weaving Street Monday to Friday. It is acknowledged that more often than not the vehicles are parked sensibly however it is making driving along Grovewood Drive South extremely difficult as sight lines, especially for drivers moving onto and off of the road are reduced. The long line of parked vehicles also force moving vehicles further into the road and this creates problems when there are vehicles coming from the opposite direction. Residents are reporting that there can be bottlenecks at the junctions with closes and quite close to the junction with New Cut Road which can create problems actually at that junction if you are trying to turn onto Grovewood Drive South.

Grovewood Drive South is a particularly busy road as it has one of the only two access and egress points for the whole of Grove Green. It is also considered that there is a health and safety risk for pedestrians especially school children as they are having to cross between parked cars. The local primary school has been approached and it has reported that there is concern amongst the parents who must cross that road to get to the school. The area where the parking is taking place is also a major crossing point for the secondary school children walking to the three local schools at Huntsmans Lane so they too are having to negotiate the parked cars and the now difficult road conditions.

The parish council is aware that people have to park somewhere and that they choose to do so here because of the public transport links to Maidstone and the coach links to London. Some residents wish to see all the vehicles removed but the Parish Council realises that it must be pragmatic. It has been suggested that if yellow lines, with a one hour parking restriction during the day, were placed on Grovewood Drive South from its junction with New Cut Road to Weaving Street this might be a way to solve the problem. Commuters could then park along the remainder of Grovewood Drive South which has less traffic and by doing this pedestrians crossing at the lower end of Grovewood Drive South would, in the opinion of the members, be safer as they would not have to cross from between parked cars.

The parish council would be grateful if you could investigate the issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Pauline Bowdery

Pauline Bowdery

Clerk

Boxley Parish Council

Appendix 6

From: traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk
Sent: 13 September 2016 15:33
To: Clerk@boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Subject: CSM 236432 Grovewood Drive South

APPENDIX 6

Dear Pauline,

Ref: CSM 236432 Grovewood Drive South

I refer to your request on behalf of the Parish Council, asking for timed parking restrictions on the above road to prevent commuter parking.

As you may be aware due to continuing reductions in local government funding KCC have to make tough decisions on where to improve traffic and road safety in local areas. This means we have to say 'no' more than we'd like, especially if the request won't reduce casualties. I can confirm that the current safety record around this area has been checked and does not meet our current criteria for the implementation of alterations to the Public Highway.

I appreciate that this means that local concerns and issues are not addressed, and a number of schemes have been put in place to assist local groups in taking action locally, namely:

- Combined Members Grant
- 3rd party funded local schemes (PC, Resident Groups or District / Borough funding)

You may also wish to contact Parking Enforcement at Maidstone Borough Council, who also have the authority to deal with commuter parking issues.

I'm sorry I cannot be more positive at this moment in time but I wish to reassure you the County Council takes road safety very seriously and reducing the number of people injured on our roads is one of the County Councils top priorities. Full details of all the work we do to prevent and reduce road crashes can be found in our Casualty Reduction Strategy for Kent which can be viewed at www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/14520/Road-Casualty-Reduction-Strategy-for-Kent.pdf

The Parish Council may wish to promote and fund a change to the highway. If this is the case then the Parish Council should employ a traffic consultant to design the alterations. Proof of local support via either a formal or informal consultation will also be required and the alterations costed. The Parish will also be required to employ a contractor to implement the changes once approval from KCC is given for the design changes. The designs for the alterations should be sent to the Schemes Planning & Delivery Team address below. Both traffic consultant and contractor should have knowledge of KCC's procedures.

Thank you for raising this matter with us. I understand you are concerned for road safety at this location and I can reassure you that we take this matter very seriously. As part of our Casualty Reduction Programme, KCC will continue to monitor the safety record in the area. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Appendix 7

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE

APPENDIX 7

Clerk Boxley PC

From: Jeff Kitson <jeffkitson@maidstone.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 January 2017 13:36
To: Boxley Parish Council (MBC)
Cc: Wendy Hinder (Cllr); Charlie Reynolds
Subject: RE: URN 654: Request for Parking Restrictions: Grovewood Drive South

Hello Pauline

Parking Services will only consider placing restrictions to manage commuter parking where we have clear evidence that commuter parking is severely restricting levels of on street parking for residents and their visitors, in the road in question, and in the surrounding roads/areas. Although costs area consideration in that we need to prioritise workload each year, this has had no direct impact in this case. Mr Reynolds will confirm any data we have on file and explain the Councils position once he has been able to investigate.

I can confirm that Maidstone Borough Council do not consider restrictions on the highway to manage highway safety (sightlines), highway obstruction (traffic flow) as this function is carried out by the Kent County Council Highways team.

Regards
Jeff

Jeff Kitson

Parking Services Manager

Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ
(ME15 6AW for sat nav/maps)

Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3HT

t 01622602603 w www.maidstone.gov.uk w www.swale.gov.uk



From: Clerk Boxley PC [mailto:clerk@boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk]
Sent: 10 January 2017 13:07
To: Jeff Kitson
Cc: Wendy Hinder (Cllr)
Subject: RE: URN 654: Request for Parking Restrictions: Grovewood Drive South

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for the prompt reply and I understand the response however the safety issue is created by commuter car parking caused by the closure of the P&R and charges at Mote Park up to that point there was two possibly three vehicles now there are around 22-25 every week day.

Is it possible to please have a copy of the criteria used within residential areas to decide when yellow lines to stop commuter car parking are put in. I guess it will highlight that there must be an impact on where people from adjoining residential properties can park, as you state in the e-mail below, the *local parking availability*. What I have no knowledge of and can't guess about is the *etc.* that comes after this statement.

Perhaps the parish council hasn't asked the correct question so I would be grateful for either a copy of the criteria or a reply to the following *Could MBC put in yellow lines in this area if it wanted and is it refusing to do so because of the financial cost?*

Regards

Pauline Bowdery

Pauline Bowdery
Clerk

Appendix 8

EXAMPLES OF SOME OF THE
COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

APPENDIX
B

Clerk Boxley PC

From:
Sent: 25 November 2016 06:40
To: clerk@boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Subject: Problems with inconsiderate parking Grovewood Drive South

Hello,

I want to express my concerns over the rise of problem parking on Grovewood Drive South.

Over the last six months the parking on Grovewood Drive South has caused me the following issues daily Monday to Friday:

- Turning right out of Franklin Drive onto Grovewood Drive South means pulling across one lane of the road so I can see the traffic coming towards me from the left, this is due to the solid row of parked cars.
- Turning left out of Franklin Drive onto Grovewood Drive South means turning and stopping immediately so I can see the traffic coming towards me from the left, this is due to the solid row of parked cars. Then I hope there is a gap between the parked cars to avoid oncoming cars.

Effectively the solid row of parked cars has created a single lane road as there is only room for 1 car to pass safely. Extra care is now required at school time to avoid children crossing Grovewood Drive South between the parked cars who remain unseen until the last second as they tend to be shorter than the parked car heights.

Once you have navigated Grovewood Drive South and you get to the junction with New Cut Road then the parked cars force you to drive halfway into the opposite lane so you are at risk of being hit by cars turning left from New Cut Road on to Grovewood Drive South.

I hope that something can be done as this level of parking has become dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Kind Regards

Clerk Boxley PC

From:
Sent: 25 November 2016 07:56
To: clerk@boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Subject: Parking at Grove Green

25th November 2016.

Dear sir/madam,

I would wish to add my name to the complaints relating to the parking in Grovewood drive South, Grove Green. The number of cars parking on this road has continued to increase tremendously. Not only has it become seriously hazardous for the children walking to school, but also for senior citizens getting off the bus on the south side of the road particularly, and then attempting to cross it. There have been minor accidents (wing mirrors broken and smashed) because the road becomes a difficult passing area: A two lane road becomes a three lane road by virtue of the parked cars. It is not only cars parked there, it is also vans and occasional heavy duty vehicle. Many people park there for many different reasons: Sixth form students from Invicta Grammar school; People meeting to switch cars, for travels elsewhere, not I may add, into Maidstone, and of course to avoid parking at the various train stations. The parking in this area is not primarily to alleviate the parking in Maidstone. The vehicles parked here are not for a short stay, they remain here, in the majority, for the whole day. The problem is not so sincere at weekends. This is primarily a Monday to Friday problem: of course this is when it is so dangerous. This is a parking area very rarely used by residents. My complaint is particularly relating to the safety dangers this parking imposes, particularly on the young and old: along with an alert that this is area where an accident of some sort will occur in the future. Sincerely,

Clerk Boxley PC

From:
Sent: 25 November 2016 09:44
To: clerk@boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Subject: Parking hazards in Grovewood Drive South.
Attachments: 123.Junction Franklin Drive, Grovewood Drive South.23Nov2016 at 2pm.jpg; 124.jpg; 126. Grovewood Drive towards New Cut Road.jpg; 127. Near junction of Grovewood Drive and New Cut Road.jpg; 128. Close to junction.jpg; 131.Near junction of Franklin Drive and Grovewood Drive South.jpg; 129. Parked vehicles on Grovewood Drive South.jpg

As requested in the Downs Mail I am attaching some photos taken on Monday last, of the car parking along Grovewood Drive between New Cut Road and Franklin Drive junctions. The cars parking at the top of Franklin Drive often get as close to the corner as possible making it very difficult to see if any traffic is approaching from the New Cut direction, often at speeds well over the 30 mph limit. This is an accident waiting to happen, and double yellow lines on the corner are urgently needed. I live in Gleaners Close off Franklin Drive, and this junction is difficult to exit whether turning right or left into Grovewood Drive South when parked vehicles block the view towards New Cut Road. At the junction of New Cut Road, cars parking very close to the junction cause problems for cars exiting Grovewood Drive, and making it dangerous for traffic travelling towards Ashford Rd and wishing to turn Left into Grovewood Drive if vehicles leaving Grovewood Drive are forced over the central line because of the parked vehicles. Again Double yellow lines are needed from the bus stop to New Cut Road. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know. Regards,

Example

D. Harrington, B.Ed.(Hons.)
Sed Teacher

tel: (01622) 735916



St. John's C.E. Primary
Provender Way
Grove Green
Maidstone
Kent ME14 5TZ

January 2017

To whom it may concern

Re: Road markings and parking congestion along Provender Way, side roads leading off Provender Way and Grovewood Drive South.

I write to express my extreme concern about the above issue. This concern is shared by all my staff, the Governing Body of St John's CEP School and many of the parents.

Provender Way

Provender Way is a dangerous road. The fact that it curves as it passes the school and leads up towards Grovewood Drive North means that visibility is restricted for both pedestrians and road users. The fact that it is also a bus route only adds to the danger.

At the moment the double yellow lines which have been painted on the road are badly worn and difficult to see. This leads to parents parking in areas of the kerb side where they shouldn't, particularly leading to and across the bus stop adjacent to Blacksmith Drive. These lines need repainting.

Road junctions with Provender Way

Unfortunately, despite constant requests and reminders in our weekly Newsletter, our parents continue to park up to, across and, sadly, often protruding out from the junction onto Provender Way.

This is not only dangerous it also breaks the Highway Code.

Such parking poses a significant hazard for vehicles driving along Provender Way and for any residents trying to enter or leave a side road.

It also increases the danger for pedestrians crossing the road as they are unable to see approaching vehicles.

Such dangerously parked vehicles also block the dropped kerbs meaning that wheelchair users are unable to cross the road.

We request that all these junction areas be double yellow lined to prevent such dangers occurring.

Grovewood Drive South

This is a relatively new problem but an extremely serious one.

Cars and vans now park in an unbroken line from the junction of Grovewood Drive South with New Cut Road right up to and sometimes beyond the junction with Provender Way.

The cars park along the south side of Grovewood Drive South.


This makes it extremely dangerous for vehicles travelling along Grovewood Drive South as the road becomes single lane with little hope of passing should a bus, refuse or delivery truck or even another car come from the opposite direction.

Many of our pupils live in Franklin Drive and it is extremely dangerous for them when they attempt to cross Grovewood Drive South to walk to school. They have to step to the edge of the parked cars to see whether a vehicle is travelling along the road and try to judge whether or not it is safe to cross.

This has had a significant impact on these pupils. Many Key Stage 2 pupils who used to walk to school unaccompanied as they assume greater independence in preparation for secondary school now either have to walk with an adult or at least have an adult cross them across the road.

This is a problem which must be addressed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T D Harrington'.

Mr T D Harrington
Headteacher

Appendix 9

PROVINDER WAY. APPENDIX 9

Clerk Boxley PC

From: Wendy Hinder (Cllr) <WendyHinder@maidstone.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 December 2016 12:54
To: Boxley Parish Council (MBC)
Subject: FW: Provinder Way - Grove Green

I have forwarded this to Charlie.
Wendy

From: D Smitherman [mailto:doug.smitherman@gmail.com]
Sent: 09 December 2016 15:50
To: Wendy Hinder (Cllr)
Subject: Provinder Way - Grove Green

Dear Councillor Hinder,

I'm emailing you to find out what can be done regarding two traffic issues on Provinder Way Grove Green.

1) What steps can be taken to prevent parking in Provinder Way when the TV studios are recording a programme. The problem is getting worse with visitors now parking on grass verges. We as residents do not or want this as we are aware that it doesn't take much to cause rutting and cutting up the ground. It is particularly galling when the Studios have car parking facilities. At the very least, why can't the Police place no waiting cones along the whole length of Provinder Way and nearby roads. Secondly why can't the TV studios put out a memo with tickets stating no parking is allowed on roads adjacent to the Studios.

2) What steps can be taken to slow down the speed of traffic in Provinder Way particularly when children are arriving and leaving St. John's School. The situation is worse than it has ever been, since the increase in the size of the school with roads gridlocked around the times I have stated. The main offenders appear to be the mothers themselves. They won't be satisfied until someone is seriously injured or killed.

Take me Out
Parking
Clerk Boxley PC

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Hello. I am writing in response to the article about parking at Grove Green in the current Downs Mail.

I write to you about the parking issues that arise in Provender Way and the junction with Grovewood Drive North during the filming of Take Me Out at the Maidstone Studios. In the last week residents have had to deal with the inconsiderate parking of people visiting the studios.

Last night reached new levels with cars parking on the pavement at the very junction of Grovewood Drive North blocking the pavement to pedestrians and causing traffic problems for residents. This usually extends into Shepherds Gate Drive and Harrow Way. I believe I saw a PCSO a couple of years ago as a result of residents complaints but haven't seen anyone since.

I urge you to come and have a look tomorrow, Saturday, Sunday or Monday from 6pm when the latest filming takes place.

On a separate note, residents are not totally blameless when it comes to inconsiderate parking. Residents parking on and obstructing the pavement for no reason in Shepherds Gate Drive and Harrow Way is becoming a regular occurrence. The pavement is for pedestrians.

Clerk Boxley PC

From: Wendy Hinder (Cllr) <WendyHinder@maidstone.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 November 2016 16:02
To:
Cc:
Subject:

Dear Jayne

I have been talking to Pauline about this today and I appreciate how annoying this can be especially if they are blocking footpaths and parking inconsiderately. I have spoken to Geoff Miles about this many times, he tells me that he has no control over the amount of tickets that are sent out and I understand that in the past they have been able to use the park and ride but this facility has now gone.

If we ask for yellow lines this could be detrimental to the residents and as Geoff said the problem is only for a short while at this time of the year. He informed me that there was plenty of parking spaces available on the site, however if this is so there clearly are not enough.

If cars are blocking footpaths and parking in such a way that is hazardous to other road users then I think residents should ring the police.

I believe the Parish Council did ask for A Boards to be put out when we have had this problem in the past. I will contact Geoff and let him know about the recent problem and see what he can come up. I will also continue having talks with Pauline and get back to you.

Regards
Wendy

PS

Are you happy for me to forward your email to Geoff Miles, it gives me more clout if I have evidence, could you also next time it happens (if it should) take some photos. Thank you.

Can we do anything to stop this?
Hope you are well
Kind regards

Problem parking Grove Green. Photographs (e-mail 6/11/14) showing parking on Provender Way.

E-mailed complaint.

"As discussed with Melanie on the phone this morning the photos show parking (albeit they are a bit dark) in and around Grovewood Drive North and Provender Way last night. The cars were parked nose to tail from the junction of Grovewood and Provender right down to the end of Threshers Drive, including right on the curved entrances to Orache Drive and The Maltings. There were also cars up on the pavement in The Maltings and on the grass verge at the end of Provender Way. Some parts of the footpath were obstructed and access for buses and emergency vehicles would have been very difficult. On entering Provender Way from Grovewood Drive there was realistically only a single lane for traffic as far down as Threshers Drive and given the slight bend in the road and the fact it was dark visibility was very poor. The photos were taken at about 5.30pm while the buses were still running and people were arriving back from work meaning there was a large volume of traffic on the roads at the time. This is the worst I have seen it for some time and the problem has been getting worse throughout this week".





Boxley Parish Council, Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 9RU



