

Little Chart Parish Council (LCPC)

Minutes of Highways Improvement Plan Committee Meeting held in-person at Little Chart Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd June 2021, beginning at 7.13pm

<u>Unique Minute No HIPC2/</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Action (by whom, & within what timescale)</u>
1	Note of Persons Present	Councillors Ladds, Beck, Mr Puddy, Ms Sowden (Co-opted Committee Members) M Sharpe (Clerk). The meeting was noted as quorate.	
2	Apologies	Councillors Brasier, Diebel. Mr Greenwell apologised for his likely lateness in arriving (he attended from 7.45pm - see below).	
3	Election of Chairman	J Ladds proposed C Beck as Chairman for the meeting, to which he agreed, seconded K Sowden, all in favour.	
4	Declarations of Interest	C Beck declared his registered Pecuniary Interest in that he is employed by Kent County Council (KCC) in the Highways Department. He stated that he works in a different section than the one dealing with Highways Improvement Plans, and that he considered himself to be at arm's length from the process, so that no conflict of interest could arise. M Sharpe distributed the standard Declaration of Pecuniary Interest (DPI) Forms to the newly-co-opted Committee members, for completion and registering with the Ashford Borough Council Monitoring Officer as soon as possible. No other declarations of interest regarding the business of the meeting were made by members attending this advisory Committee.	
5	Current HIP	C Beck recapped the scheme which arose from the current Highways Improvement Plan, named 'Swan Lane' by KCC. He informed the Committee of the progress in negotiations over the future HIP scheme, designated 'The Street from Swan Bridge to Hurstford Lane'. He reviewed an online meeting on 7 th April between LCPC representatives and the KCC Schemes Manager and the associated email correspondence. A 20mph speed limit is in discussion for this future scheme.	
6	Highways Improvement Plan Discussion	The Committee then discussed some of the detailed design proposals relating to The Street, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start and finish points for the 20mph restriction on The Street, and any 40 mph 'buffer zones' which are desirable • Resurfacing at these boundary points to provide visual clues to drivers; repeater speed roundels; white-lining adjacent to The Plantation; priority systems for the narrow bridge • The lack of street lighting, which restricts the use of other speed 	

		<p>reduction measures besides the posted speed limit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC's projected costs for design and arranging installation of agreed measures <p>Committee members suggested that the division of the highway around the Plantation could benefit from visual clues that the western arm is the minor of the two roads; that HGVs and long vehicles would benefit from more 'road narrows' indications; that the signage 'Unsuitable for HGV's' already in place could be made more impactful; that stone walls and wooden posts could be used at North and South ends of the Plantation to provide additional protections and visual markers.</p> <p>As a review of the partly-completed Swan Lane project, Committee members examined the KCC design documents. They also considered how to widen consultation on this review and the future plans. The Committee was aware of problems and congestion caused by the Swan Lane installation, and suggested using a number of methods to take a sounding of residents' views, including social media, a postal questionnaire, and a further meeting with more attendees.</p>	
--	--	---	--

At 7.45 pm J Greenwell arrived at the meeting, having been delayed, and tendered his apologies.

<p>6 (ctd)</p>	<p>Highways Improvement Plan Discussion (continued)</p>	<p>After a further recap, the Committee was in agreement that the Parish Council should draw up a plan, present it to residents through one or more channels, and the Full Parish Council should communicate the results of its consultation to KCC Highways through the existing contacts there.</p> <p>A proposal was made for a leaflet with space for questions and residents' ideas, to be returned by the end of July. Once responses have been received, there should be a mechanism for assigning priorities to the issues flagged up.</p> <p>There was general agreement among Committee members that dangerous vehicle speeds were visible on village roads every day. There is also an awareness that problems with width and length of vehicles trying to manoeuvre in The Street place the safety of residents and their property in continual jeopardy.</p>	<p>ACTION : C Beck and J Ladds to approach the Chairman of LCPC to request an early meeting of the Full Parish Council to receive the report of the Advisory Committee and take further action thereon, by mid-July.</p>
-----------------------	---	---	---

The Chairman drew the meeting to a close at 8.10 pm.