

Traffic Group Meeting (280920) - discuss forthcoming meeting with KCC on 30th October

KCC Highways management structure & decision-making process.

Simon Jones – KCC Head of Highways, Transport, & Waste. He has visited Cobham and understands the problem.

Tim Read – KCC Head of Transport. Reports to Simon. He has 5,400 miles of roads in Kent to worry about. Ex local having lived in Longfield/Gravesend, knows the area & understands the problem. He wants a solution. Has visited Cobham. Practical and supportive.

Nichola Floodgate – Schemes Planning & Delivery Manager. Reports to Tim. Kent Highways is split into regions, we are West Kent.

Paul Leary – Schemes Programme Manager. He is responsible for West Kent which is split into 4 areas - Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Dartford & Gravesham.

Claire Venner is the KCC officer responsible for any new schemes projects in Gravesham.

She is responsible for developing the scheme for Cobham and then pitching it to the decision makers in a Dragon's Den style meeting for getting the funding. Tim Read and Nicola Floodgate are decision makers. Claire has to be emotionally invested in the problem to make it her priority and to pitch it effectively. She has built her own evidence folder.

Claire has been sent – The HIP and consultants RGP traffic survey results

Various videos and photos

Details of the village traffic survey

She has made various site visits

As a result of 12 months of lobbying, we believe KCC has been convinced that there is a problem in The Street and so we have achieved Stage One.

At the meeting on the 30th:

The Street should be our number one priority and where our focus has to be.

At this meeting on the 30th we are hoping that we will be discussing a short list of achievable options put forward by Claire and colleagues at KCC Highways. We are expecting workable ideas from a design and engineering point of view, to resolve the problems of congestion and speed.

Whatever happens at the meeting on the 30th, KCC will only proceed with something expensive (£50k plus), if it is the top priority for the Parish Council, has 100% of parish councillors in support, the PC is willing to invest match funding of at least 10% of scheme costs, and has overwhelming community support.