

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2020

REPORT OF THE CLERK

A20 Corridor

Members will recall that the Council, together with Ditton and East Malling and Larkfield Parishes, have met with KCC and TMBC to discuss proposals for road improvements along the A20 corridor. A meeting for TMBC local members and KCC was held but due to an oversight failed to invite the Parish Councils.

Following a discussion with the Chairman of the Council the Clerk wrote to TMBC asking the following questions which the Council would have raised if it had been there.

The Council initially received a response from TMBC, which is first unshaded part, and which has been augmented by the additional response from Russel Boorman from KCC, which is the shaded part

1. Is the funding for the Mill Road/Hall Road roundabout in place and is that funding still dependant on S106 money from the Gladmans application at Whitepost Lane

Response: Russell Boorman from Kent Highways responded to a similar question at the last meeting and confirmed that the funding is in place. KCC will forward fund and recover from the S106 when it is received. **Funding has been approved via the Local Growth Fund and is in place for the delivery of this scheme.**

2. If it is too early to take into account the expansion of the Allington Incinerator in the transport modelling when will it be taken into account. The Council is very concerned about this as the number of vehicles from this site will significantly increase and as such could have an impact on the design over both roundabout schemes but particularly Coldharbour.

Response: Louise Rowlands responded to a similar question to this at the meeting explaining that transport models take into consideration the best and most up to date information available at the time. If new applications are made subsequently their impacts have to be taken into account as part of the application process. **The impact on any adjacent planning applications were taking into consideration during the design stage. As this application had not been submitted at this time, a subsequent assessment is being carried out to ensure the proposals are not negatively impacted.**

3. When the Mill Road/Hall Road roundabout scheme was discussed previously there was no intention to have signals but these have now been added and perhaps the reasons for this change could be explained.

Response: I can confirm that the scheme here was described by Russell as a signalised junction, but he did not say this had changed from earlier versions or why and there were no questions about this at the meeting. This would need to be forwarded to Russell for a response. **A WCHA was carried out to understand the demand for pedestrians, it demonstrates that there is a desire line for pedestrians to cross at this location. Therefore, pedestrian facilities have been incorporated within the design.**

4. The notes state that these improvements are likely to have a beneficial effect on the air quality and perhaps it would be possible to have a more detailed explanation of this and the places where this improvement will take place.

Response: Kent Highways confirmed that there would be a post-project review a year after the scheme is completed, which would include monitoring of air quality. The results will be reported to the Joint Transportation Advisory Board. **The scheme itself is to improve journey time reliability and reduce congestion, by achieving both these elements, there will be a resulting improvement in air quality due to the free movement of vehicles and less stationary times. All schemes delivered using LGF will have a post scheme monitoring review completed 1 and 3 years after completion to assess the benefits of the scheme.**

5. It sets out that 3 new soakaways will be built to relieve the flooding issues in the vicinity of the Mill Road/Hall Road junction and this sounds different to what had previously been proposed and perhaps the Council could receive an explanation of how this would work and the proposed location of the soakaways.

Response: Councillor Roger Dalton noted surface water flooding at the Hall Road/Mill Road junction over the last 20 years. It was in response to this observation that Russell Boorman advised that Kent Highways were working with the Drainage Team, who had proposed the three soakaways to resolve this. The exact locations were not specified. Cllr Anita Oakley noted a similar issue at the junction of New Road and Lunsford Lane and it was agreed the Kent Drainage Team would look into this also. **KCC is aware of the existing ponding at this junction and therefore any scheme design needed to incorporate a solution. As a result, a surface water drainage solution has been incorporated that has been agreed with KCC's drainage team, who have also provided funding for the solution.**