

Agenda Item No:

Report To: Joint Transportation Board

Date of Meeting: 1 March 2022

Report Title: Nuisance motor vehicles in and around the A2070

Report Author: Alison Oates

Job Title: Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Peter Feacey

Portfolio Holder for: Community Safety and Wellbeing



Summary:

The Ashford Joint Transportation Board (JTB) requested the formation of a Task and Finish Group to address issues linked to nuisance vehicles in and around the A2070. As part of the task and finish group, a requirement was to form and implementing an action plan. This has been done and actions have been identified through partnership engagement, utilising the professional skills and knowledge of the group members.

The plan is reviewed at the groups meetings and a final report will be presented to the JTB in June 2022.

This is an interim report to update the board on the current position.

Key Decision: NO

Significantly Affected Wards: Park Farm North. Park Farm South, Kingsnorth Village and Bridgefield

Recommendations: The Board is recommended to:-

- I. Note the action plan and the work that has been completed so far and
- II. Agree that the final report be presented to the Joint Transportation Board in June 2022

Report Title: Nuisance motor vehicles in and around the A2070

Introduction and Background

1. Irresponsible and dangerous driving by certain users of the A2070 has been raised as a concern for many years. Numerous agencies receive reports of nuisance motor vehicles (both cars and motorbikes) relating to not only dangerous driving/riding but also for nuisance such as noise pollution. These concerns were raised recently by a member of the public with her ward member (Cllr Cornish) and were subsequently brought to Joint Transportation Board (JTB) in September 2021.
2. At that meeting, the JTB required the formation of a Task and Finish Group to address the issues linked to nuisance vehicles in and around the A2070. The group that was established consists of representatives from Ashford Borough Council, Kent Police (Ashford Community Safety and Roads Policing), National Highways, Safer Roads for Kent Partnership.
3. The Task and Finish group have formulated an action plan and meet regularly to assess progress. The plan is split into three distinct areas:
 - Engage and Explain
 - Encourage
 - Enforcement
4. The action plan is located at Appendix A.

Action Plan Progress

5. Some workstreams have been completed, while others are still in progress, namely increasing awareness of relevant National Roads Partnership campaigns such as the Alcohol and Drugs (December 2021) and Using a Mobile Phone Whilst Driving (February 2022).
6. Details of National Roads Partnership campaigns that took place in 2021/22 can be found at [Tier 1 v1 - april to april 2021 - 2022 \(nationalfirechiefs.org.uk\)](https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/tier1v1).
7. The Task and Finish Group is working closely with Kent County Council to promote their Kent Biker website and sharing the necessary safety messages that it contains.
8. Due to the A2070 being part of the Strategic Road Network (and thus under the control of National Roads), some of the identified actions cannot be implemented. For example, Visual Messaging Signs cannot be located along this stretch, nor can the mobile speed camera vehicles operate, as there is insufficient space for them to be sited with the required safety barriers.

9. A report was presented to Ashford's Cabinet in December 2021 (minute 222 CA 161221 refers), which offered information on road safety and proposed a council policy on vehicle speed limits. Reference was also made in this report to the recent changes to the Highway Code and specifically the new Hierarchy of Road Users. The Cabinet agreed to support the introduction of lower speed limits where appropriate and gave support to KCC's Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy. The recommendations are provided in full at Appendix B for member's information.
10. Work is continuing to achieve the recommendations contained within this report including establishing a process to provide financial assistance to support the implementation of approved schemes.

Next Steps in Process

11. The Partners Action Plan will continue to be progressed by the Task and Finish group, focusing now on the promotion of Community Speedwatch in the surrounding areas of the A2070.
12. A day of action is being organised for April 2022. This will target the powered two-wheeler community. There will be high visibility for the Kent Roads Policing Team in and around the A2070.
13. Several agencies, including Kent Roads Policing Team, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and National Highways, will be attending high profile events such as Superbike events at Brands hatch. They will engage and promote safety messages, alongside explaining the impact that rider behaviour (fast acceleration and associated noise) can have on surrounding communities.

Conclusion

14. The Task and Finish group was established quickly, and the agencies involved have shown commitment to support and deliver the associated action plan. The agencies involved provide expert advice and knowledge on this subject and provide an opportunity to develop ideas for local action.

Contact and Email

15. Alison Oates
16. alison.oates@ashford.gov.uk – 01233 330225

APPENDIX A

TASK AND FINISH GROUP NUISANCE MOTOR VEHICLES IN AND AROUND A2070 Partners Action Plan

Position statement as of 10 February 2020

Ref.	Action	Responsible Agency	Target Date	Current Status	Progress
Engage and Explain					
1.	Develop a Communications Plan	Ashford Borough Council	10 Dec 2021	This communication plan has been completed by ABC communications team. The plan focuses on sharing the campaigns that are part of the National Roads Partnership Calendar.	Ongoing The Ashford Police Community Safety Unit is going to develop this aspect by sharing localised messages via "Community Voice". My Community Voice is a messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses,

					and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about the local area directly from the police officers themselves.
2.	Understand if visual messaging signs can be installed in the locations and what the process is for implementation (if applicable)	National Highways	9 Feb 2022	Visual messaging signs cannot be installed on the A2070 as there is insufficient space for them to be sited with the required safety barriers.	The group is exploring if signage can be placed notifying that marked/unmarked police cars patrol are patrolling in the area.
3.	Raise awareness of Kent Bikers website and safety information	Safer Roads for Kent Partnership	31 March 2033	KCC host this website and Safer Roads for Kent Partnership will work to promote this with the biker community.	
4.	Arrange multi-agency events at locations where bikers meet to engage and provide agency messages	All agencies	1 May 2022	Meeting being held in late February to plan day of action in April 2022.	
Encourage					
5.	Raise awareness of process to request changes to the roads	KCC National Highways ABC	1 April 2022	Ensuring that the processes are available on relevant agencies websites. Consider joint briefing document to Members	
6.	Promotion and education campaigns on distractions, drink/drug driving, seat belts and	All agencies	Throughout life of this plan	Ongoing	

	speeding.				
7.	Promote good driving/riding and considerate road use through Share the Road, Urban Road and Country Road campaigns.	All agencies	Throughout life of this plan	<p>Changes to the Highway code have been well promoted and shared with the public through numerous channels.</p> <p>KCC Vision Zero strategy is being promoted and ABC acting as a keen supporter of this. As per the ABC cabinet report, entitled "Vehicle Speed and Vision Zero" dated 16 December 2021</p>	As above. Changes to the Highway code
8.	Promote community Speedwatch (CSW) campaigns.	CSW co-ordinator for Kent Police Kingsnorth Parish Council Neighbourhood and residents forums	1 April 2022	Task and finish group Chair to contact the community speed watch coordinator to progress this action	
9.	Use of Community Speedwatch database to identify locations for focused activity.	CSW co-ordinator for Kent Police Kingsnorth Parish Council Neighbourhood and residents forums	1 April 2022	Task and finish group Chair to contact the community speed watch coordinator to progress this action	
Enforcement					
10.	Work with Police and Kent and Medway camera partnership to	Kent and Medway Camera	1 Feb 2022	The criteria is not meet for the placement of fixed	

	<p>understand if fixed and/or mobile camera enforcement is possible in the identified area of A2070 and surrounding roads.</p>	<p>Partnership National Highways</p>		<p>speed cameras.</p> <p>The mobile camera enforcement van cannot be sited due to the safety concerns as this is part of the SRN and no adequate location for it to be placed.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

APPENDIX B

CA
161221

222 Vehicle Speeds and Vision Zero

The Portfolio Holder introduced the report which presented information on road safety and proposed a Council policy on vehicle speed limits. It gave a commitment to support the introduction of lower speed limits where appropriate and took the opportunity to give support to KCC's Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy. Reference was also made to the recent changes to the Highway Code and specifically the new hierarchy of road users. It was accepted that such projects may need a small amount of monetary support and accordingly the Portfolio Holder proposed that a fund of up to £10k be made available from the Improvement Delivery Fund, to assist with supporting approved schemes (subject to a maximum of £2.5k per scheme). This would receive oversight from the Regeneration, Improvement and Infrastructure Co-ordination Board.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) proposals from Town, Community and Parish Councils to introduce lower speed limits in urban areas and villages where there is an identified demand for safer and vulnerable road users, be supported.**
 - (ii) the introduction of 30mph speed limits through all our villages that meet the relevant Department for Transport and Kent Highways criteria, be supported.**
 - (iii) the introduction of lower 20mph speed limits on the approach to certain rural villages wherever appropriate and where it meets the necessary road safety criteria, be supported.**
 - (iv) the introduction of 20mph speed limits on the approaches to, or in the vicinity of, schools wherever appropriate and where the circumstances meet the necessary road safety criteria, be supported.**
 - (v) the introduction of 20mph speed limits in areas where people and motorists meet or are in close proximity, e.g. the Ashford Shared Space arrangement, be supported.**
 - (vi) the KCC Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy be supported.**
 - (vii) the Council work with partner organisations to publicise the changes in the Highway Code and promote the new enhanced duty of care that road users owe to more vulnerable road users.**
 - (viii) £10,000 be made available from the Improvement Delivery Fund to assist supporting approved schemes (subject to a maximum of £2.5k per scheme). This to receive oversight from the Regeneration, Improvement and Infrastructure Co-ordination Board.**