

Agenda Item No:

Report To: Joint Transportation Board

Date of Meeting: 7 June 2022

Report Title: Nuisance motor vehicles in and around the A2070

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Job Title: Safety and Wellbeing Manager

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Peter Feacey

Portfolio Holder for: 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, forming and implementing an action plan was required. The actions were identified through partnership engagement, utilising the professional skills and knowledge of the group members.

This is the final report to present the group's work.

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.**

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Introduction and Background

1. Irresponsible and dangerous driving by specific 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 dangerous driving/riding and nuisance such as noise pollution. These concerns were raised by residents with their 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 established Group consists of representatives from Ashford Borough Council, Kent Police (Ashford Community Safety and Roads Policing), National Highways, and Safer Roads for Kent Partnership.
3. The Task and Finish group have formulated an action plan and meets regularly to assess progress. The plan is split into three distinct areas:
 - Engage and Explain
 - Encourage
 - Enforcement
4. The action plan is located in **Appendix A**.

Action Plan Progress

5. The action plan has been finalised and can be found in Appendix A, but the key areas of work are as follows:
6. Increased awareness of relevant National Roads Partnership campaigns such as the Alcohol and Drugs (December 2021), Using a Mobile Phone Whilst Driving (February 2022) and National 2 wheels operation (April 2022).
7. Details of National Roads Partnership campaigns in 2021/22 can be found at [Tier 1 v1 - April to April 2021 - 2022 \(nationalfirechiefs.org.uk\)](https://nationalfirechiefs.org.uk).
8. The Task and Finish Group worked closely with Kent County Council to promote their Kent Biker website and shared the necessary safety messages that it contains.
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. As part of this report, a process to provide financial assistance to support the implementation of approved schemes has been agreed upon. Information can be found on the Ashford Boroughs Council website. The recommendations are delivered in full in Appendix B for member information.

10. On 17 April 2022, the Kent Road Safety Unit deployed to OP Swift, which focused on engagement and enforcement with Motorcycles on the rural roads in the east of the county, mainly Ashford rural towards East Sussex. The operation crossed borders as the Sussex Road Safety Unit undertook similar work on the Kent/Sussex border.
11. At the start of the shift, two marked bikes attended the A249 bike location meet at Mickeys Diner; numerous riders were spoken to. Discussions were had with many riders promoting Bike Safe, and advice was given regarding number plates and exhausts. The same occurred in Rye later in the day, in which many of the riders had come from Kent.
12. Considerable time was spent on the A2070, whereby numerous cars and bikes were stopped. Some were given advice, warnings issued, and traffic offence reports (TORS). Time was then spent on the roads between Ashford and Rye with high visibility patrols. Static locations were maintained to act as a deterrent to any anti-social or reckless driving/riding.
13. Speed check sites on 17 April 2022
 - A20 Harrietsham
 - Barrow Hill Vet, Maidstone Road Ashford,
 - Maidstone Road Charing (thanked by local residents),
 - Appledore (thanked in person by the local parish counsellor)
 - Ashford Town Centre

These speed checks resulted in

- Traffic Offence Report (TOR) for speeding x 19
 - TOR for not wearing a Seat belt x 1
 - TOR for Exhaust related offence x 1
 - TOR for Number plate offence x 1
14. Several agencies, including Kent Roads Policing Team, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and National Highways, attended high-profile events such as Superbike events at Brands hatch. They engaged and promoted safety messages alongside explaining the impact that rider behaviour (fast acceleration and associated noise) can have on surrounding communities.
 15. 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 to be sited with the required safety barriers.

Next Steps in Process

16. The outstanding action is the promotion of Community Speedwatch in the surrounding areas of the A2070, which will be progressed by the Community Safety Unit and the Community Speedwatch Coordinator.

Conclusion

17. 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 provided expert advice and knowledge on this subject and provided an opportunity for focused activity on this road.
18. It is important to emphasise that this work will not stop the issues raised in September 2021. However, it is hoped that the activity has educated drivers and riders that use this road. It has provided agencies with the opportunities to review their tools and powers and work together and plan multi-agency events, which will continue past the date of this report. Processes have been established to share relevant safety messages and be able to engage with road users.

Contact and Email

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APPENDIX A

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

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.	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Community Safety Partnership has developed this aspect by sharing localised messages via “Community Voice” and Ashford Borough Council media channels and encouraging partners to share relevant messaging.</p> <p>My Community Voice is a messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to</p>

					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.	Cannot be completed as per current status update.
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.	Completed This forms part of the communications plan as detailed in point 1.
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.	Completed Held on 17 April 2022. Outcome report held shared as part of JTB report, June 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 agency's websites. Consider joint briefing document to Members.	Completed This has been achieved through the Cabinet report reference Vision Zero (ABC Cabinet

					December 2021)
6.	Promotion and education campaigns on distractions, drink/drug driving, seat belts and speeding.	All agencies	Throughout life of this plan	Ongoing	Completed This forms part of the communications plan as detailed in point 1.
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	Changes to the Highway code have been well promoted and shared with the public through numerous channels. 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	Completed as per progress update.
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	Ongoing
9.	Use of Community Speedwatch database to identify locations for focused activity.	CSW co-ordinator for Kent Police Kingsnorth Parish Council Neighbourhood	1 April 2022	Task and finish group Chair to contact the community speed watch coordinator to progress this action	Ongoing

		and residents forums			
Enforcement					
10.	Work with Police and Kent and Medway camera partnership to understand if fixed and/or mobile camera enforcement is possible in the identified area of A2070 and surrounding roads.	Kent and Medway Camera Partnership National Highways	1 Feb 2022	The criteria is not met for the placement of fixed speed cameras. The mobile camera enforcement van cannot be sited due to safety concerns as this is part of the SRN and no adequate location for it to be placed.	Cannot be completed as per the current status update.

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.**