

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SURVEY RESPONSE 2020/21

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A substantial number of new houses are being planned/built with an inadequate number of 'off-road' parking spaces. The formula used by KCC highways does not make sufficient allowance for vehicles owned by other family members or for the parking of business vehicles. Consequently, these end up being parked on nearby roads.

The degree of 'on road' parking has reduced the width of many roads in rural towns and villages in East Kent, such that many are now effectively single track-roads. This makes it very difficult for drivers and cyclists to negotiate the road safely (e.g. Preston Hill).

The continued growth in new housing developments has led to more roads being closed to vehicles, dug up and simply patched over to enable the installation of utilities.

Also the continued policy of installing utilities under the road surface has led to a much greater level of travel disruption due to KCC closing more roads for longer periods of time. Given the already inadequate road network in East Kent this has caused long detours for motorists, leading to increased travel time and extra fuel costs. It is time that KCC thought outside the box and came up future plans that avoids putting any utilities under the roads at all.

The gross lack of planned new major highways in East Kent is shameful given the huge increase being forced upon us in terms of housing stock. We now have two successful and growing universities. Vehicles of all types are becoming wider, longer and taller whilst the rural road network hasn't changed for 30-50 years and is no longer fit for purpose.

The current maintenance of potholes is completely inadequate. Poor quality repairs are attempted usually in poor weather conditions with poor quality material. Potholes are not even cleared of rainwater first. It takes less than 3 weeks for the gravel to spill out of the newly filled pothole. It is without doubt a waste of public money.

Footpaths are already limited in our village, meaning that residents have to take their lives in their own hands when walking along the main road with no physical barrier to separate them from the traffic. These 'virtual walkways' have to be used by residents when trying to reach the shops or the school. To make matters worse the 'virtual footway' is in poor condition is poorly marked, and its purpose is not made sufficiently obvious to vehicle drivers.

In addition, DDC planners are increasingly approving plans to allow more houses to be built along The Street resulting in the removal of more of the 'safe' footpaths we have left.

Road safety is a big issue for the many children, elderly and disabled people who live in our village. A recent survey showed a high volume of speeding traffic especially during peak times. These people need more time to cross the main road and there are no crossing places that enable them to reach the village shop in safety. We need a pedestrian crossing.