

Report for July 2024 Full Council Agenda Item 14.2: Development Issues

Overview

This report provides an update on two key issues raised by the councillors: the installation of a gate on Burgess Road to access the development and the ongoing concerns regarding the Connect Bus Service.

1. Gate on Burgess Road

Background:

- Initially understood as a temporary measure to facilitate access during development.
- Uncertainties have arisen regarding its purpose, duration, and necessity of planning permission.

Recent Developments:

- The council inquired if planning permission was required for the gate during the June meeting.
- During discussion with Vicky Scott and Officers on 24th June, it was noted that developers would need permission from the Dover District Council, which has not yet been obtained.

We have since raised the following:

- Councillors are keen on a site visit for a better understanding.
- Awaiting further clarification from DDC Officer Vicky Scott on the following points:

- The exact purpose of the gate.

Response: The area behind the gate was the original location for the site office. Once on site the Site Manager decided to move the Site Office to a more central location within the compound.

A few months ago, BDW asked DDC if they could create a secondary access road to dwellings in Parcel 4 via this gate as the dwellings in this parcel are progressively occupied. A temporary road is the aspect BDW would require planning permission for. As far as I'm aware BDW do not intend to submit a planning application.

- The extent of its use.

Response: The gate is not in use.

- The intended duration of the gate's presence.

Response: The gate is likely to remain in place for the duration of the project.

- Will large vehicles use this gate, impacting the approaching streets?

Response: No

- We are concerned that there is potential for the entrance to be a main access point to the show homes, as advertised on a large billboard on Dorman Avenue North, raising traffic concerns on residential streets leading up to Burgess Road.

Response: This is not the main access point to the show homes.

2. Bus Service Concerns

Background:

- Ongoing issues with the CONNECT bus service and concerns were raised at the June meeting.
- Officers were updated that 2 out of 3 busses had mechanical issues with their doors. We were advised that the delay in reinstating the busses was due to the parts taking a while to receive. The parts had arrived as of 13th June 2024 and the busses were due to be repaired imminently, which we believe to have now happened.

Recent Developments:

- Officers have invited Operations Manager Louise Sills and Christopher Webber from Dover and Canterbury to discuss these issues.
- Both have accepted the invitation to the upcoming committee meeting.

Responses:

- Louise Sills has acknowledged residents' concerns, particularly around the Connect service, and will provide an update as the service has now been active for 1 year.
- She also mentioned they would address any questions regarding the 89 bus service.

We have combined the discussions on Connect and regular bus services into one meeting for efficiency.

N Purcell

Deputy Officer

July 2024 Full Council Agenda Item 15.1 Highways Improvement Plan

Introduction

This report provides an update on the ongoing considerations and developments regarding the potential inclusion of Cornwallis Avenue into the 20mph speed limit scheme, as per the HIP.

Feasibility of Inclusion in 20mph Speed Limit Scheme

Following a thorough assessment by our traffic management team, it has been determined that including Cornwallis Avenue in the 20mph speed limit scheme is feasible. This determination is based on an analysis of traffic patterns, speed data, and the physical characteristics of the road.

Cost Estimation

We have requested an outline of the estimated costs required to implement the 20mph speed limit on Cornwallis Avenue. This cost estimate will include the Traffic Regulation Order, Design & Delivery and the Civil Works (signage, road markings, and any additional traffic calming measures deemed necessary to ensure compliance and enhance road safety.)

Speed Hump Specifications

The Design & Delivery team has been consulted to identify the appropriate type of speed hump for Cornwallis Avenue. We are currently awaiting detailed feedback on this matter.

Public Consultation

To ensure community support and address any concerns, it is recommended that we commence public consultation engagement as soon as we receive information regarding the speed humps. This consultation will involve:

1. **Informing Residents:** Providing detailed information about the proposed changes, including the benefits of the 20mph speed limit and the specific types of speed humps to be used.
2. **Collecting Feedback:** Engaging with the community to gather feedback, address concerns, and incorporate suggestions where feasible.
3. **Finalising Plans:** Using the feedback from the public consultation to finalise the implementation plans.

N Purcell

Deputy Officer