

Swale Joint Transportation Board
25th June 2007

Agenda Item 4 - Public Session
Raised in relation to Item 21
Progress update, where A251 is
referred to on page 2.

Sheldwich, Badlesmere & Leaveland Parish Council



Mrs J. Gee
Parish Clerk,
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Hernhill,
Faversham,
Kent.
ME13 9 HY
01227 750652

Revd A. Skinner,
Chairman,
Brucklay,
Badlesmere Lees,
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6th June 2007.
Karen Walthan,
Senior Democratic Services Officer,
Swale House,
East Street,
Sittingbourne,
Kent.
ME10 HT3

Dear Ms Walthan,

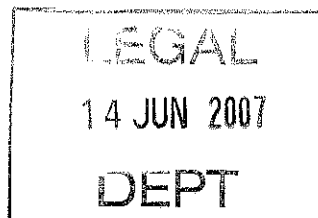
It was confirmed by Councillor George Bobbin at the Parish Council meeting held last night that the speed limit proposals on the A251 will be an agenda item at the joint Transportation meeting on 25th June 2007.

It was resolved that the following questions will be asked during the public question time.

1. When will work start on the 40/50 mph limit, the placement of interactive signs and road markings on the A251, as agreed with Mr M. Sammut at the meeting held on 21st February 2007?
2. To date, why have the Parish Council and local residents received no acknowledgement or response to communications addressed to Mr Sammut, Senior Transportation Engineer Kent Highway Services about the proposals to reduce speeds on the A251?

Yours faithfully,

J. Gee
Clerk.



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JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent. ME10 3HT

Tuesday, 12 June 2007

Dear Sirs

JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

MEETING – 25TH JUNE AT SWALE HOUSE – A251 ROAD

We are residents of the small parish of Leaveland and Badlesmere, and we write to express our utmost concerns over the level and speed of traffic now using the very busy A251 road between Faversham and Ashford. We personally have lived in the parish since the early 1990's and we have noticed the increased traffic that is now using the A251 as well as with more traffic now using our small single track country lane, Bagshill Road.

The increase in traffic has noticeably been increasing year on year, in particular large HGV lorries, since the new signage at junction 9 on the M20 now refers to the A251 as a route to Faversham and the M2 and now pushes traffic through the new housing estate between the Ashford Cinema and Eastwell Manor to join the A251

The speed of the traffic is now an extreme concern to us, and is evidenced by the three or four accidents that have occurred in a period of six to nine months at the junction of our Bagshill Road and the A251, which is a very nasty blind "S" bend. Thankfully, there have been no fatalities at this junction but at least two cars have ended up on their roofs nearly missing the house that resides at the corner of Bagshill Road and the A251.

Many residents who have to access the A251 from Bagshill Road will turn left out and then make a "U" turn in Dayton Road to avoid turning directly right onto the A251 as you can not see the traffic and conversely when approaching Bagshill Road from the Faversham drive past Bagshill Road and make a "U" turn in Workhouse Road leading to Leaveland Court.

Finally, I would like to add that the general state of the road on the A251 is getting worse each year:

1. Lorries eroding the hedgerow banks on the narrower sections and thus artificially making the road wider
2. With heavy rain the driving conditions on the road can become very dangerous with a lot of surface water containing mud and debris from the damaged hedgerow
3. The storm drains, of those that are working, can no longer cope with the rain
4. There are permanently damaged and extremely sunken storm drains along the whole length of the A251, and has caused myself to have many punctures and to replace broken suspension arms on two of my personal cars. I can attribute the broken suspension to the A251 as my family does less than 8000 miles per annum and travel the A251 daily

Before there is a serious multi-fatality, we kindly urge the relevant authorities to take immediate action to reduce the speed and introduce some form of traffic calming and most importantly upgrade the road surface and drainage along the length of the A251

Yours sincerely

Graham John Mabb and Nicola Fawcett

CC: Parish Council and Kent Highways