

PUBLIC SESSION

Members of the public have the opportunity to speak at this meeting. Anyone wishing to present a petition or speak on this item is required to register with the Democratic Services Section by noon on the last working day before the meeting. Questions that have not been submitted by this deadline will not be accepted. Only two people will be allowed to speak on each item and each person is limited to asking two questions. Each speaker will have a maximum of three minutes to speak.

Petitions, questions and statements will only be accepted if they are in relation to an item being considered at this meeting.

Questions/statements received as of 10th December 2009

Item 15 – Petition Received from Bobbing Parish Council – Pedestrian Crossing Key Street Sittingbourne

The report indicates that any highway improvement has to be submitted for funding through the Council's assessment process, normally assessed on whether there is a pattern of personal injury crashes occurring at any particular location. Analysis of the last three year Personal Injury Crash database shows no personal injury crashes involving pedestrians at this roundabout.

I would like to submit the following question/statement:

Has any member present tried manoeuvring around Key Street roundabout Monday to Friday between the hours of 08:00 and 08:30 or indeed after 5pm? The volume of traffic is horrendous and whilst not surprised that there are no recorded incidents involving pedestrians, as it too darn dangerous to try and cross! Pedestrians generally steer clear. Would be interested to see if there is a database for RTA's or near misses?

Has there been any analysis of volume of traffic at peak times at this site as it is an accident waiting to happen both morning and evening. Constant flow of traffic off the A249, most of it headed down Key Street into town, sometimes going into two or three lanes!

My family live in Newington and we generally join the queue in the morning somewhere on Keycol Hill, on a bad day at Boyces Hill, occasionally outside of the (formerly named Newington) nursing home. The school run is less than four miles but can take any where between 30 & 90 minutes, with the bulk of the time stationary at Key St. Everyday is a challenge and nearly always observe some very near misses between HGV/cars/motorcycles.

Surely this is case for some form of traffic analysis at both morning and evening peak times with a view to installing traffic lights to regulate flow, as

with the roundabout more commonly referred to as Tesco's roundabout in Twydall.

With the installation of a traffic management system, this would aid pedestrian crossing safely and perhaps encourage more people to walk or cycle to work/school which they won't do now because of the horrendous traffic.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the meeting, very likely to be stuck in traffic attempting to manoeuvre around Key St roundabout on my way home!

Many thanks,

Malcolm Hewson

Leysdown Parish Councillors would like to put the following to the JTB at their meeting on 14 December 2009.

Statement

Agenda Item 22) Leysdown Parish Council fully supports the excellent report produced by Cllr P Macdonald, and also the views of Minster Parish Council as circulated to Andrew Rourke on 3 December. Leysdown Parish Council was disgusted that no consideration for tourism was made in the KHS assessments of whether to return the B2231 to an A-road. Leysdown Parish Council believes that this further demonstrates that those producing the report have a complete lack of understanding of a) the local needs of road-users and b) the main sources of employment and industry on the Island.

When the A250 was changed to the B2231, the Parish Council was told there was no difference between A and B roads and believes they were mis-led, as clearly there is a very big difference otherwise the reinstatement would have taken place already. Leysdown Parish Council concludes that money was at the heart of this decision, not the needs of service-users, and urges KHS to take on board the local advice and information offered by Cllr Macdonald and the four Parish Councils committed to pursuing issues relating to the B2231.

Question

It has been noticed that cars are routinely driving round buses collecting school children at the bus stops in Leysdown Road, Bay View. The cars are driving around the parked buses and the pedestrian island, therefore driving on the wrong side of the road. There is concern that this could cause a serious accident particularly during school collection and dropping off times. The Parish Council has already asked the local police to monitor the site. It is the Parish Council's view that the island needs to be moved away from the bus stop to prevent this broad over-taking. Could the JTB arrange to monitor the site and suggest how this could be improved?

We look forward to the response of the Swale JTB on the above.