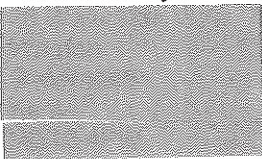




Mr DH Henley



KCC Highways and Transportation
Aylesford Highway Depot
St Michael's Close
Aylesford
Kent ME20 7BU

Email: alan.blackburn@kent.gov.uk
Telephone: 08458 247800
Ask for: Alan Blackburn
Our ref: 15802721
Date: 20 January 2012

Dear Mr Henley,

Highways at the junction of Warden Bay Road and B2231 Leysdown Road

I refer to your letter dated 18th November 2011 which was passed to KCC Highways at the Swale Joint Transportation Board meeting of 12th December 2011. I attended a site meeting on 1st December and noted three sections of footway that were badly damaged in areas quite close to the school entrance. The repairs to these areas, around 35 sq metres in total, were carried out during the following week. However, the footways will need to be fully resurfaced when the contractors that are working there have finished, and it is our intention to carry out this additional work before the end of March. At the site meeting, it was also noted that the vegetation that is growing in the strip between the back of the footway and the fence line had become rather overgrown – this has since been trimmed back.

A package of off-site highway works was proposed as part of the original planning application. This was accepted by KCC Highways as being suitable to accommodate the creation of a school at this location, and is in the process of being implemented. The package included an improvement to the layby facilities opposite to cater for school traffic, the provision of a suitable crossing point to enable users to cross Leysdown Road in a safe manner, together with school warning signs and flashing speed indicator signs. The proposals did not include a reduction in speed limit to 30mph outside the school, as the road environment does not lend itself to a 30mph restriction. This viewpoint is supported by Kent Police. They have advised that they would formally object to any proposals to lower the speed limit, and have expressed concern that an extension to the 30mph limit would lessen the impact of the current gateway into Leysdown, leading to higher vehicle speeds within the village itself.

In view of substantial Government cut backs in funding, KCC Highways' priorities are currently focussed entirely on funding highway improvements designed to remedy issues that have contributed to people being injured in road traffic accidents in the last three years. This stretch of road has had a relatively good safety record, and this means we cannot justify any highway improvements for the foreseeable future. Therefore in view of this and the lack of support from Kent Police, we will not be able to meet your request for a lower speed limit.

Yours sincerely

Alan Blackburn, District Manager (Swale)

