

To: Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board
By: KCC Highways, Transportation & Waste
Date: 8th March 2022
Subject: Update regarding the petition for a 20 mph speed limit in central Sevenoaks
Classification: Information Only

Summary: KCC shall produce a 'red line' plan outlining the extents of a proposed Sevenoaks town-wide 20 mph, in preparation for a full KCC Corporate Consultation (date TBC). A 20 mph working group shall also be set-up for this project.

Update

As reported previously at the December 2021 JTB meeting, an initial assessment in terms of feasibility and suitability has been made in response to the petition for a 20 mph speed limit in Central Sevenoaks.

We acknowledge that requests for 20 mph speed limits and zones are becoming ever more popular and as such, Kent County Council have recently completed two studies of the town-wide 20 mph speed limits at Faversham and Tonbridge, the findings of which have now been published on our website:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/faversham20mph>

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/tonbridge20mph>

The results of these studies indicate that whilst 20 mph speed limits on residential roads are generally well-observed, this is not so often the case on arterial and distributor roads. 20 mph speed limits and zones should be designed to be self-enforcing. In the case of the Tonbridge town-wide 20 mph trial, the decision has since been taken to revert some roads back to 30 mph.

With the above in mind, KCC officers met with Cllr Streatfeild before Christmas 2021 and suggested that whilst the 20 mph extents proposed by the petition are a good starting point, there is scope to widen our considerations to a greater area. We're currently now in the process of preparing a brief for one of our in-house consultants to take this project forward. They are part of the active travel focused team which helped deliver the town-wide 20 mph in Faversham and Tonbridge, in addition to other recent 20 mph speed limits which have been successfully implemented in Westerham and Larkfield. As such, they are well-placed to lead on developing the Sevenoaks town-wide 20 mph scheme.

Next steps (anticipated March 2022):

- Produce a 'red line' plan outlining the proposed extents for a proposed Sevenoaks town-wide 20 mph speed limit, in preparation for a full KCC Corporate Consultation (date TBC)
- Set-up a Sevenoaks town-wide 20 mph working group

Conclusion

This report is for Members' information.

Contact Officers: Paul Leary, Schemes Programme Manager (West Kent) / **03000 418181**