

## Working Group Terms of Reference

Kent County Council (KCC) is reviewing the feedback received to date and working with the community to understand the issues emerging as a result of our Active Travel scheme in Herne Bay.

KCC's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Neil Baker, has committed to ensuring a working group is established and would also like to ensure additional information about the scheme origins and governance is available to the local community.

### **The working group terms of reference**

A working group has been established. Its purpose is to hear from a range of community leaders to understand the details around the concerns raised at public meetings and via the petition. Officers want to hear more about the specific elements of the scheme causing concern so we can address them where possible.

The scheme's original objectives were to improve the connectivity between the town and railway station and the pier for all users, especially those who walk and cycle. Additionally, the removal of through traffic from Central Parade would reduce the level of motorised traffic to improve links between the town and seafront. Our aim is to not only improve safety around the seafront and encourage more trips to be made by walking and cycling, but also provide a direct safe link between the railway station and the pier.

In light of the responses to the scheme after the public consultation took place we would like to ensure we have fully considered all parts of the community and all those residents and visitors that may use the scheme.

In the working group meetings, KCC and Canterbury City Council (CCC) officers will recap the purpose and objectives of the scheme. KCC will share all its designs and the monitoring and evaluation plans and listen to the concerns raised.

For the purposes of this meeting the scheme is defined as:

- 1) The new pedestrian and cycle way from the railway station to the park;
- 2) Improvements to cycling signage and infrastructure through the park, along Richmond Street, to the pier;
- 3) The partial road closure on Central Parade and the associated one-way traffic restrictions on Pier Avenue, St Georges Terrace, Dolphin Street and Telford Street;

# Herne Bay Active Travel Scheme

## Railway station to Central Parade



4) The introduction of a 20mph speed limit around the town.

Representatives at the group are:

- David Cain (local businessman)
- Sallyann Baxter lead petitioner 'reconsider the Plaza' petition
- Sheila Appleton; president of the Boccia (disability sports) group in Herne Bay
- Andrew Paterson-Watson (young family rep)
- Martin Head (cycling rep)
- Local resident with events & tourism expertise (chosen to remain anonymous)

There will also be elected members and Highways officers joining the group, consisting of:

- Dan Watkins KCC Conservative Member
- Cllr Tom Mellish (Labour CCC councillor)
- Cllr Chris Cornell (Labour CCC councillor)
- Officer Nikola Floodgate (KCC)
- Officer Jamie Watson (KCC)
- Officer Ruth Goudie (CCC)

### **Number and format of meetings**

The scheme is due to be fully completed by the end of February 2024. The first meeting took place on 13<sup>th</sup> March. The subsequent meeting dates are still to be confirmed.

We plan to review the findings of the working group and any agreed recommendations will be passed to KCC's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for consideration. Any findings would need to be considered in the context of the Road Safety Audit that will take place after the scheme is fully complete.