

Deal Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent, CT14 6TR. 01304 361999 - deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk - www.deal.gov.uk

To all Committee Members: You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee at the Town Hall on **Wednesday 15**th **May 2024** at 7.15pm to transact the business shown on the agenda below.

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

Any member of the public may submit a written statement of no more than 500 words relating to any item on this agenda. These must be received by 10am on Tuesday 14th May 2024 by email to deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk or post to the above address. These statements will be circulated to all present at the meeting and become part of the public record of the meeting, names will be redacted.

Laura Marney – Committee Clerk

Date: 9th May 2024

AGENDA

1	Chairperson's opening remarks	Chairpersor
2	Apologies for absence	Committee Clerk
3	Declarations of interest: To receive any declarations of interest from Members in respect of business to be transacted on the agenda.	Attach 1
4	Public Participation and Statements received: For councillor information: Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at the meeting in respect of the business on the agenda. This shall not exceed 15 minutes.	
5	The minutes of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 th March 2024 for approval and signing: Decision required.	Attach 2
6	HIP 2 nd Application: Decision required.	Attach 3
7	Transport for the South East Survey: Decision required.	Attach 4
8	Southeastern Asset Management Questionnaire: Decision required.	Attach 5
9	Correspondence rec'd – Beauchamp Avenue: Decision required	Attach 6
10	Best Foot Forward Project Update: Information to note.	Attach 7
11	Deal Station Accessibility Project Update: Information to note.	Attach 8
12	Committee Clerk Report: Information to note.	Attach 9
	Date of next meeting: 17 th July 2024.	

Filming and audio recording of Town Council meetings, by representatives of the media and also by members of the public using small media tools, is permitted. Please refer to the council's protocol for recording of meetings for guidance, available to download on www.deal.gov.uk or on request.

Committee members: Cllr Bano, Cllr Walters, Cllr Bond, Cllr D Cronk, Cllr Eddy, Cllr Parks, Cllr Jull, Cllr Brookfield and Mrs C Dubber.

Declarations of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

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The Minutes of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at Deal Town Hall.

Present:

Cllr B Bano (Chairperson)

Cllr M Walters (Vice Chairperson)

Clir P Juli

Cllr M Eddy

Cllr D Parks

Mrs C Dubber (Co-opted)

Officers:

Mrs L Marney (Committee Clerk)

Other: 1 Member of the public

Ms J Harper (Asst to the Town Clerk)

MINUTES

1	Chairman's opening remarks: The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the fire evacuation procedures.	Chairperson
2	Apologies for absence : Cllr S Brookfield due to prior commitment. Cllr T Bond and Cllr D Cronk were absent.	Committee Clerk
3	Declarations of interest: Cllr M Walters declared a VAOI for item 10 Dossett Court as he is a resident.	
4	Public Participation and Statements received: A member of the public asked a question about street naming and was advised to write to the Committee Clerk as the item was not on the agenda.	Committee Clerk
5	The minutes of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17 th January 2024 for approval and signing: Members RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17 th January 2024. (P) Cllr D Parks (S) Cllr M Walters. All Agreed. The Chairperson duly signed the minutes.	Chairperson
3	Permanent Pedestrianisation of the North End of Deal High Street: Members RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council that, based upon	Committee Clerk
	the 'several crucial points and factors that may have an impact on the effectiveness and public support of a Pedestrianisation' as raised by KCC, a scheme for the permanent Pedestrianisation of the North part of the High Street is not viable at this time and to close this Town Plan action. The Chairman thanked the Committee Clerk for all her work. (P) Cllr D Parks (S) Cllr M Eddy. All Agreed.	
	Mill Hill Accessibility Report: Members RESOLVED: To add all 3 locations to the Mill Hill/Middle Deal Accessibility Report. 1. Mill Hill/Manor Road Junction 2. Hamilton Road/Mill Road Junction by the Co-Op.	Committee Clerk
	3. Milldale Close (Off Mill Road) (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr M Walters. All Agreed.	
3	HIP 2 nd Draft Update: Following discussion Members RESOLVED: To add the following suggestion to the 2 nd draft of the Highways Improvement Plan:	Committee Clerk
	Improve the dropped kerb at the junction of Duke Street and the High Street. (P) Cllr D Parks (S) Cllr M Eddy. All Agreed.	

	 To request Kent Highways to do a survey of the traffic flow at the bottom of Rectory Road/Upper Deal Roundabout to see if traffic flow and sightlines could be improved. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr D Parks. 4 For, 1 Against. Motion carried. 	
	Members also RESOLVED: To remove Deal Castle Crossing from the existing 2nd HIP as it is being dealt with by KCC and English Heritage. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr P Jull. 3 For, 1 Against, 1 abstention. Motion carried.	
9	Ranelagh Road – Speed survey Results: Following discussion Members RESOLVED: The Committee Clerk to write to the residents of Ranelagh Road to advise them of the results of the Speed Survey. (P) Cllr P Jull (S) Cllr M Eddy. All Agreed.	Committee Clerk
10	Dossett court – Bus Stop Request: Members RESOLVED: The Chairperson to write to KCC requesting the graffitied sign outside 17 St Richards Road be replaced with a new bus stop sign. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr D Parks. All Agreed.	Chairperson
11	Correspondence Received – St Richards Road: Following discussion Members RESOLVED: The Chairperson writes to KCC requesting bollards be installed at relevant points, to repair the traffic calming humps and repaint the yellow lines. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr D Parks. All Agreed.	Chairperson
12	DDC Parking Charges: Members RESOLVED: To note the DDC Parking Charges which take effect from 1st April 2024. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr M Walters. All Agreed.	
13	Committee Clerk Report: The Clerk gave an update on the Deal Station improvements and advised that a celebration would be planned when the snagging is complete. Members RESOLVED: To note the report. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr D Parks. All Agreed.	
	The Chairperson closed the meeting at 20.17pm.	

To: Cllr B Bano, Chairman of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee; Members of the

Transport & Infrastructure Committee

From: Mrs L Marney - Committee Clerk & Mr P Bone - Deputy Town Clerk

Date: 26th April 2024

Subject: Highways Improvement Plan – 2nd Draft Application

Deal Town Council submitted its first Highways Improvement Plan application in May 2023 to the East Highways Improvement Team at Kent County Council.

The HIP can only be submitted once per year, on the anniversary of the first submission.

Ideally the HIP will have no more than 10 items on it and will be sent in priority order.

KCC has a small amount of money that can be allocated towards these projects each year, but some money is likely to be required from DTC to support these projects. KCC will advise of any costs following submission of the HIP before proceeding with that priority.

The second HIP application was bought back to the T&I Committee in November 2023 for suggestions, and following discussions at the last 3 T&I Committee meetings the **attached report** has been collated ready for submission to the Kent County Council East Highways Improvement Team for their consideration.

Recommendations:

- 1) Committee to include any final suggestions that they want added to the 2nd HIP application before submission to the KCC EHI Team.
- 2) Committee to agree to the attached 2nd HIP application and to delegate authority to the Deputy Town Clerk and Committee Clerk to submit this to the KCC EHI Team.
- 3) Committee Clerk to bring back DTC's 3rd HIP application for Committee suggestions to the November meeting.

Decision required:

Members to consider the above recommendations.

Highways Improvement Plan 2nd Draft -May 2024

HIGHW,	HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN – Stage 1	Stage 1	ACTION PLAN – Stage 2	N – Stage 2		*
Priority	Location	Problem and suggested remedy	Cost Estimate	Funding	Action/Programme (Who/When)	
ti .	Hamilton Road/Mill Road Junction by Co-op Supermarket	No Crossing point on any part of this busy junction. Install a crossing at safest location for school children and people with mobility issues.		KCC		
2.	Bottom of Rectory Road/Upper Deal roundabout	Request a survey at this location to see if traffic flow and sightlines could be improved.		KCC		
ĸi.	Sondes Road (Nr Seafront)	No crossing point for pedestrians. Install a pedestrian crossing – located by Time Ball Tower as near to Sondes Rd as possible		KCC		
4.	St Richard's Road	No crossing point for pedestrians. Install a pedestrian crossing – located between 227 St Richards Rd by Doctors Surgery & St Marys RC Primary School on St Richards Rd.		KCC		
5.	Mill Hill/Manor Road Junction	No Crossing point on any part of this busy junction. Install a crossing at safest location for people with mobility issues.		KCC		
9.	Duke Street/High Street	This drop kerb is in bad need of repair and dangerous for pedestrians and could damage wheelchairs for people with mobility issues.		KCC		
7.	Milldale Close (off Mill Road)	This drop kerb is in bad need of repair and dangerous for pedestrians and could damage wheelchairs for people with mobility issues.		KCC		

To: Cllr Ben Bano, Chairperson of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee; Members of

the Transport & Infrastructure Committee

From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk

Date: 1st May 2024

Subject: Transport for the South East Survey

Transport for the South East (TfSE) is a sub-national transport body bringing together a partnership primarily of 16 local authorities across the region. Their purpose is to determine the investment needed in the transport system to connect people and places and support economic growth across the South East. As well as local transport authorities they also represent district, borough, town, parish and community council. Kent County Council is the main partner in relation to our area with one of the councillors sitting on this Partnership Board.

Transport for the South East (TfSE), is asking people to take part in their 'Your Voices' survey and submit views on the future transport needs of the region.

Deal Town Council is being asked to take part in the online survey where there are questions about transport-related issues such as accessibility and affordability. Participants can also share their experiences regarding congestion, noise pollution, air quality, road safety, public transport, personal safety, and walking and cycling routes.

The full Transport for the South East Survey can be found using the following link: https://tfse.engage-360.co.uk/

The priority questions from their survey are as follows:

1. How would you rank these three themes in order of priority? (Please rank from 1 to 3 with 1 being top priority.

Economic: Improve productivity and attract investment to grow our economy and better complete in the global marketplace.

Social: Improve Health, safety, wellbeing, quality of lift, and access to opportunities for everyone. **Environmental:** Protect and enhance the South East's unique natural and historic environment.

2. Compared to 5 years ago, would you say the following economic priorities are now more or less important to you?

Better connections to major destinations and international gateways such as airports, rail stations and ports – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

More reliable journeys to major destinations and internation gateways such as airport, rail stations and ports – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

A transport network more resilient to incidents, extreme weather and impacts of a changing climate – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

More joined up thinking between new transport infrastructure and meeting the needs of housing and employment – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

A smart transport network, that uses digital technology to manage transport demand, and improve user experience – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

3. Compared to 5 years ago, would you say the following environment priorities are now more of less important to you?

A reduction in carbon emissions to net zero, and efforts to minimise the contribution to transport to climate change – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

A reduction in the need to travel, particularly by private car, to reduce the impact of transport on people and the environment – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

A transport network that increasingly protects and enhances our natural, built and historic environments – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

Improve biodiversity as part of new infrastructure schemes, going above replacing any lost when it was built – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

Minimisation of transport's consumption of resources and energy – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

4. Compared to 5 years ago, would you say that following social priorities are now more of less important to you?

Improved air quality supported by initiatives to reduce congestion and encourage use of public transport – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

An affordable and accessible transport network that reduces barriers to employment, learning and leisure activity – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

An integrated transport network, making it simpler to plan and pay for journeys and change between different forms of transport – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

A safe transport network with no fatalities or serious injuries amongst transport users and workers – choose one of the following:

Much more important/More important/No Change/Less important/Much less important/Don't know.

5. How often do you use each of the following methods of travel?

Walk - choose one of the following

Everyday or nearly everyday/2 to 5 days a week/Once a week/Less often but at least once a month/Less than once a month/Never.

Bicycle or E-Bike – choose one of the following:

Everyday or nearly everyday/2 to 5 days a week/Once a week/Less often but at least once a month/Less than once a month/Never.

Bus - choose one of the following:

Everyday or nearly everyday/2 to 5 days a week/Once a week/Less often but at least once a month/Less than once a month/Never.

Car or Van as a driver - choose one of the following:

Everyday or nearly everyday/2 to 5 days a week/Once a week/Less often but at least once a month/Less than once a month/Never.

Car or Van as a passenger – choose one of the following:

Everyday or nearly everyday/2 to 5 days a week/Once a week/Less often but at least once a month/Less than once a month/Never.

Motorcycle or Moped – choose one of the following:

Everyday or nearly everyday/2 to 5 days a week/Once a week/Less often but at least once a month/Less than once a month/Never.

Wheelchair or Mobility Aid - choose one of the following:

Everyday or nearly everyday/2 to 5 days a week/Once a week/Less often but at least once a month/Less than once a month/Never.

Taxi or private hire vehicle – choose one of the following:

Everyday or nearly everyday/2 to 5 days a week/Once a week/Less often but at least once a month/Less than once a month/Never.

Train – choose one of the following:

Everyday or nearly everyday/2 to 5 days a week/Once a week/Less often but at least once a month/Less than once a month/Never.

6. How concerned are you about having each of the following in your local area?

Traffic Congestion – choose one of the following:

Extremely concerned/Moderately concerned/Somewhat concerned/Slightly concerned/Not at all concerned/Don't know.

Journey times – choose one of the following:

Extremely concerned/Moderately concerned/Somewhat concerned/Slightly concerned/Not at all concerned/Don't know.

Air Pollution – choose one of the following:

Extremely concerned/Moderately concerned/Somewhat concerned/Slightly concerned/Not at all concerned/Don't know.

Noise Pollution - choose one of the following:

Extremely concerned/Moderately concerned/Somewhat concerned/Slightly concerned/Not at all concerned/Don't know.

Road safety - choose one of the following:

Extremely concerned/Moderately concerned/Somewhat concerned/Slightly concerned/Not at all concerned/Don't know.

Personal safety – choose one of the following:

Extremely concerned/Moderately concerned/Somewhat concerned/Slightly concerned/Not at all concerned/Don't know.

Quality of Transport - choose one of the following:

Extremely concerned/Moderately concerned/Somewhat concerned/Slightly concerned/Not at all concerned/Don't know.

Quality of walking and cycling routes

Extremely concerned/Moderately concerned/Somewhat concerned/Slightly concerned/Not at all concerned/Don't know.

7. To what extent do you agree authorities should act in local areas to:

Reduce Traffic Congestion – choose one of the following:

Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree or disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree/Don't know.

Improve Air Quality – choose one of the following:

Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree or disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree/Don't know.

Reduce Traffic Noise - choose one of the following:

Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree or disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree/Don't know.

Improve road safety – choose one of the following:

Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree or disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree/Don't know.

Improve public transport - choose one of the following:

Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree or disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree/Don't know.

Improve local walking and cycling routes – choose one of the following:

Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree or disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree/Don't know.

8. How aware are you of Transport for the South East:

Very aware/Aware/Not very aware/Not at all aware.

Recommendation:

Members to complete the questionnaire individually online and also submit survey answers to the Committee Clerk by 5pm Tuesday 28th May and to delegate authority to the Committee Clerk to submit a collective response based on the Committee members responses to TfSE.

Decision required: Members to consider the above recommendation.

To: Cllr B Bano, Chairperson of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee; Members of the

Transport & Infrastructure Committee

From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk

Date: 2nd May 2024

Subject: Southeastern Asset Management Questionnaire

Southeastern have advised Deal Town Council that they are continually improving the facilities and appearance of all 165 stations they manage, so that they are welcoming, easy to navigate and deliver best value customer experience.

Having achieved ISO55001 Asset Management certification, a key part of Southeastern's process for re-certification is to demonstrate continuous improvement of their processes, policies and management of their estates and assets in a structured and efficient way.

To support this, they are requesting feedback from Stakeholders, Network Rail, DfT, and station condition survey data, to develop an asset renewal plan to span each of the 5-year regulatory control periods, for the next 40 years.

Southeastern would therefore value views on priorities for station management and improvement ideas for 2024/2025. They are also interested to hear ideas about how they can collaborate to keep delivering value to all Stakeholders.

Southeastern would like a response from Deal Town Council to the short questionnaire **attached** by Friday 17th May 2024.

Recommendation: Members to agree a collective response to this short questionnaire at the meeting and delegate to the Committee Clerk to forward the Committee response to Southeastern.

Decision required: Committee members to consider the above recommendation.

ASSET MANAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

1.	Please outline any improvements you would like to see at your local stations (Southeastern rail network).
2.	How would you like us to engage with you on matters concerning station improvements or additional enhancements in your area?
3.	Are you aware of any projects or developments that may impact our 40 year asset management plan?
4.	Have you ever identified and reported issues or faults to our station staff?
5.	If you did report an issue or fault, would you like to be informed when the issue or fault has been resolved?

NOTE: We will contact you again in June, notifying you of the responses and actions being taken.

To:

All Committee members

From:

Councillor Ben Bano, Chairperson of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee

Date:

29th April 2024

Subject: Correspondence received - Parking Issue, Beauchamp Avenue

I have received correspondence from the Mill Hill DDC Councillor Jeff Loffman, regarding parking in Beauchamp Avenue in Mill Hill.

"Residents have relayed concerns to him regarding the parking situation, motorists are parking on kerbs and double yellow lines at the Co-op Supermarket on Beauchamp Avenue, which is hazardous to the residents of this area especially people with mobility issues."

Recommendation: Chairperson in liaison with the Committee Clerk writes to DDC requesting that Parking Enforcement Officers patrol this part of Mill Hill to enforce parking regulations.

Decision required: Members to consider the above recommendation.

To: Cllr B Bano, Chairman of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee; Members of the

Transport & Infrastructure Committee

From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk

Date: 2nd May 2024

Subject: Best Foot Forward Project Update

A Town Plan priority action was to reduce car usage in the Town, and the Best Foot Forward project was included in the Climate Action Plan 2024 agreed by Full Council in January 2024.

This is a project encouraging people to walk or cycle into town instead of driving. This project started in March to coincide with Earth Hour and is running for six months throughout the summer.

The average petrol car on the road in the UK produces the equivalent of 290g of CO2 every mile. Deal Town council have asked people to commit to swapping one or more journeys a week, leaving the car at home.

This has been promoted by the Communications Officer to Deal residents, local businesses and organisations with employees in Deal, who are now able to sign up on the Council's website using the following link: https://www.deal.gov.uk/Best Foot Forward 47672.aspx

We have asked people to pledge a certain amount of miles a month, and DTC will record that mileage. People who sign up will be entered into a monthly draw, where they can win free e-bike hire for the day for two people from Hut 55.

The first monthly draw was officiated by the Mayor at the Annual Town Meeting and the winner has been notified by email.

In September when the project finishes, Officers will add up how many miles people had promised to swap and share the amount of carbon potentially saved from those pledges.

Decision required: Committee members to note the above information.

To:

Cllr B Bano, Chairman of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee; Members of the

Transport & Infrastructure Committee

From:

Mrs L Marney - Committee Clerk

Date:

7th May 2024

Subject: Deal Station Accessibility Project

In December 2021, the Project Officer provided the following update to the Transport & Infrastructure Committee: The Project is being transferred from Network Rail to Southeastern Trains The funding agreement is almost complete, it is just waiting for a SE Trains signature Southeastern have requested a purchase order for DTC's contribution A designer will be engaged – this should take about 8 weeks The design stage is likely to take 6 months including the Planning process.

In May 2022, the Committee Clerk advised the T&I Committee that the Southeastern Deal Station Accessibility project would be starting in August 2022; Deal Town Council contributed £5,000 to this project.

The Committee Clerk has provided the T&I Committee with regular updates regarding the status of this project over the last 2 years.

At the end of March 2024, the Committee Clerk was informed by the Southeastern Project Manager that this project has now been completed.

Please see attached photographs of the completed Station site.

Decision required: Committee members to note the above information.

















DEAL TOWN COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Councillor B Bano - Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members

From: Mrs L Marney - Committee Clerk

Date: 8th May 2024

Subject: Committee Clerk Report

Please see below update for information only.

Dossett Court Bus Stop Request

At the January T&I Committee meeting, the following correspondence was received from a group of residents in and around the Dossett Court, which is located off St Richards Road, to request a Bus Stop sign outside Dossett Court as this is listed on the Stagecoach timetable, but no sign exists.

Following a discussion, Members RESOLVED: The Vice Chairperson to write to the bus company requesting signage.

I can now advise the Committee that the bus stop request signage is now in place, see photo below.



KCC/DDC Fast Track Zero-Emission Bus Update

Kent's first zero-emission bus route will launch with diesel-powered vehicles - because purposebuilt electric models will not be ready in time.

Dover Fastrack, which is set to cost £34m, will see buses connect Whitfield with Dover town centre and Dover Priory railway station.

But bosses say delays to the electric fleet mean diesel buses will be used to "operate the service effectively" when it launches in July 2024.

Kent County Council (KCC), which is leading the project in partnership with Dover District Council (DDC), says it is trying to source temporary electric buses until the dedicated ones are ready. But it says they may need to be supported by "low-emission" diesel buses as the permanent fleet may not arrive until later this year.