



Ms Paula Cowperthwaite  
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**Cabinet Member for  
Highways & Transport**

Sessions House  
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*Sent via email*

24 July 2023

Reference: 35614265

Dear Ms Cowperthwaite

**RE: Lack of safe walking routes to Chilmington Green Primary School**

Thank you for the letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

As you are aware development at Chilmington Green has not progressed as well as was originally intended. This is due to a wide range of factors outside of the control of Kent County Council (**KCC**) that were not envisaged when the primary school application was determined back in 2019, almost 4 years ago. Therefore, recently KCC has had to improve the public footpath from the A28 to Mock Lane and then construct a new footway along Mock Lane to provide access for residents of the Chilmington Lakes development. Unfortunately, KCC does not have any control of the land within the Chilmington Gate development to provide a footway to the Primary School at present and unfortunately the developer, Hodson, has not opened the footway / cycleway along the Avenue at least to pedestrians and cyclists.

Prior to the opening of the Chilmington Green Secondary School in September 2024, the Avenue must be open from the new A28 Access A roundabout to Chilmington Green Road together a new toucan crossing facility across Chilmington Green Road close the junction of the Avenue / Chilmington Green Road and a new 3 metre shared footway / cycleway to the entrance to the Secondary School. This provides safe access for school children living on the Chilmington Green site. There is a planning condition which restricts the Secondary School from opening until the above link is fully open for school children so KCC have assurances that these links will be provided by both Hodson and the Department for Education.

There is currently a valid planning application on Parcel K at Chilmington Green (21/02248/AS) that will provide wider pedestrian and cycle links from the Singleton area to the Chilmington Gate development. Unfortunately, this planning application has been held up due to nutrient neutrality (water quality) issues of which I am sure you are aware, and until a solution is found across the Ashford Borough this application cannot be progressed.

KCC's active travel team are still looking at further interventions to encourage walking and cycling to and from the site towards Singleton and Ashford Town Centre but this is dependent on Department for Transport funding which has not been forthcoming to date. I am sure you will be aware of the severe budgetary constraints that the County Council is under at this current stage.

My officers and those from KCC education would be happy to meet to discuss Chilmington Green Primary School to see if there are any other available solutions but unfortunately the Primary School has now broken up for the summer holidays and so therefore any meeting will now have to take place in September. The contact at KCC Highways is Matt Hogben and at KCC Education is Lee Round.

Yours sincerely

**David Brazier**

County Member, Sevenoaks Rural North East Division  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport  
Kent County Council