Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Sessions House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XQ

Mrs Helen Whately MP
Sent via secure email:
helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

20 November 2025

Reference: 61088989

Dear Helen

Thank you for your email enquiry dated 4 November 2025 raising the important issue regarding The British Horse Society and the potential inclusion of country lane safety in Kent County Council's Speed Awareness Courses, particularly in relation to older drivers.

To provide some insight into the range of services offered across the Road Safety and Active Travel Service, I have provided a response from Mark Bunting - Vision Zero Strategy Manager, Lorna Smith - Safer Road Users Team Leader, and Jacqui Lalley Kent Driver Education Team Leader.

Safer Road Users Team

The safer Road Users team deliver education across the county to a wide range of age groups, where safe speeds and rural driving topics are covered. The Young Driver and Passenger course is offered freely throughout schools and colleges in Kent and Medway, further information can be found online via: Young Driver & Passenger | Kent County Council Road Safety

Mature drivers across the County are invited to attend a bespoke education programme specifically designed for the ageing driver. The content of this intervention includes driving in rural environments at safer speeds, we have now amended the section here to discuss safe passing of horses, as well as addressing issues which we know are contributable to crash causation in this age group. The other topics covered are health, vision, and impairment. Faversham hosted two of these events on 29 October in the Guildhall, which were fully booked and well received by the audience, information available here: Mature Driver Presentations | KCC Road Safety | Safer roads in Kent
The Safer Road Users team also deliver maintenance messaging via their campaigns throughout the year. Advice through social media platforms is delivered to assist all road users in sharing the roads and provides opportunity for wider understanding around vulnerable road users, specifically incorporating our equestrian community.
Vision Zero Strategy
Mark Bunting, Vision Zero strategy manager liaises with the director for safety at the British Horse Society. Data from the BHS has been used to identify clusters of their

member reports of incidents and near misses. Using this information, we have introduced a trial of temporary poster signs in three areas to remind drivers to pass horses at no more than 10 mph with a wide pass gap of no less than 2 metres.
Kent Driver Education Team

Kent County Council (KCC) is a licenced course provider for the National Speed Awareness Course. As such, we are not authorised to modify the course structure or the content of its presentations.

The course is part of the National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (NDORS), which is governed by UK Road Offender Education (UKROEd). These courses are specifically designed for individuals who have committed driving offences.

However, should you wish, the team would be pleased to forward your suggestions directly to UKROEd for their consideration.

I hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Peter Osborne
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
County Councillor for Hythe
West Division
Kent County Council