

ROAD SAFETY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 9th June 2020 at 5.45pm

Meeting Notes

Present: Cllrs S Collingridge (Group Leader), C Edginton White (Deputy Group Leader) J Byng, P Gittins MBE, M Maher and R Stanczyszyn,

In Attendance: Sharon Hudson - Town Clerk, Cllr B Vale, Cllr I Hardiman, Cllr S Billett, Paul Green

Apologies: None

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr S Collingridge was nominated by Cllr R Stanczyszyn and seconded by Cllr J Byng.

It was agreed that Cllr S Collingridge be elected as Group Leader

2 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Cllr C Edginton White was nominated by Cllr S Collingridge and seconded by Cllr R Stanczyszyn

It was agreed that Cllr C Edginton White be elected as Deputy Group Leader

3 GROUP LEADERS OPENING REMARKS

Cllr S Collingridge (Group Leader) welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed due to work commitments may not be able to attend day time meetings. It was agreed that any day time meetings would be chaired by Cllr C Edginton White. Cllr S Collingridge gave a brief summary of progress so far, felt that the standard agenda was still appropriate and that, going forward, community engagement was important.

4 VISITING COUNCILLORS COMMENTS

Cllr R Vale, WCC member for Bewdley division confirmed that there were no further updates than those given to the last Council meeting. Cllr R Vale thanked County Liaison Engineer Paul Green for attending the meeting to answer any technical questions and also spoke of complaints received from residents with regards to the motorbike parking on Severn Side South.

Parking charges remain an issue; Cllr R Vale spoke on Radio Hereford & Worcester on the subject along with a local business owner. The Leader of WFDC agreed to look at introducing an element of free parking in Bewdley.

When asked whether the motorbikes could be issued with tickets, Cllr R Vale confirmed that the Town Council had previously raised concerns about enforcement. Cllr A Coleman had requested a breakdown of tickets issued to motorbikes by WFDC. There were discussions relating to the introduction of additional signage at Severn Side South directing the bikers to the dedicated motorbike parking in Dog Lane, currently unused.

Cllr I Hardiman, WCC member for Cookley, Wolverley and Wribbenhall spoke of the WCC agreed tree planting scheme at Netherton Lane and confirmed that Councillors had not been informed of any site being allocated for the park and ride system.

Cllr S Collingridge thanked Paul Green for attending the meeting

County Liaison Engineer Paul Green apologised for not attending the earlier meeting and confirmed that WCC wished to be open and transparent about the issues being raised.

Cllr S Billett confirmed she was attending the meeting having received a lot of complaints from residents with regards to the issues on Severn Side South.

5 Approve the notes of the previous meeting 18/02/2020.

The notes from the previous meeting were agreed.

6 REVIEW PREVIOUS ACTIONS AGREED AND TAKEN

The review concentrated on issues where no action had been taken

- Distribute leaflets to residents of Welch Gate;
- put an article in the bridge magazine (to encourage the Police initiative operation SNAP);
- Invite Kathryn Underhill and the new Police Chief to a meeting
- Ask Safer Road Partnership to the next meeting
- Ask Safer Road Partnership for increased and better signage (speeding)
- Obtain price for planters (Cllr R Vales to provide divisional funding)

Bollards

WCC are looking for bollards as the previous supplier is no longer trading. A test order has been placed with a new supplier. The new bollards will be bought to BTC for design approval before being purchased. It was also agreed that Civic Society should be included in the design review. The new design has no gold rings, the height and locking mechanism needed to be checked before placing the order.

Road Traffic Analysis

It was asked whether there had been a recent road traffic analysis for Welch Gate and the Town. It was confirmed that the last full analysis was undertaken in 2016-2017.

Paul Green agreed to send the Town Clerk the last entrance analysis report but this is in raw data format only and only looked at HGV vehicles over a day, between 8am and 8pm, turning in and out of Welch Gate. **(Add to next Agenda)**

Hard Standing Cleobury Road

There is a need to work with the Safer Roads Partnership and agree arrangements before any enforcement can take place.

7 WELCH GATE CONGESTION

Signage

It was asked whether a sign saying 'narrow streets in Bewdley' could be used to help reduce HGV traffic. This is not WCC prescribed sign, there are 7.5 tonne signs in place. From the analysis work undertaken it was found that the HGV traffic recorded was accessing the town.

Paul Green was asked whether the Council could sponsor an advisory sign and confirmed that consideration could be given to a temporary, moveable sign, used

as advanced warning if located in a sensible location. (BTC to consider wording and location – **Add to next Agenda**)

Park and Ride

Discussion ensued with regards to the prospective park and ride site in Wribbenhall now that the Netherton Lane site is being used for tree planting. A local referendum could be considered to gauge local opinions with the various options available. The park and ride scheme could be a solution to other issues such as school parking, HGV's and the cycling path link. WCC would work with BTC to hold road shows and run a poster campaign to allow open discussions.

8 ILLEGAL PARKING

Severn Side South

Consideration was given to the issues reported by residents. District Councillors were asked to lobby WFDC with regards enforcement in this area. Various options were discussed including additional signage (similar to signs used outside of the school) and movable planters. Cllr S Collingridge asked that the offer of temporary signage be taken up.

9 SPEED AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Speeding Vehicles

Councillors have received complaints from residents about speeding vehicles on High Street and the noise made by modified vehicles. There has been a call for 20mph through the town and gateways. Though this cannot be easily enforced it may make drivers stop and think. Cllr R Vale confirmed that the '20 is Plenty' campaign requires a multi-agency approach. WCC have no policy in place for this; the Police favour engineered measures such as tables or humps which in turn lead to pollution issues. Widening paths would be an issue with wider vehicles. Consideration could be given to putting 20mph signs on Lax Lane and High Street in the WCC policy. Cllr S Collingridge stated that adding this to the WCC policy would be supported by this group.

50mph Blackstone Bank

Concerns were raised with regards to the speed limits on Blackstone Bank. There are a lot of sharp bends and overhanging trees in this area; all speed signs are 50mph.

10 ANY OTHER ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Traffic Calming Habberley Road

There has been an order request from dragons' teeth in this area.

PG - This will be chased and once fitted the area will be monitored.

Habberley Road/Trimpley Lane

Issues with speeding traffic leaving Bewdley.

PG - It was agreed to access the situation

Footpath Cycling

County Councillors had received no complaints with regards to this issue. An FOI had identified no tickets had been issued by the Police however incidents had occurred on the Kidderminster Road/New Road junction.

Plans for Dowles Road

A more significant crossing will be installed, work begins from 3rd August. The road will be visually narrowed with a widened footpath, raised curbs and bollards. The work has been undertaken following concerns raised by local residents, from the Woodthorpe Estate, about crossing safety on this road.

Cllr S Collingridge thanked Paul Green for coming and welcomed him back to the next meeting.

11 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The group needs to ensure that its successes are promoted.

As previously agreed, Cllrs R Vale and I Hardiman should be included as regular group members.

10 Next Meeting Date – 14th July 2020 5.30pm via Zoom

Meeting closed 7.22pm