

HENLEY ON THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORT
STRATEGY GROUP HELD ON
MONDAY 11 APRIL 2016
AT 6.00PM IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, TOWN HALL
HENLEY ON THAMES.

Present: The Chairman, Councillor D NimmoSmith - Oxfordshire
County Council (OCC)
Councillor J Brookes -HTC
Councillor S Gawrysiak -SODC
Councillor Will Hamilton - HTC, substituting for Councillor S
Smith - HTC
The Mayor - Councillor Miss L M Hillier - HTC
Councillor T Wright - Harpsden Parish Council
Councillor J Halsall - Remenham Parish Council
Mr P Fleming - Henley in Transition (HiT), substituting for Mr
J Bowles
Mr D McEwen - HiT

In Attendance: Mrs J Wheeler - Town Clerk
C Adams– Committee Administrator / Minute Taker

Also Present: 1 Member of the Public
1 Member of the Press

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jane Smewing, Councillor S Smith and Mr J Bowles. Councillor Will Hamilton substituted for Councillor Smith and Mr P Fleming attended in place of Mr J Bowles.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

22. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr David Dickie, St Katherine's Road - Mr Dickie stated that he was still awaiting an answer to the question he had previously asked regarding the legal status of the Transport Study and its relationship to the Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan (JHHNP). He expressed concern that the Transport Strategy was not part of the JHHNP, unlike in the Thame and Woodcote Neighbourhood Plans. Planning applications could be lodged that do not comply with the Transport Strategy once complete. A Member stated that the JHHNP had passed the referendum and the Transport Strategy would be given due regard but would not be part of the JHHNP and carry legal weight unless it was added to it. This could be done, though it was thought that it would have to go through examination and referendum stages.

23. MINUTES

The minutes were received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting of the Transport Strategy Committee on 15 March 2015.

24. TO AGREE A CHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR HENLEY IN TRANSITION

It was noted that Henley in Transition representative Mr J Bowles was to be replaced by Mr P Fleming. This was agreed and Mr Fleming was welcomed to the Committee.

25. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE FROM HENLEY IN TRANSITION

A Member explained that Henley in Transition had thought the proposed amendments may be helpful for clarification and to set timescales. The objectives had been taken from the Peter Brett Associates Transport Study. After general discussion, it was

RESOLVED to take objectives 1-6 from the objectives in the Peter Brett Associates Transport Study Report, Executive Report 1.1, together with point 8 from the additional items in the HiT proposed Terms of Reference. The addition of Remenham to objective 1 was also agreed.

Councillor Miss L M Hillier entered the meeting at 6.15pm

26. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS PRESENTATIONS ON AIR QUALITY AND TRANSPORT

The Chairman stated that following the two visits by Mr Owen South, Senior Transport Planner at OCC, he had also recently attended a meeting in Chipping Norton to talk about HGVs and displaced traffic with Mr Bev Hindle, the Deputy Director for Strategy and Infrastructure Planning for the County. It had been agreed that it would be useful for Mr Hindle to attend a meeting of the Transport Strategy Group. A date for this was currently being planned. Mr S Hill and Ms C Spendley from SODC would also be invited to the meeting.

It was hoped that concrete proposals for Henley could come out of the meeting. The issue of funding was raised and the discrepancy between Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) levels in Wokingham Borough and SODC. It was explained that the Town Council had tried to obtain a higher level of CIL, but that the view was that with a requirement for 40% affordable housing, a higher level of CIL was unrealistic for developers. In Wokingham, the affordable housing requirement is 35%. The affirmation by the current and previous leaders of SODC that if Henley comes up with good ideas, funding will follow, was cited.

27. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REFERRED FROM TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

A Member felt that all the items in Agenda Item 8 were acceptable and should be logged. He suggested examining various areas: 20mph limits; Air Pollution; Pedestrian Crossings and Traffic Calming. Discussion revolved around possible ways to slow traffic but increase movement and therefore reduce air pollution. For example, cobbling the streets or removing pavements and having shared space for cars, pedestrians and cyclists. This type of scheme exists in The Hague and on Exhibition Road in London. A Member commented that speed checks had shown that when a 30mph limit was reduced to 20mph, it reduced the average speed by 2mph.

Discussion ranged around the following points:

Environmental Weight Orders were thought to be necessary and that a voluntary code would not be sufficient.

It was suggested that groups be set up to study different areas of interest and to investigate whether they were worth pursuing.

There was debate about the available funds. A Member stated that there was £50,000 set aside for the Transport Strategy. This may pay for some works.

A Councillor stated that when talking to a former lorry driver, he had said that although drivers may be instructed by their companies to use a route from Didcot via the A34 and M4, they would generally use a route via Henley as it would save 10 minutes. If there was an Environmental Traffic Order, then they would not be allowed to come through Henley.

Concern was expressed as to whether there was a will to do anything about the problem of HGVs in Henley. A Member stated that there was the will, but that it was a difficult problem to solve.

The need for ideas, with the evidence to back them up, was stressed. These ideas could then be taken to OCC.

For some time, it was debated whether the headings from the Peter Brett Associates Transport Study should be used to form subgroups, or whether the topics suggested in an email to the Group from a Councillor should be used. Some members felt that the topics suggested by a Councillor cut across various of the Peter Brett headings.

A Member stated that if a 15 minute Henley bus service was wanted, it would quadruple the current £84,000 subsidy.

A Member highlighted an offer from Councillor D Poulos of Remenham Parish Council to facilitate a workshop to set objectives, frameworks, processes and define any clear criteria for the Transport Strategy Group. It was agreed to take Councillor Poulos up on his offer, providing him with the points from Section C of the Peter Brett Transport Study, together with circulated ideas from Councillors Gawrysiak and Smewing.

A Member asked for an update on the status of the proposed decking of Kings Road car park. A Member informed the meeting that a study would be taking place this financial year. He would request formal feedback.

Action: *Councillor Nimmo Smith to request feedback from SODC on the decking of Kings Road car park.*

28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 25 April, 2016 at 6pm. This will be a workshop to set objectives, frameworks, processes and define criteria.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

ca

Chairman