

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2015 AT 10AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, HENLEY ON THAMES

PRESENT: Councillor D Nimmo Smith – Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
Councillor Ms S Abey – Henley Town Council (HTC)
Councillor J Brookes - HTC
Councillor D Eggleton - HTC
Councillor W Hamilton – HTC – Substitute for Councillor Ms H Chandler-Wilde
Councillor S Smith – HTC – Substitute for Councillor D Thomas
Mr C Langler - Henley in Transition (HiT)

**OFFICERS
IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr C Hulme – TVP (Traffic Management Officer)
Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk
Ms C Adams – Committee Administrator – Note Taker

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Deputy Mayor called for nominations for the election of a Chairman for the year 2015-2016.

Councillor W Hamilton proposed and Councillor D Eggleton seconded that Councillor D Nimmo Smith be elected Chairman for the year 2015-2016.

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor D Nimmo Smith be elected Chairman of the Traffic Advisory Committee for the following municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman called for nominations for the election of a Vice Chairman for the year 2015-2016.

Councillor W Hamilton proposed and Councillor D Eggleton seconded that Councillor J Brookes be elected Vice Chairman for the year 2015-2016.

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor J Brookes be elected Vice Chairman of the Traffic Advisory Committee for the following municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ms H Chandler-Wilde (HTC), Councillor D Thomas (HTC), Councillor P Harrison (SODC), Inspector M Harling (TVP), Mr K Stenning – OCC Area Steward – South, Ms C Spendley – South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils (SOVWHDC) - Air Quality Officer, Mr H Legh – Henley Partnership (HP) and Mr N Gunnell (HBUG).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Ms L Dodd – Sacred Heart School – Item 7 School Travel Issues

Ms Dodd raised the subject of the previously proposed crossing in Greys Road. She explained, for the benefit of new councillors, that this had been a campaign that had run for more than 8 years. A crossing was planned for Greys Road between the bus stop and Takhar Stores. The double yellow lines outside Takhar would be removed and replaced with the zigzag lines for the zebra crossing. Mr Takhar objected on the grounds that customers would no longer be able to park outside the shop, even though this was on double yellow lines currently.

Ms Dodd also asked for an update on work to the access road next to the Saracen's Head. It was stated in Minute 34 from the meeting on 10.02.15, that the kerbstones would be replaced and potholes filled. Though the potholes have been filled, the kerbstones remain broken.

Ms Dodd also thanked Councillor W Hamilton for the wand for controlling the warning lights outside the school. The school would be using the wand in the mornings from September, though had no one available to operate it in the afternoons.

6. TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

The notes of the Meeting held on 10 February 2015 were received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7. PROGRESS

Members received a report on progress and after the following observations noted the information contained therein.

7.1 Managing HGVs through Henley

The Chairman noted that there was nothing to add from the County Council at present. The Chairman confirmed that the results of Local Transport Plan 4 had been delayed from the due date of 14.07.15.

A member asked whether it was possible to stop lorries parking on the pavements. The Chairman replied that this was a police issue and they would have to be asked to patrol.

Action: Police to be asked to enforce no parking on pavements.

7.2 20mph Zones

Mr C Langler enquired as to the progress on 20mph zones. He noted that Henley was on the list of interested areas. The Chairman commented that Henley was one of a number of areas to express an interest and stated that the proposed 20mph zone in Shiplake had caused a division in the village. 20mph zones need to be self policing.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that 20mph zones were under consideration as part of the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan and associated Transport Study. Data so far had shown that vehicles were already travelling at low speeds through the town and traffic calming measures would not be required because the situation was self-policing.

The Chairman stated that the 20mph zones could be reviewed when the traffic study results are back and can be analysed.

Mr C Hulme clarified that 20mph zones have to have traffic calming measures. A 20mph limit requires repeater signs. He queried the need for a 20mph limit as traffic speeds are already low.

7.3 School Travel Issues

The Chairman stated that the County Council would not be prepared to adopt the access road by the Saracen's Head in its current state. They would if it was brought up to an acceptable standard. Discussion revolved around whether the kerbstones had been replaced or not. Some had been re-laid, but not all. A member felt that the kerbstones had no purpose and would be better removed and a white line painted. Issues over drainage from the Saracen's Head were raised.

It was thought that the work involved to bring the road up to an adoptable standard would cost in the region of £15,000-£20,000. Quotes were to have been sought following the February meeting of the committee, but it was thought that the Town and Community Committee may have declined to fund the work. It was agreed to ask Town and Community Committee to consider the project, ensuring that the work carried out brought the road up to an adoptable standard. It was suggested that the money could potentially come from the traffic calming budget.

Action: Refer project to Town and Community Committee

7.4 Pedestrian crossing

A member stated that he had seen near misses on the road and that he could not understand why one had been paid for on Kings Road, but not Greys Road. The Chairman stated that a preferred location had been identified, but that the shop owner did not want a crossing in front of it. It was suggested that the yellow lines could be removed from around the corner next to the shop to allow people to park. Then the crossing could go in front of the shop.

Action: Councillor D Nimmo Smith to speak to Mr Takhar about the suggestion, discuss with Mr K Stenning and report back to the committee.

7.5 Marlow Road Issues

The Chairman reported that no Area Steward funding was available now.

7.6 Air Pollution in Henley

Mr C Langler reported that there were lots of issues to progress with SODC and the County Council and that it was disappointing that no progress had been made. He did note that there were items for Local Action in the plan and felt that these could be picked up and run with locally. HiT are prepared to play their part, but it needs other organisations too. He has contacted Ms C Spendley to suggest a discussion, but said that there were items such as School Travel Plans that could be carried out without money from SODC or OCC.

Mr C Langler noted that the Air Quality Action Plan had been delayed. SODC did provide preliminary diffusion tube readings and he has asked whether further readings can be provided.

Wallingford and Watlington would also like to discuss the Air Quality Action Plan, but that it needs someone to pull together local issues. The Chairman felt that this should be a District Councillor.

Action: Councillor D Nimmo Smith to ask Councillor P Harrison to coordinate this.

The Chairman noted that Air Quality was a major issue when the Conservative members of the District Council met.

7.7 Parking at the Loading Bay outside the Cycle Shop on Reading Road

This is being considered as part of the consultation on parking in Henley. This also covers resident parking and yellow lines and should report in July.

7.8 Pedestrian Crossings

Item as for School Travel Issues. A councillor expressed frustration at several hundred people being in favour, but one person being able to stop the installation of a crossing which would protect people. It was suggested that the council wait for the data from the traffic study currently underway and then revisit the possible crossing. Chicanes were suggested for the Marlow Road, but the Chairman explained that there were limits as to what could be put in place on A roads.

7.9 Weight Restriction Traffic Regulation Order

Mr C Langler showed the meeting some photographs of the signs at the Burchetts Green roundabout and stated that if Henley had a Weight Restriction Traffic Order, an appropriate symbol could be put on the sign. This would also be needed on the A404.

Action: Mr K Stenning to write requesting the reinstallation of the HGV sign at the Burchetts Green roundabout.

7.10 Signage

The Give Way sign outside the Town Hall on Market Place was still missing, though reported on Fix My Street by Councillor W Hamilton.

The Marlow Road sign on the junction outside Maison Blanc is also still missing.

Action: Councillor D Nimmo Smith to ask Mr K Stenning to chase.

7.11 Bollards on Thameside

This work has been completed. Item to be removed from Progress Report.

7.12 Bus Shelter

Action: Councillor D Nimmo Smith to discuss with Mr K Stenning.

7.13 Gainsborough Crescent House Numbering Signage

This work has been completed. Item to be removed from Progress Report.

7.14 SCOOT

The Chairman commented that this was a worthwhile visit.

Action: Ms C Adams to arrange a visit for interested members.

7.15 Bollards in Fairmile

This work has been completed. Item to be removed from Progress Report.

7.16 Relocation of Parking in Friday Street

The Chairman reported that he had consulted all businesses and the opposite side of the street from Boatique were opposed to the relocation of the 1 hour parking to their side of the street.

Action: Councillor D Nimmo Smith to carry out more investigation.

7.17 Removal of Pedestrian Refuge in Station Road

It was agreed to review the necessity for this following the publication of the traffic study.

8. NEW STREET

An email from a resident regarding traffic issues connected with the Old Brewery was discussed. It was felt that this was connected with a previous suggestion of extending the white line from the traffic lights at the bridge to run along New Street. It was agreed to wait for the data from the traffic survey before taking further action.

Action: Councillor D Nimmo Smith to respond to Mrs J Bullock.

9. PAVEMENT ON MARLOW ROAD

An email from a resident regarding uneven surface and broken up tarmac on the pavement in Marlow Road near Phyllis Court Drive was considered.

Action: Councillor D Nimmo Smith to respond to Mr D Palmer.

10. FAIRMILE CEMETERY

The meeting reviewed an inspection report on parking on the verge by the Fairmile Cemetery. It was unclear which area was particularly referred to.

Action: Ms C Adams to refer to Parks Manager.

11. ONE WAY TRAFFIC ON READING ROAD

An email from a resident about the possibility of one way traffic on Reading Road was considered. A member stated that the data from the current traffic study showed that this was unlikely to be possible.

Action: Councillor D Nimmo Smith to respond to Ms Evans.

12. GREYS ROAD

Emails from residents about parking on Greys Road were considered. A member suggested that the length of Greys Road from the Saracen's Head down to Deanfield Road should be looked at with regard to the feasibility of using some of the overgrown verges to widen the road. This would not be minor work due to the storm drain and telegraph poles that would be affected. It was also currently unclear who owned the land. It was put forward that this could be a project funded by Community Infrastructure Levy resulting from the new houses due to be built. Greys Road would be expected to have more traffic resulting from the new houses.

Action: Councillor D Nimmo Smith to meet with Mr K Stenning to discuss and to reply to Mr Parry and Ms Shuttleworth.

13. BELL STREET

A representation from a resident regarding bus drivers leaving engines running while waiting in Bell Street was considered.

Action: Ms C Adams to write to Arriva to request they remind drivers not to leave engines running.

14. AIR QUALITY

Discussed under Progress, Item 7.6.

15. LOAD RESTRICTION TRAFFIC ORDER

Discussed under Progress, Item 7.9.

16. SIGNAGE NORTH OF WATLINGTON

Mr C Langler reported that this was being dealt with by a working party in Watlington. HiT would be happy to follow through with the people in Watlington and Mr John Howell. Mr C Langler also stated that a Weight Restriction Order was required to attach to the signs. It was felt that Watlington could be left to sort out the signs north of Watlington. Mr C Hulme commented that he hadn't had recent updates from Watlington. However, he thought that the motorway signage had been enhanced.

17. LAFARGE TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

Mr C Langler stated that he had been trying to get a copy of the routing agreement for Lafarge transport, but had been unsuccessful. He wanted to confirm that transport should not come towards Henley, but should go towards Reading. The Chairman commented that as the land owners wanted to restore the land to farmland after the works, it was to be filled with inert waste. Unfortunately, this waste could come via any route as conditions had not been included in the Agreement.

18. NEW TRANSPORT STUDY GROUP

A member confirmed that the results of the Transport Study will be reported back to the committee when complete. The Transport Study Group reports to Full Council.

19. SILVER BIRCH SAPLINGS

A member reported that a possible solution to the issue of placing planters with Silver Birch Saplings had been found. As long as planters were in places where the pavement is wide enough, there should be no issues with the County Council and not too much pressure on the pavement. The planters can be moved by 4 Parks Staff, so can be relocated if necessary. It was suggested that up to 15 planters could be ordered if there were sufficient suitable locations. This item should not return to this committee.

20. CYCLE ROUTES

Mr C Langler stated that HiT would like to offer to hold a meeting with interested cycling parties to review the possibilities. A member responded that the Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan has indicative suggestions on cycle routes. The Transport Study should also include new suggestions. The offer of help from HiT was noted.

21. ITEMS TO BE REPORTED ON FIX MY STREET

Discussion ranged around the necessity for the committee to walk around Henley and note items to report on Fix My Street. It was felt that residents and all councillors should do this anyway. Items reported should be fixed within 28 days, but this was not happening. Having a report on items on Fix My Street and progress on fixing was considered too bureaucratic. A suggestion was made that the Henley Standard could run a campaign for residents to report items. If residents don't have access to the internet, then the council could report items on their behalf.

22. DATE & TIMING OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting 10am Tuesday 22nd September, 2015.

The meeting closed at 11.35am

ca

Chairman