

Minutes of the Highways & Transport Committee meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held at St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on
Avon on Tuesday 14th August 2018 at 7.00p.m.

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr D Garwood
Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie
Cllr J Lynch
Cllr D Newton (Leader of the Council and Chairman)
Cllr M Roberts (non-member)
Sandra Bartlett (Town Clerk)

Non-councillor members at this committee

Trevor Bedeman from Streets Ahead
Cllr Sarah Gibson
Malcolm Walsh

Apologies: Cllr E Franklin, Cllr A Kay, Cllr Lomax and Simon Kay Streets Ahead.

Members of the Public: Godfrey Marks, Christine Steel, Pam Hyde, Martin Newman, Jeremy Wire, Georgina Newton, Caroline Tassell, Mr Lawrence, Jane Lawrence, Gerald Milward-Oliver, John Baker from the Wiltshire Times, Feona Baker, Joyce Shaw, Beryl Turner, Anne Marie Cooper from Friends of Woolley and 2 other members of the public.

13. Declarations of interest

- (i) Chairman declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item at Whitehill as he was a resident.
- (ii) Cllr Garwood declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item at Market Street as he was a resident.

14. Minutes

After some amendments were made, it was proposed by Cllr. Garwood seconded by Cllr. McNeill-Ritchie and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the last meeting held on the 12th June 2018 be accepted as a true record.

15. Lorry Watch update

Cllr Roberts reported that in July 24 lorry drivers were caught going over the town bridge. No news that any prosecutions had taken place.

16. Strategic updates

- (i) Potential use of camera technology for multiple use-cases; in combination with weight detectors for the town bridge to detect oversized vehicles on a for 24-hour basis; to detect traffic illegally using access-only streets; to monitor traffic levels in known hot-spots such as Berryfield Road. This would need to be discussed with the Highways Department at Wiltshire Council. Bridge camera with weight sensors would cost £13,000 (without costing in highways works), 2 cameras for monitoring purposes around £14,000 plus £1,000 for subsequent move. Two more quotes will be acquired. They attach to streetlights and a 3G base unit and send the data. This could be used at Whitehill, Berryfield Road, Frome Road and Turleigh Road. Chairman asked the Clerk to remind Cllr Plummer that at a previous meeting he was going to contact the Traffic Commissioner in Bristol to find out whether this type of equipment could be used. Cllr Roberts reported that Inspector Brain had advised that this type of equipment could not be used at the moment – Cllr Newton will discuss this further with Wiltshire Police. Cllr Lynch said that perhaps a congestion charge for motorists and cyclists should be introduced.
- (ii) To note that Cllrs. McNeill-Ritchie, Newton and Roberts attended a meeting with Keith Firth regarding potential road systems. Cllr McNeill-Ritchie said that he had written twice to Keith Firth and that the next stage was interventions. Cllr Roberts said that Michelle

Donelan, MP, had taken the results of a survey from the Seniors Forum to Jane Scott to trial a one-way system. He said that he had a letter from 'them' to say that Wiltshire Council might finance it. Cllr Gibson and Cllr Newton asked Cllr Roberts to forward a copy of the letter to the committee. He said that Keith Firth suggested using a model with various variables which included the bottlenecks in the town. Cllr Newton said that he would like to see the new analysis of the data first as a one-way system without other measures could make other issues worse; this analysis would be available within a week or two. Cllr McNeill-Ritchie said that pedestrian safety was important too and air quality. He said that air pollution was better in the summer months and worse in winter months. Cllr Garwood said that by removing the hatched boxes up Market Street the traffic flowed better. Cllr Gibson said that the flow of traffic from Bath could have an effect on Bradford on Avon. It was agreed that the data would be looked at and Cllr Roberts asked to be involved. Ex Town Councillor Martin Newman said that Wiltshire Council used to advise, give us your objectives and we will give you solutions. Don't try and give us solutions because that's what they are there for – Cllr Newton responded that the Council had defined the outcomes and that was what the Council was now working towards..

- (iii) Station Approach – Cllr. Gibson reported that various options had been looked at taking into account the coach friendly status. The roads are too narrow to have an island in the middle as coaches needed access to the car park. WC/CATG will be revisiting the whole area.
- (iv) Requests from Streets Ahead to discuss crossings at Station Approach at all roads leading off the roundabout (St. Margaret's Street, Frome Road and Station Approach) and at all roads leading off the roundabout by the Castle Public House (Mason's Lane and B3109), and also status of additional pedestrian crossings - On Market Street at either end, at the bottom end at the Shambles and at the top of Market Street just downhill of Newtown. Cllr Gibson advised that she was waiting for Station Approach access to be improved first before pedestrian crossings in this area are looked at.

17. Tactical updates

- (i) School engagement - illegal parking outside Christchurch School drop off. Cllr Gibson advised that this needs to be in the school's travel plan; Cllr Newton noted that this issue is distinct from the school travel plan and is an enforcement issue – and that the Travel Plan is supporting feasibility studies of a crossing on Bath Road. Feona Baker advised that cars should not block the Wiltshire Heights entrance as they might need access for ambulances for their elderly residents.
- (ii) Pedestrian safety and pavement damage – request for bollards or alternative pavement protection on Market Street by Pippet Buildings. Cllr Garwood advised that bollards could not be placed because they would be hit and there were utility services underneath the pavement.
- (iii) Wiltshire Council were reviewing crossing options at the top of Market Street. This will be discussed at the CATG on the 3rd September 2018.
- (iv) Whitehill, current status. Cllr Newton reported no change at the moment and he was looking with WC CATG into a potential mobile camera scheme. He said that a small minority of residents were not happy with the proposed 'no entry' signs causing access problems near their properties.
- (v) Issues arising from erection of scaffolding on Masons Lane, August 8th 2018. Cllr Newton reported that the scaffolders had suffered a lot of abuse from motorists because traffic lights were not in place but only a stop and go system. He said that the traffic lights arrived by 4.55pm that day. Cllr Gibson agreed to talk to the Highways Engineer about this. She asked for copies of emails from the Clerk. Pam Hyde said that it shows the Origin and Destination Survey was wrong to say that the traffic is fine in the school summer holidays.
- (vi) Email from residents in Belcombe Road about speeding issues and lack of advisory speed limit signs along Newtown and Belcombe Road. Cllr Roberts explained that he had data in that area before and the results showed that the motorists were not speeding and did not warrant a CSW (Community Speed Watch). The Chair and Mr Lawrence requested copies of that data, as it was not clear what type of data had been collected.

18. Footpaths

- (i) Malcolm Walsh's report previously circulated was noted.
- (ii) Chairman reported that when Malcolm retires this year he asked for help from Malcolm and others in developing a questionnaire for public use to evaluate rights of way quality on the Town Council's website.
- (iii) Malcolm said that any problems with footpaths should be reported on Wiltshire Council's app.
- (iv) Malcolm reported that there was still severe ivy overgrowth in St. Margaret's Street in the region of the Margaret Street overbridge, obstructing the pavements. This was on the southwest side on the Trowbridge side of the bridge from ivy in the garden overhanging the boundary wall all the way along the back of the property adjacent to the bridge. Clerk to advise Wiltshire Council.
- (v) Malcolm also reported that a while ago the Town Council adopted a policy for every resident in the parish to have a safe passage walk to walk to the centre of the town. He thinks that now it was about time that a strategic plan with targeted timescales for this to be achieved should be produced by the Council. Obviously, this will have to be done in co-operation with Wiltshire council.
- (vi) Malcolm said that the cycling festival had taken place a couple of weeks ago and he was dismayed that they were cycling on footpaths outside the swimming pool which were Rights of Way for pedestrians not cycle paths. Jeremy Wire said that there was not enough signage to warn motorists of this event further out of the town.

19. New enquiries from the public and other parish councils

- (i) Enquiry from resident in Woolley Street requesting speed humps. This will be taken to the WC CATG meeting on the 3rd September 2018.
- (ii) Email from Westwood Parish Council seeking support about the dangers of traffic and other road users using Jones Hill. After some discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Newton, seconded Garwood and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** That the Town Council supports Westwood Parish Council to recommend to Wiltshire Council's CATG meeting for traffic restrictions to be imposed on Jones Hill and to request that width restriction signs – similar to those at Upper Westwood be erected at the Bradford on Avon end near to the canal.

20. Date of next meeting

The next meeting had been arranged for 9th October 2018.

The meeting closed at 8.24p.m.

Appendix 1

Members of the Public who spoke at the Highways & Transport Committee on the 14th August 2018

1. Mr Harris addressed the committee that he had contacted Wiltshire Council about the developers on either side of the Holt Road removing the speed limit signs, thus rendering the 30mph restriction through the town unenforceable, as is the 50mph between Bradford and Holt/Staverton.

Following his email Tithecote replaced the signs on one side but the developers of Kingston Farm site have still not replaced the signs they removed last year, so the restrictions still remain unenforceable, despite me chasing my elected Wiltshire councillors for action.

In view of this lack of action, what action has the Town Council taken, or what does it propose to take to put pressure on Wiltshire officers to force the developers to meet their obligations and take appropriate remedial action asap to rectify the situation so the restrictions area enforceable once again? He said he had been speaking to Parvis Khansari, Director at Wiltshire Council. Cllr Lynch to rectify this problem.

2. Christine Steel asked when McKeever Bridge would be sign posted? Cllr McNeill-Ritchie advised that the Tourism Strategy would be available in a couple of weeks' time and then signage will be looked at as part of that.

3. Pam Hyde asked about strategic updates from 12th June 2018 minutes.

In Cllr McNeill-Ritchie's presentation of KERB he stated that they would not be proposing any solutions. There is no mention of the group in tonight's agenda so, how often will they meet and where will their debates be reported so that the residents can see and hear what is being discussed on their behalf? Cllr McNeill-Ritchie said that the evidence was being compiled at the moment and the group will meet again and then report back to this committee in due course.

Strategic Updates at this meeting – She was interested to see that you have had a meeting with a consultant about potential road systems. In her opinion she thought this was not a good idea.

In the Times on the 26th July 2018 there was an article stating that 'The government has signalled the end of shared-space roads after concerns that they are too dangerous for large numbers of pedestrians'. Basically shared-space schemes for traffic and pedestrians have run out of road.

Is the Town Council going to use him or his company for any design work that this consultant might recommend?

Woolley Street – I note that there is a request for speed humps in Woolley Street. I will wait with interest to see where, but can I please ask that before any proposal is put forward that the southern section is taken as a whole. From the garage down to the bottom of Frying Pan Hill towards Silver Street. There was a death along there a number of years ago. I and many other residents have witnessed cars and cyclists ignoring the one-way system. The signs are not good enough, we need a no entry sign painted on the tarmac at the very least.

4. Beryl Turner said that the 20mph scheme was a joke and was mainly ignored along Frome Road from the station to the canal bridge. Cllr Newton pointed that there were repeater signs and the speeds recorded were 23mph to 24mph.

5. Joyce Shaw asked why the temporary signs from the Bike Festival were still in Church Street and Lamb Yard and not collected yet. Clerk to ask the organisers to remove them. She said that 4 or 5 ambulances had been through the town today and the noise level from the siren was very loud and she thought above the decibel level allowed. She saw a distressed deaf person unable to cope with the noise.

6. Jane Lawrence said that there was a lot more traffic and parking in Newtown and Belcombe Road and asked about speeding issues and lack of advisory speed limit signs in that area. Mr Lawrence said that families, runners, cyclists, mono cyclists all use this road at the weekends and they cannot run on the pavements because either this no pavement or cars park on the pavements. Cllr Gibson explained that the road goes from a 60mph into a 30mph and where there are streetlights motorists should be aware that they are in a 30pmh. She said that there was a proposal to have a cobble effect road but it would cost £12,000 the entire CATG budget for the year and so not affordable.

Cllr Roberts said that he carried out a Community Speed Watch at rush hour and found no evidence of speeding. He said there was also a metro count done in this area. Mr Lawrence asked to see this data.

7. Feona Baker said that with the 20mph speed limit when cars are travelling at 10-20mph there were most emissions from their exhaust affecting air quality. Cllr Garwood said that up Market Street there is a noise issue with loud exhausts. Feona Baker also asked for disabled parking in the south of the town and thought that the Youth and Community Centre should be used for people accessing the canal.

8. Caroline Tassell and Georgina Newton requested speed bumps outside The George Public House because the 20mph speed limit was being ignored. They said that this was a very dangerous area for pedestrians and elderly residents with speeding traffic both coming into the town and leaving the town. Anne Marie Cooper from Friends of Woolley said that they will be raising this issue when they attend the next Wiltshire Council Community Area Transport Group (WC CATG) on the 3rd September 2018.