

AGENDA REPORTS PACK

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

15th January 2018

19H/004. Minutes**DRAFT Highways Committee Meeting Minute**meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 26th July 2018 at 7.30pm**Present:** Cllrs McCarthy (Chair), Dewey, Kidston, Morris and Young and Assistant Clerk.**18H/039. Chairman's Introduction and Apologies** – no apologies received.**18H/040. Public participation** – none present.**18H/041. To accept Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** – none received.**18H/042. Minutes** - To resolve that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 be signed as a correct record - **RESOLVED****18H/043. Reports**

- **Assistant Clerk** – report circulated prior to the meeting to highlight matters on agenda & update on matters arising since last meeting, nothing further to add.
- **Pavement Project** - Beach Road; speed cushions and give way feature, provisional date to be installed 6th August 2018.
- **Traffic and Transport Strategy Working Group** – Meeting held on 27th June 2018, evidence gathering to support objectives discussed. Date of next meeting 25th September 2018. Matters for consideration; community bus scheme, improvements to public transport, invite GCP to talk about the Greenways project.
- **Major Developments** – Cllr Morris outlined. Bellway continue to be troublesome – District Councillors liaising with SCDC planning to ensure planning conditions are adhered to. CCC: meeting with This Land (intended owner) is being set up in an attempt to mitigate harm to our sports provision etc.
- **Traffic survey** – 7-day traffic survey on Histon Road – results of the survey were discussed. From a police perspective the results indicate that speeding is not a problem; 85% of drivers do adhere to the 30mph limit or within police tolerances. The data shows average speeds and traffic flows over the whole 7-day period – different time bands show higher speeds e.g. early morning/late evening, but these are not addressed in the consultant's report. Some vehicles appear to slow down within the 30mph zone – need to slow at 30mph sign. The length of the survey was queried – does a 7-day period, with just one weekend, provide enough evidence to prove a perceived problem? Several conditions are considered during traffic surveys, e.g. cannot take place during school holidays, no roadworks in the area and no bank holidays. Further traffic counts are due to be taken during October; we may be able to include this data in any LHI discussions.
- **Local Highway Improvement funding 2019/20 (LHI)** – Based upon the recent survey results and consultant recommendations, CPC to submit an LHI bid for speed reduction measures on Histon Road using a combination of:
 1. supplementing the VAS with a MVAS mountable nearer to the 30 mph signage
 2. emphasising the 30mph entry point with a yellow backboard and gate feature
 3. emphasising the "cyclists crossing" warning with a yellow backboard
 4. adding more virtual islands to narrow the perceived road width, and
 5. including a "3-2-1 countdown" feature on the approach to indicate 300m etc to the 30mph area.
 Cllrs Dewey, Morris and Ward to action (deadline 31st July 2018).

18H/044 A14 HCV traffic diverting through the villages – Asst Clerk has written to the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme to raise concerns regarding extra traffic through the village, particularly HCVs at night during A14 road closures. Response: they try to signpost these routes as thoroughly as they can. Unfortunately, sometimes HGV drivers know the local area and opt to take routes they feel are quicker than the diversions. They are monitoring the issue to ensure that local residents are not further impacted by the road closures and works. In cases such as speeding, or if the HGVs passing through the village cause any damage, they ask residents to share all relevant details with the police. District Councillors are also encouraging residents to report issues to them to follow up.

18H/045 Meeting frequency – Resolution to reduce meeting frequency to quarterly – **RESOLVED****18H/046. Matters for consideration at the next meeting** -Twentypence Road speed reduction.**18H/047. Date of next meeting** – Thursday 25th October 2018**18H/048. Close of Meeting 8.23pm**

Signed _____ (Chair) Date _____

19H/005. Reports

Assistant Clerk

Anything in bold is new or an update. (LHO = Local Highways Officer, AC = Assistant Clerk)

- **Rooks St** - HCVs ignoring advisory signs 4/4 - Resolution at Highways Meeting on 18th Jan 2018 to explore differences between types of weight restrictions (e.g. access only/except for loading), cost implications and to liaise with Derek Crosby (Police Traffic Management Officer) regarding feasibility. Cllr Wotherspoon has learned that such a crossing may be under consideration as part of traffic management associated with development in the area.
- **Rooks Street** - HO has put forward Rooks St for the slurry scheme; with Network Management to inspect & to state if included in program. **9/1/19 LHO still waiting for Network Management to inspect, IF project got the go ahead, it would be approx. 2 yrs before works would be carried out.**
- **Wilkin Walk** (High St end) – overgrown laurel and brambles. These are the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council. 31/5/18 requested urgent action as causing a nuisance. Bushes to be removed in Autumn 2018. 19/10/18 LHO advised that works to be completed before Christmas – will be carried out during school hours (there was still nesting activity at the end of Sept that delayed project). **9/1/19 – works to be rescheduled – contractors relocated to clear South Cambs blocked grips (channels in the verges to direct rain water into ditches). Footpath will need to be closed during works, so will take place during school hours. Will notify residents via Face book when date confirmed.**
- **Beach Road** - Centre sections repaired 20/21 Sept 1018. **Emergency repairs carried out to some areas Dec 21st Dec following damage to vehicles (reported by SCDC Cllr Gough/Asst Clerk – no previous reports logged by other road users). 14th to 16th January 2019 will be closed from the junction with Long Drove to the Landbeach junction; 9.30am to 3.30pm for repairs.**
- **Junction of Victory Way/Lambs Lane** - flooding issues raised with HO, awaiting response. Works ordered to install 1/2 gullies in front of bus shelter which should solve issue (within next 12 wks). Works cancelled 25th May as new surfacing has solved issue (AC not convinced and will monitor). Still puddling, reported to LHO 19/10/18 – will be reassessed next financial year (2019/20).
- **Footpath from Pelham Way through to High St** – 9/8/18 - will be re-inspected, HO needs to ascertain whether tree roots are near to the surface; if they are he's doubtful anything can be done as if the roots was 'shaved' could make the tree unstable – Asst Clerk will go and have a look and a measure. He did say though that his pavement budget had more or less run out. Hedge Letter sent to resident regarding overhanging conifers 31st August. 13th Sept HO has confirmed that the tree roots are too shallow for the path to be repaired, unsure what can be done. No footpath budget available - will be reassessed next financial year (2019/20).
- **Histon Road Cycle/Foot path** – some lighting studs not working –following the Histon Road Cycle path tidy up on 13th Jan 2018, one of the participants has offered to mark out broken light studs and report to Asst Clerk to report to CCC Cycle Project Team. **Lights will be replaced in the new year.**
- **Cadent Gas** – List of several areas that were damaged during the first phase submitted to Cadent 30/04/18 and 14/05/18 – awaiting response. (copied to CCC Cllr Wotherspoon) Forwarded details to Streetworks 20/06/18. Resent to Cllr Wotherspoon, Cadent and Streetworks 27th Sept.
- **Histon Road Traffic Survey** – Following on from a 7-day traffic survey carried out in July 2018 and seeking advice from a traffic consultant, the Highways Committee has submitted an LHI bid to reinforce existing speed reduction measures. **LHI panel meeting 16th Jan – Cllrs McCarthy and Morris to attend.**
- **High St road markings** – HO has ordered all the lining to be done along the High St – from the church to Histon Rd – centre lines, yellow lines, keep clears, etc – should be done within 13 weeks (9/8/18). SOME of the works carried out 19th & 21st Sept. Awaiting completion date (double yellows and missed white parts). 18/10/18 LHO advised that paint used was not to CCS's specification, and is being sorted out at levels above LHO due to what Skanska have ordered from D-Line and what the specification states (insufficient reflective particles). **4/12/18 Waiting on a date from the contractor to test the reflectivity. 9/1/19 – still waiting.**

- **Blocked Gullies** –19/10/18 no budget available so unlikely to happen prior to next financial year. **Rampton Rad Gullies cleared and jetted through 9/1/19. High Street junction with Margett Street up to Broad Lane roundabout were also due to cleared but were missed – awaiting LHO to respond.**
- **Twenty Pence road** - pre-patching re-scheduled to February 2019 – gullies down to the church will be jetted as part of this project. **Will be closed 15th to 19th January 2019 nightly 8pm to 6am, from the village to the river bridge. Gullies will be cleared along this stretch as part of works.**
- **High St Zebra Crossing (New)** – Column lights too bright making it difficult to see pedestrians waiting to cross during dark. Project Manager to investigate Jan 2019. LHO has also reported that wrong size drop kerbstones were used – is liaising with project manager.
- **Smithy Fen Bridge** – Asst Clerk reported crack to LHO Dec 2018, awaiting structures team to inspect. (No other reports received from residents).
- **Smithy Fen potholes** – dragon patcher due to visit Jan/Feb 2019.
- **Rampton Road** – bus stop by Alms Houses post damaged (during recent gas connection works), LHO to inspect on next visit (date TBC).
- **High Street bollards** – CCC will replace any damaged bollards ‘like for like’. If we wanted more visible ones, e.g. on the build outs at the north end of the High Street, we would need to fund ourselves. (Approx cost is £1,000 for a bright yellow bollard with keep right arrow). LHO has ordered replacement reflective tape for the ‘Cambridge’ bollards.
- **High Street (near to green)** – 9/1/19 LHO chasing Cambs Water re loose/noisy water drainage cover.

19H/006. Traffic and Transport Strategy Working Group (T&TWG)

The T&TWG, set up in July 2017, is a working group made up of Cottenham residents and Parish Councillors to explore ways of tackling the concerns about traffic and public transport provision that were raised during the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

There are 50 residents and 5 Parish Councillors in the group – attendance has dwindled since set up (25 at first meeting/5 at last meeting in Sept 2018). The higher attendance tended to be when there was something relevant on the agenda e.g. traffic on Histon Rd (following spirited discussion on Facebook after a resident's cat was run over or when Andy Preston came to outline options for traffic management). Anecdotal feedback from people who have stopped coming suggests:

- they see it as a talking shop, with few powers or useful actions;
- any ideas they suggest are dismissed as not feasible for various (probably valid) reasons;
- some individuals' views can be controversial and may not recognise the impact that traffic numbers and speed have on their lives.

T&TWG objectives

- a. Change the character and speed of traffic throughout the village (HGVs causing noise at all times and shaking houses, general speeding and aggressive driving).
- b. Improve pedestrian safety (narrow pavements and proximity to passing vehicles, lack of pedestrian crossings, general pollution).
- c. Improve public transport links especially with Cambridge (faster, covering all the village, links to other transport such as guided busway and rail).
- d. Improve cycle links (with Oakington and Waterbeach as well as the crossing on Histon Road)

Progress to date:

- a. 18 Speedwatch events over 6 months (21 trained volunteers, 10 of whom are active).
- b. Installation of zebra crossing near CVC and priority feature and speed cushions on Beach Road, though not a specific T&TWG project, it does help towards the groups' objectives. (Racecourse View s.106 contributions for a 'Safer Route to School').
- c. Investigated feasibility of a Movable Vehicle Activated Speed sign and took part in a trial using it in High St – 1 week in stealth mode and 1 week displaying vehicle speeds. Average speed was recorded as 27.4mph, perhaps different locations would show a higher average.
- d. Arranged talk by Andy Preston (CCC Highway Projects & Road Safety Manager as he was then) which outlined what traffic management options were most acceptable for Cottenham.
- e. Lobbied for a traffic survey in Histon Rd which resulted in a Local Highways Initiative Bid for speed calming measures on Histon Road.

Suggestions:

- Make sure future meetings have a clear, topical theme rather than just updates for the sake of it. Emails to the group could explain that in the meantime we are still working on x, y & z issues;
- identify list of feasible/achievable traffic management options and locations and publicise at the Fen Edge Festival in June;
- analyse the existing traffic data in more depth and publicise more widely.

Transport Links:

SCDC Cllr Wilson has repeatedly raised the lack of transportation connection between Cottenham and Oakington and hence Cottenham residents' access to the Guided Busway with the Greater City Partnership (GCP).

Cycle ways between Cottenham and a) Oakington and b) Landbeach:

- a) Oakington - work is going on behind the scenes to speak to the relevant land owners and money has been earmarked for the project.
- b) Landbeach - routes have been discussed by the developers of Waterbeach barracks involving link from Long Drove to the Cambridge Research Park – but what about Waterbeach/Cambridge North railway stations and the Science Park?

What (if anything) can the group do the help push these projects forward??

Further evidence gathering:

Although 2 members have offered help with analysing traffic data, progress would be greatly enhanced if we had someone who could proactively spearhead evidence gathering and analysis – not just traffic surveys but pedestrians to build a case for crossings. Without such a person we risk spending time and money on data gathering and traffic planning which does not achieve anything.

NO₂/pollution/particulates testing - Follow-up measurements of NO₂ testing on the High St in late 2017 showed that levels were on average 25% lower than 5 years earlier. There are several possible reasons: more efficient engines, different traffic types, climatic conditions etc. Perhaps we should also be measuring noise, vibration and particulates (the first two are frequently complained about by residents – the latter is less obvious and possibly even more important to measure). Cllr Morris volunteered to take measurements around the village in 2018. Are these worth analysing and building on? The dilemma is that to provide valid data to support complaints, appeals etc the equipment and methodology must be standardised and probably professionally supervised which makes it expensive. But maybe there is an argument for carrying out cheaper measurements to indicate where problems might lie and target more expensive, valid monitoring accordingly.