

Bewdley Town Council Road Safety Group
Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at 2.30 pm on ZOOM.

Minutes

Apologies: Cllr John Byng, Cllr Dan Morehead, Cllr Paul Gittins, PC Steve Thomas.

Present: Cllr C Edginton-White Group Chair, Cllr Rod Stanczyszyn, Cllr Anna Coleman, WCC Cllr Ian Hardiman and Tracy Bodley Town Clerk.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING Remarks : The Chairman welcomed the Group and shared the apologies received as above.

2. REVIEW PREVIOUS NOTES and AGREED Actions (Notes from the meeting on 22.02.22 presented to full Council 07.03.22.)

WCC survey speed Severn side South, High Street and Load Street. A further review of the times of day that the Speed Survey were taken is to be examined. **Action Cllr D Morehead.**

Fixed VAS Placement following Council meeting this item to be examined further at item 5.

Telford Bridge Schedule of work feedback had been received from Cllr I Hardiman and was discussed further at item 7 on the agenda.

A.O.B. Item 10 () regarding vehicles turning out of High Street on the wrong side of the Church. Awaiting feedback from WCC Cllr Dan Morehead once he has had feedback from Paul Green regarding improved signage. **Action Cllr Dan Morehead.**

3. WELCH GATE CONGESTION (Standing item)

Ian Hardiman has followed up the suggestion of Traffic Lights in Welch Gate and a Give Way sign at High Street, which was proposed at the January meeting. Cllr Hardiman shared this suggestion with both Paul Green and Cllr Dan Morehead. Cllr Hardiman is still waiting for feedback from Paul Green. **Action Ian Hardiman.**

The group were reminded that in the Halcrow Report 2010 (6.2) the recommendation was for Traffic Lights in Welch Gate.

4. 20 MPH - Update. (Standing Item)

- Locations & Installation.

Still waiting for Paul Green to feedback on the extra 20 mph signage locations proposed – Northwood Lane and extend to the top of Wyre Hill. **Action Cllr Ian Hardiman and Cllr Dan Morehead to find out when the provision of the 20MPH signage will be progressed.**

- Height and Weight restriction Survey High Street & Lax Lane. **Action check with Cllr Dan Morehead whether the survey is complete and if there are any resulting recommendations.**

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5. SPEED AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS (Standing item)

(i) Following the Full Council recommendation for the provision of an additional VAS either Fixed for Dowles Road or movable the Road Safety Group have been asked to revisit appropriate locations and feed back to the Council.

Cllr Edginton-White had circulated a photograph of a lamp post in Dowles Road opposite the footpath and steps from Venus Bank and on the corner past the Dog Lane turning down to the Medical Centre and Car Park. Once cars leave the Town Centre they accelerate and build up speed as they pass the Dog Lane junction. The speeds are such that the Community Speedwatch survey several years ago concluded that this section of road would be too dangerous for community speed initiatives. There are regular near misses with vehicles turning in and out of the Dog Lane junction due to excessive speed as motorists accelerate up Dowles Road and there have in the last three years been two overturned cars at this junction. It was proposed that while the lamp post is on the opposite side of the road for outgoing traffic it would be worth Investigating whether this would be an appropriate location for a Vehicle Activated Sign.

Cllr Anna Coleman suggested that first stretch of Cleobury Road past Hopley's was also a dangerous stretch.

After discussion it was decided that the group should recommend that residents are consulted. Tracy Bodley Town Clerk suggested that the Council could conduct a Survey Monkey with residents to ascertain where another VAS would be most effective. **Action Prepare a survey to be agreed by the group - Town Clerk and Group.**

(ii) Community Speed Watch .. Volunteers for Training Update

WCC Cllr Hardiman reported that he had received feedback that once a Community Speed Watch group is in place the police don't enforce speeding. **Action Cllr Edginton-White to check this with P.C. Steve Thomas who introduced the Council to the scheme.**

6. ANY OTHER ROAD SAFETY ISSUES (Standing item)

- (i) Smartwheelie.co.uk ... Sticker Speed signs for Wheelie Bins with speed limit and text "Please Drive Carefully." Update regarding distribution.

Once the Stickers have arrived members of the RSG will identify areas where the stickers will be most beneficial and distribution arrangements will be made.

Stickers need to be placed on the sides of bins that face the oncoming traffic. A simple explanation sheet will be produced for the members distributing stickers to instruct residents. **Action SGH members and ward Councillor volunteers to agree distribution.**

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(ii) Gateway Signs update.

The purchase of signs and the allocation of sites will be a project for the next financial year. 2022-2023.

7. Telford Bridge. Schedule of Works WCC update.

Cllr Ian Hardiman reported that there is an annual review of works for the Telford bridge. Ex County Councillor Becky Vale had indicated that there was a programme of works scheduled for the Grade 1 listed bridge possibly following the “At Risk” designation. **Action Cllr Ian Hardiman and Cllr Dan Morehead to check with Paul Green regarding a programme of works for the Telford Bridge.**

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (Standing Item) Refer to Item 5 VAS.

9. A. O. B.

Cllr Rod Stanczyszyn expressed disappointment at the communication regarding Oakwood Road and Merricks Lane visibility and dangerous parking and the need for double yellow lines. It had taken over a year to come to the conclusions expressed. **Action Ask Cllr Dan Moorhead to follow this up.**

Cllr Ian Hardiman explained that while it is County Councillors who can ask for double yellow lines these then becomes a WFDC Enforcement Issue. However as the issues in the main are obstruction near road junctions vehicles can be reported on 101 and the police can prosecute. Once there are yellow lines it is no longer a police issue. Cllr Gittins had also provided pictures of illegal parking close to road junctions obstructing visibility. **Action Advice regarding police responsibility and using 101 reporting should be highlighted.**

Cllr Paul Gittins asked if we could have a River Severn sign on the Bye Pass bridge like the one on the Telford Bridge . **Action Cllr Ian Hardiman to follow up this suggestion.**

Cllr Paul Gittins also raised the issue of tarmac replacing slabs and brick paving on Severn Side South and Load Street. This is not in keeping with the Conservation Area and reinstatement in appropriate materials is necessary. The Town Clerk explained that the utility companies have an agreement with WCC Highways to put in a suitable surface not replacing like with like.

Action Town Clerk, County Cllrs Ian Hardiman and Dan Morehead to find out whether there are any special agreements to reinstate more appropriate paving in the Conservation area. Cllr Edginton-White to check with Peter Bassett WFDC about reinstating paving in Conservation areas especially with regard to Severn Side South.

10. AGREE DATE OF NEXT MEETING

April 26th 12.00.

Meeting finished 3.35 p.m.

Notes prepared by Cllr C Edginton-White