

Bewdley Town Council

ROAD SAFETY GROUP

MINUTES 30 August 2022 12.00 – 1.30pm

Guildhall Meeting Room

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman opened the meeting and noted the following:

Present: Cllr John Byng (JB), Cllr Calne Edgington White (CEW) (Chairman), Cllr Paul Gittins (PG), WCC Cllr Ian Hardiman (IH), Cllr Rod Stanczyszyn, Anita Bickerdike (Office Administrator)

Apologies:

Tracy Bodley, Cllr D Morehead (DM), Police- PC Thomas & PCSO Bray

2. MATTERS ARISING from Minutes of the meeting on 28 June 2022 and AGREED Actions

Matters arising and actions were discussed under the relevant Agenda headings below.

3. WELCH GATE Air Pollution and Pedestrian Safety

To consider feedback from Cllr D Morehead (DM) regarding the groups' suggestions of traffic lights in Welch Gate and changing the traffic priority at the High Street Junction. Separate meeting date to be agreed. See A attached.

The up date from Cllr DM dated 14.7.22 was noted indicating that a meeting with Paul Green's successor and the Cabinet Minister for Highways was fixed for 5.8.22 to further this project. The Group noted that Hayley Steele (HS) was Paul Green's replacement.

Actions

Cllr DM to inform the Group of suggested dates in September 2022 for the separate meeting with HS and RSG to discuss possible options.

Cllr DM to forward all relevant documents, including the previously submitted options report, to HS prior to the meeting and ensure that she is fully briefed.

4. ILLEGAL PARKING (Standing Item)

To consider an up date from AB regarding information provided to her and action taken. See B attached.

AB referred to B confirming that copies of the log had been sent to the police in July and August. AB referred to an e mail response from PC Thomas indicating that from the pictures sent, there was adequate room on both the footpath and the road, therefore there is nothing wrong with the parking. PC T advised that the informant would need to report the incident to the police at the time if it caused an obstruction, and that the police cannot take any action on this type of report (the log). He

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suggested that Highways/WCC be contacted to request painting of double yellow lines to ease the traffic situation.

The Group discussed this issue and noted that it is not illegal to park half on, half off the pavement provided that leaves sufficient room on the pavement for a wheelchair/double buggy to pass. Cllr IH reported that WCC had previously refused a request to extend the double yellow lines on Maypole Close; he also suggested that that informants be advised to use the West Mercia Police “Operation Snap” Scheme whereby members of the public who see potential road traffic offences can submit digital footage of this via a secure on line form. See West Mercia Police Operation Snap for link and details.

In view of the advice from PCT, the Group agreed there was no point in collecting data for the log as this is sent to the police after the event and the police have indicated that they will take no action on such reports. It was agreed that going forward, the Group would advise members of the public to (and would themselves) record incidents they see and report them, at the time via Operation Snap.

Actions

Group to advise members of the public to (and would themselves) record incidents they see and report them at the time, via Operation Snap.

5. ADDITIONAL VAS

- a.) A new sign in Dowles Road in the Vicinity of the Medical Centre and turning into Dog Lane was suggested. It was confirmed that the VAS be sited on Lamp Post number 6 as suggested by Paul Green County Highways.

Cllr CEW and the Group confirmed that the above location was acceptable

- b.) Investigate grant funding for VAS from the Police and Crime Commissioner who is offering 50% grants towards the cost of new signs.

Cllr CEW reported that the application for the 50% match funded grant had been applied for and granted. AB confirmed that the award of grant letter was received on 2.8.22 and all necessary paperwork had been completed for release of the grant. The grant was for the amount of £1851.00 being 50% of the cost of the sign indicated in the quotation from Morelock Signs (total cost £3702.00). AB confirmed that a Purchase Order had been raised and she was awaiting confirmation of dates from Morelock Signs for the installation to be completed.

Cllr CEW suggested that the Group consider that Full Council be asked to set aside money for another VAS device to be fitted next year, and that a new application be made at that time for further grant funding, if available.

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Cllr IH offered to contribute £500 to the fund for the provision of VAS devices.

The Group thanked Cllr IH for the contribution and agreed that a request for funding for a further VAS device be submitted to Full Council.

Actions

Cllr CEW to submit a request to Full Council for funding for a further VAS device.

Cllr IH to make the contribution of £500 to the fund for the provision of VAS devices.

6. SPEED AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS (Standing Item)

a) 20 MPH. Cllr DM to provide an up date on the locations being considered for the 20mph signs and the timeline and progress of the project. See update from Cllr DM, A attached.

The update was noted, however the Group commented that the project had been outstanding for some time and urged that progress should now be made.

Actions

Cllr DM to report back on progress of the project and in particular, his meeting with the new Cabinet Minister for Highways planned for 5.8.22.

b) Community Speed Watch

PCT to report back on points i and ii below. See answers in italics, C attached and PDF of Community Speed Watch (CSW) scheme

- i) if such a group is formed and trained by the police, will the police cease to enforce speed limits in the area?
CSW are only allowed to run in areas that would be below the normal enforcement speeds, so wouldn't affect the normal speed enforcement areas.
- i) it was noted that the police were going to supply literature to promote the scheme but none had been received. Is this available?
Please see initial leaflet for Community Speed Watch, PDF attached.

The Group noted PCT comments and confirmed that they still wished to form a CSW Group of volunteers comprising Councillors and members of the public as this would be a visible warning to motorists that they were being watched and could be prosecuted, if there was evidence of dangerous driving.

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Cllrs CEW and PG volunteered to be trained and it was agreed that the Group identify at least one more Cllr and a couple of members of the public to also attend the training.

Actions

The Group to identify at least one more Cllr and a couple of members of the public to be trained on the CSW scheme in due course.

AB to contact PC Thomas to ascertain if a minimum of 6 people are required to run the CSW training course and the Scheme.

7. “20 IS PLENTY” WHEELIE BIN STICKERS

Report back from AB to confirm Councillors have been contacted and requested to let her know if they are prepared to distribute the stickers to houses in their ward and throughout the zone.

AB reported that all Cllrs had been contacted, she had only received one response from a Cllr who did wish to distribute the stickers. AB confirmed that there were 300 stickers, available for collection. They were stored in a labelled box on the worktop in the main office of the Council Offices.

The Group agreed that it was not necessary to limit the stickers to 4 per household as previously stated, and that the stickers should be distributed within the boundary of the conservation area as noted on the attached conservation area map on the Bewdley Town Council website, see E attached.

AB confirmed that refuse collection day for the town was Thursday.

The following Cllrs volunteered to distribute the stickers:

Cllrs JB, CEW, RS.

Actions

AB to distribute a copy of the map with the minutes.

Cllrs JB, CEW, RS to collect supplies of stickers from the office.

8. REPAINTING OF YELLOW LINES AT WELCH GATE

Cllr DM to report back regarding repainting of yellow lines on Welch Gate. See A attached.

The Group noted the report indicating that “At this current time the lines are within the criteria needed to repaint them...”. The Group therefore requested confirmation from Cllr DM that the lines would be repainted.

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Actions

Cllr DM to confirm that the lines would be repainted with a timescale for this work to be done.

9. PAINTING OF WHITE LINE ON ROAD ROSENHURST DRIVE TO BARRETS STILE LANE

Cllr DM to report back on a resident's request for the painting of a white line on the road adjacent to wall to raise driver's awareness of pedestrians as the road was narrow and there was no footpath. Location is – from Rosenhurst Drive to Barratts Stile Lane. See A attached

The Group noted Cllr DM comments that he did not believe that the criteria for this to be done would be met as it would leave insufficient room for car space, the minimum being 1.5m.

10. ANY OTHER ROAD ISSUES (standing item)

- i) Cllr PG reported that a diversion for recent roadworks had resulted in motorists incorrectly using Severn Side South as a 2 way street. This was reported to the police. AB had also reported this to WCC at the request of PG and had obtain a response dated 25.8.22 reference #1101 stating the following:
"We have visited the site on several occasions and can see that the traffic management signage is satisfactory. We have also reported this to West Mercia Police".
- ii) Cllr PG reported that parked vehicles on Sandy Bank would hamper the painting of yellow lines and he had reported this to the police and WCC.
- iii) Cllr PG reported that a decorator's van parked at the junction of Bark Hill and Welch Gate was causing an obstruction, he had attempted to report it to the police via 101 without success.
- iv) Cllr CEW reported that a resident suggested an "Access Only" sign be placed at the top of Welch Gate to ease the congestion at junction of Welch Gate and Dog Lane.

The Group noted that this would be likely to affect businesses in the town and requested advice from Cllr DM and the police on whether there would be a case for signage restricting access from the by pass into town via that route.

Actions

Cllr DM to advise is there would be a case for signage restricting access from the by pass to the town centre via Welch Gate to "Access Only".

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PCT to advise if there would be a case for signage restricting access from the by pass to the town centre via Welch Gate to “Access Only”.

- v) Cllr JB commented on the recent damage to bridge balustrade and parapets and asked for clarity on the extent of the view from the CCTV camera on the bridge. He also suggested another CCTV camera for the town.

Cllr IH also commented on the damage stating it was the second time such damage had occurred, it had been reported to the police and WCC who were both investigating this.

AB confirmed that a visit to CCTV control room had been organised with two Cllrs wishing to attend however the date was cancelled due to non availability of control room staff. The control room are happy to re arrange a visit and AB had already e mailed Cllrs wishing to attend requesting their availability for September.

Action

Group members wishing to visit the CCTV control room to send their availability for September to AB.

- vi) Cllr IH reported a good result regarding issues with parking near the pedestrian crossing at Grey Green Lane in that the police will install knee rails at this location to prevent cars parking.
- vii) Cllr IH reported that two residents had contacted him regarding “near misses” as cars came very close to them on the footpath as they turned onto the bridge coming into town from Beales Corner. The kerb is narrow and it had dropped making the edge of the road less obvious. Cllr IH had been informed by WCC that nothing could be done. However he has referred this matter to County Council Cabinet. This group would be discussing various reports and documents relating to the feasibility of installing a separate bridge in the town for pedestrians and cyclists.

Action

Cllr IH to report back on discussions at County Council Cabinet.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 27 September at The Guildhall 12 noon - 1pm.

Group members Town Councillors:

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John Byng (Deputy Group Leader)

Calne Edginton White (Group Leader)

Paul Gittins MBE

Daniel Morehead

Rod Stanczyszyn

County Councillors: Daniel Morehead, Ian Hardiman

Invite PC Steve Thomas and rural policing team, send to both addresses:

stephen.l.thomas@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

bewdleyandrural.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk