

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
held on Tuesday 15 January 2008 at 8 pm in the Bartholomew Room, Eynsham

Present: Cllr R Andrews, Cllr Mrs F Pike (Chair) – WODC Councillors
Mr G Beach, Ms S Osborne, Mrs L Pialek, Mr T Green – EPC
Mr Trevor Bayliss – Stagecoach
Mr Tony Currell – TVP
Mr Toby Toms – Public Transport Development Team – OCC
Cllr C Mathew (OCC Councillor)

In Attendance: Mrs S Lee (Clerk)

- 39 Apologies:** Apologies were received from Mr Nick Hines (Public Transport Representative for Eynsham) and Mr Paul Wilson (Highways Dept. OCC) – written report received.

40 Minutes of the previous meeting of 10 July 2007

The minutes were unanimously agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

- 41 Matters arising** from the Minutes of 10 July 2007 not covered in Agenda – none

- 42 Witney Road Traffic Lights** – Following discussion it was pointed out that one of the intentions of the scheme had been to delay cars turning into the village and to give priority to buses that had previously had long delays. Both of these outcomes had been met.

Monitoring was now required and Mr Wilson's report indicated that arrangements were in hand for flow monitoring in the vicinity of the scheme and some information had been gleaned to date. However, for monitoring to be effective it would need to be continued for a period of at least two years. It was unanimously agreed that 2 years was too long to wait for a report on this and it was requested that the Clerk asked Errol Carrington for an interim report on a 6 monthly basis for discussion at the next meeting. In addition it was requested that the Cassington lights be included in the monitoring so that the flow along this length of the A40 can be monitored. The lights at Cassington were felt to be out of sync and needed some adjustment – however the fact that the accident rate here had fallen since their installation was appreciated. It was pointed out that with the Wolvercote flyover being taken down in Sept 2008 this would have a large impact on any traffic monitoring and a 6-month interim report needs to be completed before this work starts. Action: Clerk

- 43 Premium Bus Route** – update – Negotiations with the Environment Agency are almost complete and works for the installation of the new bus lane from Eynsham to the toll bridge should progress shortly – Ms Anne Farmer is the OCC contact for the project. Cllr Mathew advised that he has requested an urgent review of all the bridges south of the Thames and felt that it would be premature to introduce a new bus lane to the toll bridge until this review was completed.

Real time signage – Mr Toms was advised the bus stops at Market Square and Old Witney Road would be top priority in the village for this signage. He will report this back to Chris Spry – project manager. No public consultation was required and the money was available for the next financial year – Clerk to check possible timescale. Action: Clerk

44 Report from OCC highways re outstanding matters

- All bollards replaced – all to check and advise Clerk if the bollard at the exit to the Service Station has been replaced. Action: All
- The "SLOW" sign on the by pass on the approach to the Cassington Road roundabout has been painted in the correct place.
- Witney Road bus stop barrier - arrangements are in hand for the barriers to be repaired, however they are not considered hazardous in their current condition and are not a high priority.

- Proposed barrier Hawthorn Road - investigations have been made into the provision of some form of barrier to prevent cyclists using the bridleway driving straight into the road. Cllr Mathew has suggested to the school that children did not use this path until the barrier was in place. He also advised that the bridleway was not being resurfaced as the owners had opposed this suggestion.

- 45 The Tuer** – Public consultation in the village using The Echo resulted in 4 in favour of erecting bollards to stop vehicular use and 1 against – Mr Pym who is claiming that half of the roadway is in his ownership. Mr Beach has forwarded this letter to Paul Wilson requesting that he check on ownership again. The Parish Council had discussed this at their last meeting and a new idea of putting disabled parking spaces in the area had been made. Mr Currell advised that for disabled spaces there would have to be local consultation and a traffic regulation order – the enforcement of disabled spaces parking was an issue and hard to maintain. It was proposed by Cllr Pike, seconded by Mr Green and unanimously agreed to request that Mr Wilson proceeds with the original plan of a no motor vehicle order and bollards subject to OCC investigation into Mr Pym's claims. Action: Clerk and Mr Wilson
- 46 Possible new bus stop on A40** –update – Mr Wilson's reports advised that the public transport team had logged the request for this new bus stop. However the works involved with creating this would be cost prohibitive within the current budget available to this section of the County Council. He would bear this in mind if any future funding becomes available.
- 47 Possible pedestrian crossing on Acre End Street** – update – Mr Wilson advised that the request had been logged and an initial assessment undertaken. The County Council no longer had money from which to fund such schemes - every new request received had an initial assessment undertaken which if successful formed part of the bid for schemes for the next Local Transport Plan (2011 – 2016); there will be no budget available until then. The only sources for funding are 'planning gain' from a 'local' development or as a scheme that has been identified as part of the 'Better Ways to School' programme. It was agreed to pursue this issue further and the Clerk was requested to contact Better Ways to School to see what the current travel plan for Bartholomew School states with regard to pedestrian crossings in the village. In addition to advise WODC re adding this to any list of works needed in the village in light of possible Section 106 money from the proposed East Eynsham development.
Action: Clerk
- 48 Parish Plan – traffic issues** – Cllr Andrews advised that the Parish Plan identified issues with regard to the length and weight restrictions of vehicles entering the village. Mr Currell advised that enforcement of any length or weight restrictions not only had a low priority with TVP but that they were also very hard to enforce.
If restrictions of a physical nature were put in place this had an issue for buses etc that needed to enter the village. Cllr Andrews felt the next step would be to go back to the village and find out the exact problems that were causing concern and look at these. OCC have tried to get the Ministry of Transport to influence sat navigation firms to advise of roads unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles but this has not had a positive response.
All agreed that there was no point in bringing in restrictions if they were unenforceable.
- 49 Cassington Road Bridge and Chilbridge** – County Cllr Mathew advised that he has requested a review of the situation with regard to the Cassington Road Bridge – this road was closed 25 years ago and some felt that opening it up would help reduce the traffic flow on the A40. It was pointed out that the road was narrow and in a very poor condition and it was questioned as to whether the bridge could take any traffic. Cllr Mathew advised that these were all issues he had asked Mr Wilson to investigate.
Cllr Mathew also asked the meeting if anyone had any knowledge about Chilbridge but no information was offered.

50 Correspondence

- Mr Taylor had expressed concern re speeding on Station Road – Clerk to request a survey of traffic speeds from Mr Wood at OCC. The ideas of a speed camera, one-way system or road narrowing were all felt to be inappropriate to the site and a survey to ascertain the extent of the problem would be the first step. Action: Clerk
- Mr Hines expressed concerns re pavement parking – Mr Currell advised that it was only an offence if cars parked on the footway were causing an obstruction or were in a dangerous position. Unless the footway is totally blocked it could only be considered a potential obstruction – this law was very hard to enforce. However, it was an enforceable offence for HGVs to park on the footway.
- Mr Hines was concerned about the safety of children getting on the buses at the end of the school day. Mr Bayliss advised that the school are now marshalling children getting on to private buses and a similar request has been made for all buses. This issue was down to the social behaviour of the children and the school and bus company are working on it.

51 Any Other Business

- Complaints had been received about bus drivers travelling too fast through villages – Cllr Mathew to advise Mr Bayliss of any particular instance or route so he can identify drivers and action.
- Mrs Pialek was concerned that many of the buses were not buggy friendly - Mr Bayliss advised that all single storey buses would have low floors for ease of use by buggies with effect from March 2008.

52 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday July 15 2008 at the Bartholomew Room. Please **note new start time.**

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed:

Dated: