

Notes of an Informal meeting of the Traffic Management Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 2.15 p.m.

In Attendance:

Councillor M Whitwam – Chairman
Councillor J Bishop

Also Present:

Councillor M Bonfield
Mr S Mepham – Dorset Council, Community Highways Senior Team Leader
Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk
Mrs E Evans – Democratic Services Officer

There were three members of the public present and one member of the local press.

Public Participation

The headteacher of The Swanage School and representatives of St Mark's Primary School and Explorers Pre-school raised the following concerns regarding item 4a) Highway Safety Matters – Washpond Lane:

- The schools reported a significant increase in numbers of families housed by Dorset Council in emergency accommodation at Herston Yards Campsite, with approximately 35 pupils attending either The Swanage School, St Mark's Primary School, or Explorers Pre-school.
- The pupils are long-term attendees due to the shortage of housing for families, and are remaining at Herston Yards for lengthy periods of time.
- Safety concerns were raised over the walked route to and from Herston Yards, Washpond Lane, to the schools/pre-school. It was noted that the route followed a winding, overgrown, narrow lane.
- It was reported that Dorset Council's Road Safety Officer had previously investigated the route at a quieter time of day, approximately 1.30 p.m.

It was suggested that Dorset Council provide a minibus service to transport the children more safely.

Other solutions suggested were a reduction in speed limit and/or advisory signage to raise drivers' awareness.

The CHSTL confirmed he would raise the concerns with the Road Safety Officer and ascertain details from the initial visit.

Further to discussion, it was suggested that the provision of a minibus would be most feasible and timely solution.

As the situation involved various departments of Dorset Council e.g. housing, highways, and education, it was agreed that Dorset Councillors be asked to work with officers at Dorset Council to devise a solution.

Langton Matravers junction – speed reduction

- A query was raised over the progress in implementing the reduction in speed limit on Valley Road from 40 m.p.h. to 30 m.p.h. in the parish of Langton Matravers. In response

it was noted that this had been approved by Dorset Highways and an implementation date would be publicised when available.

Valley Road - pooling

- A question was raised regarding the low section of Valley Road, which was subject to pooling following heavy rain. In response it was stated that identification of a resolution to the situation was ongoing.

The chairman thanked the public for their attendance and stated that the schools/pre-school would be informed of progress made.

Members of the public left the meeting at 2.50 p.m.

The chairman noted that the meeting was not quorate and would proceed in an informal capacity.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor Foster and Councillor Moreton. Councillor Monkhouse attended the meeting remotely.

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3) Town Council owned roads

a) To consider report on potential improvements to Station Approach

This item would be deferred to a future meeting of the Traffic Management Advisory Committee.

b) Davenham Court, Ilminster Road – request for a speed hump in service road

Awaiting further information regarding road ownership. This item would be deferred to a future meeting of the Traffic Management Advisory Committee, if necessary.

4) Highway Safety Matters

a) Washpond Lane – Herston Yards campsite to The Swanage School and St Mark's

Primary school – safety concerns over the walked route by school children

The chairman noted that this item had been covered during public participation time.

b) High Street, Herston – request for improved traffic management

An email had been received expressing concern over pedestrian safety due to vehicles parked on DYL's in the High Street, west of the Costcutter store, which caused congestion and visibility issues. It had been suggested that a Zebra crossing or similar traffic control be installed to enhance pedestrian safety.

The CHSTL reported that this request would be raised with colleagues within Dorset Highways to provide an initial evaluation of the situation.

The CHSTL stated that all highway matters should be reported via Dorset Council's reporting form to ensure the correct Dorset Council officer was directed to the appropriate enquiry.

The chairman brought forward item 7) to item 5).

5) To consider draft Terms of Reference and Representation of Outside Bodies

It was reported that the draft Terms of Reference would be considered at the Planning and Consultation Committee prior to presentation at the Finance and Governance Committee. It was noted that the outside representatives of the Roads and Transport Committee should be made aware of the change to committee structure.

Members agreed to refer the draft Terms of Reference to the Planning and Consultation Committee.

6) Parking Review and Traffic Management Proposals

The CHSTL reported that the Parking Review was unlikely to progress as quickly as initially anticipated, and therefore traffic management proposals may need to be assessed on an individual basis. The CHSTL suggested a review of the requests received by the Town Council to date in order to progress these items.

A discussion ensued around commissioning an alternative company to undertake a town parking review, funded by the Town Council. In response the CHSTL agreed to supply Members with an indication of cost to be discussed at a future meeting.

7) Parking Enforcement Matters

a) Institute Road – vehicles parking on the pavement

Further to a discussion around enforcement options, it was suggested that in the first instance an on-site meeting to investigate the feasibility of the installation of bollards be arranged with Dorset Highways officers and Members.

The pooling on the tactile pavement, outside Hayman's Bakery, was raised and the CHSTL confirmed he would obtain an update.

b) Stone Quay – vehicles parking on the pavement

Further to a brief discussion it was suggested that kerb lips could prevent parking in this location, however, should a parking review commence this could form part of a wider review.

c) Northbrook Road/Greensands Way – concerns over inconsiderate parking

The concerns were noted and would be discussed with the CHSTL/referred to the parking review.

8) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Dorset Council – 20 m.p.h. Speed limit policy

Item noted.

b) Dorset Council - Highways reporting form: <https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report-other-highways-issue>

Item noted.

9) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting closed at 4.20 p.m.