

Washpond Lane

- Concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians using Washpond Lane were reiterated.
- Thanks were given for the recent speed survey which had been undertaken in the lane. However, it was explained that the safety concerns were not solely related to speed of vehicles, but also regarding an increase in footfall in the lane, which it was felt was due to the Barratt's new residential development, dog walkers accessing the new SANG, and parents walking with children.
- A request was made for a copy of the Pre-feasibility Report and scheme options dated March 2019, which had informed the decision over the previously approved safer footpath option.
- A question as to whether engagement had commenced with Barratt Homes regarding road safety in Northbrook Road and Washpond Lane.
- Comments that parents of St Mary's School pupils would be keen to engage with the 20's Plenty campaign group to work together for a reduction in the speed limit.
- A query as to whether the Community Infrastructure Levy funds which would be received from the Barratts development could be used to fund highway improvements.
- Comments made that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) pole in Northbrook Road was not ideally positioned due to the number of motorhomes and other high sided vehicles which parked along this section of the road, which obstructed visibility of the SID.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Trite and Mr S Mepham, Senior Team Leader, Highways, Dorset Council.

An apology was also received from Councillor Monkhouse who was present via online video link.

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 - 13 of the Council's Code of Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from the Notes of the Informal Meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee held on 23rd June 2021

4) Requests for improved traffic management in Northbrook Road/Washpond Lane/St Mary's School – comments were made that it should be noted that St Mary's Primary School attended Ulwell Cottage Caravan Park for swimming lessons, and also walked the route along Washpond Lane to Ulwell Road.

4) Requests for improved traffic management in Northbrook Road/Washpond Lane/St Mary's School - update

Further to Minute No. 4) of the Informal meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee held on 23rd June 2021, it was reported that a speed survey had been completed between 8th September 2021 and 14th September 2021 in Washpond Lane. Consideration was given to the results of the survey. During a seven-day period (24 hours per day, during term time), average mean speed north-eastbound was 25.9 mph (85% of all vehicles travelling at under 29.5mph), and average mean speed south-westbound was 26.4mph (85% of all vehicles travelling at under 30.6mph).

The results were compared with the speed survey which had been conducted in March 2019, and it was established that although there had been a higher number of vehicles using the road in 2021, the average speed was actually lower.

A discussion ensued during which the possibility of Dorset Council (DC) reducing the speed limit was again explored. It was explained that, following the previous speed survey, DC had informed the Town Council that it could not support a reduction in the speed limit, due to the fact that the majority of vehicles using the lane were already driving under 30 mph.

An update provided via email by the Senior Team Leader, Dorset Highways, also confirmed that this matter had previously been investigated by DC's Road Safety and Transport Planning Teams. A reduction in speed limit from 60mph to 30mph was not progressed at that time due to three factors:-

- Washpond Lane did not meet DC's Policy or the Department for Transport's guidance for such a reduction, specifically rural roads with less than 20 dwellings fronting the relevant section of highway, would not be considered suitable.
- No collision statistics (incidents involving injury reported by Dorset Police) in the lane.
- Speed survey data at the time showed average vehicle speeds (85th percentile) to be around 32mph.

However, two measures had been implemented as a result of the decision not to reduce the speed limit:-

- 'Pedestrian in road' signs had been installed.
- A number of alternative pedestrian route options had been discussed between representatives from St Mary's Primary School, the Town Council and DC, and a preferred footpath option had been agreed and would be completed in due course (Option 5 of the Pre-feasibility Report March 2019).

At 2.45 p.m. the Chair invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow a member of the public to address the Committee, and ask a question relating to Agenda Item 4).

A lengthy discussion was then held regarding the possibility of installing a footway along Washpond Lane, or alternatively behind the hedge boundary along the edge of the adjacent field, and included a debate regarding legal minimum width and use of materials for footways, and the potential environmental impact that the removal of hedgerows could have. It was reported that, as set out in the Pre-feasibility Report, various options for footpaths had previously been discussed and costed prior to the preferred footpath route having been agreed at the Roads and Transport Committee meeting held on 27th November 2019.

It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged with the newly appointed headteacher of St Mary's Primary School to discuss the concerns surrounding pedestrian safety around the school and report the outcome back to a future meeting.

Further to Minute No. 4) of the Informal Meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee held on 23rd June 2021, an update was then provided regarding the short-and long-term suggestions made, which included:-

- *Contact Dorset Council to ensure the verges/hedgerows are kept cut back and well maintained* – it had been confirmed that the Chapter 8 Certificate required to work on a 60mph road was not held by Town Council staff, and the Operations Manager was therefore awaiting a costing from DC for Dorset Highways to undertake these works. An update would be provided to a future meeting.

- *Contact Dorset Council to ascertain if temporary yellow road signs could be positioned at each end of Washpond Lane periodically to increase driver awareness* - temporary signage had not been deemed appropriate, and DC had reiterated that both the Road Safety and Transport Planning Teams had identified a safer alternative route from Ulwell Rd through Days Park to Northbrook Road.
- *To engage with Barratt Homes regarding the possibility of a footpath through the new development and make them aware of the pre-feasibility study previously conducted* – it was reported that a site meeting with Barratt Homes had been arranged to discuss the proposals for the new development on the eastern side of Northbrook Road. However, the potential for a ‘cut-through’ from Days Park through the development to Northbrook Road had been discussed and may be considered.
- *To express the importance of a footpath in the Town Council’s response to the planning application* – this matter would be discussed by the Town Council’s Planning and Consultation Committee.

After a further lengthy debate it was proposed by Councillor Foster and seconded by Councillor Harris:-

That the Town Council continues with endeavours to make Washpond Lane safer for pedestrians.

Upon being put to the Meeting, FOUR Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

5) **Community Speed Indicator Device (SID) – update**

Further to Minute No. 6) of the Informal Meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee held on 23rd June 2021, it was reported that two poles had now been installed, one in Ulwell Road and one in Northbrook Road, and the SID was now in place.

It was noted that training in the operation and relocation of the Speed Indicator Device had been provided by DC to members of staff from the Operations Team.

6) **Dorset Council – Highway Matters**

a) **Report and updates from Community Highways Senior Team Leader (CHSTL)**

The CHSTL had provided an update via email prior to the meeting. In addition to comments noted under Minute No. 4) the update included:-

- **Cauldron Barn Road** - it was suggested that a meeting be arranged on site with representatives from DC and the Town Council to discuss the parking issues with residents, and any possible solutions. The concerns raised regarding planning approval and restrictive covenants relating to the park homes would be passed to the relevant DC planning officer. A link to the ‘access protection markings’ application form for residents on DC’s website had been provided. These could run along the full width of dropped kerb access and may deter inconsiderate parking.
- **Priests Road** – it was reported that major remedial work to strengthen and improve the footway/road’s structure and surface had been completed in August 2021.

b) Update regarding potential parking review of Swanage

It was suggested that a meeting be arranged between representatives from the Town Council and DC's newly appointed Parking Review officer regarding the potential parking review of the town.

7) Public Transport matters

a) Durlston Bus Service – update

It was reported that the kerb lips on the corner of Queens Road and Bon Accord Road had been completed, which had enabled the Durlston Bus to stop at the hospital. Members requested information regarding passenger numbers for the 2021 season, and an update would be provided to a future meeting.

8) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Swanage Town Council Parking Order Review

It was reported that the Town Clerk and Finance Manager had revised the draft Off-Street Parking Order and that the Car Parks Working Party would be meeting to discuss the type and length of vehicles permitted in Town Council-owned car parks.

b) Dorset Council – Blue Badge holders – parking survey

Details of the survey were noted, and would also be posted on the Town Council's Facebook page.

c) Dorset Council's review of car parking charges - update

It was noted that DC's review of car park charges (on-street and DC-owned car parks) would be considered at DC's Place and Resources Overview Committee Meeting being held on 19th October 2021, prior to a decision being made at on the review at DC's Cabinet Meeting on 2nd November 2021. Members wanted to reiterate their position regarding the proposed charges for Swanage, in particular the opposition to the loss of a 15-minute shoppers parking option being retained in Station Road.

d) Dorset Council – suggestion for new Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP)

The information provided by DC was noted, and a suggestion was made for EVCPs to be installed in the car parks at Durlston Country Park.

e) Mopeds

Members reported instances of excessive noise from mopeds circulating the town late at night and into the early hours. It was noted that any individuals witnessing such incidents should report these to Dorset Police via 101, or through the Dorset Police online reporting tool, for further investigation.

f) Panorama Road

DC Highways had confirmed that the Town Council-owned section of Cow Lane may be adopted in its entirety, however, only part of Panorama Road was suitable for adoption (the section from Priests Road to house No. 2 Panorama Road).

Members were in support of adoption, and a report would be taken to the next Council Meeting for approval to proceed with the submission of the Section 38 notices on this basis accordingly.

9) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for 24th November 2021 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.
