

**Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 27 September 2023**

Present Councillor T Ellis (Chair)
Councillors S Abbott, H Belcher, N Brakspear, J Brook,
J Robertson, G Ward and R Williams

In Attendance J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)

P&A 28/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor G McCaffrey.

P&A 29/23 Public Question Time and Petitions

The member of the public who had submitted the Highway Improvement Form relating to parking outside Londis, Pickwick Road, was in attendance to make representations on the issue and ask for the Town Council's support in addressing the issue. She stated that on a daily basis cars launched onto the pavement outside Londis at some speed causing a hazard to pedestrians. She added that cars parked at this location made it difficult for motorists to spot pedestrians who wished to use the pedestrian crossing and that this presented a further risk. She stated that she had spoken to the Police, Wiltshire Council and Councillor Ruth Hopkinson about the problem and was proposing that a series of bollards be sited in front of Londis to prevent parking at this location.

P&A 30/23 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

P&A 31/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property & Amenities Committee meeting held on 19 July 2023

Minute P&A 23/23 – Pockeridge Road Play Areas - The Head of Technical Services stated that the date for the consultation on the designs for the play areas was still to be confirmed.

P&A 32/23 Public Realm RIBA Stage 2 (*Minute P&A 17/23 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services gave an update on the public realm project centred on Newlands Road. He stated that he had recently met with members of Wiltshire Council's Economy & Regeneration Team and Economic Development and Planning Team to ask about potential sources of funding. The project would

probably not qualify for the Wiltshire Towns Programme funding, but the project would be raised at the next meeting of the Active Travel Delivery Group (made up of senior officers at Wiltshire Highways) to see whether this was the type of project that they might support/fund.

Resolved:

To note the update.

P&A 33/23 Park Lane Workshop (*Minute P&A 05/23 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services gave an update on the Park Lane Workshop. The Workshop Task Group had met earlier in September to discuss the provision of storage space. The Group decided not to include additional storage via a mezzanine as this would have an impact on cost, potentially cause a health & safety issue and compromise the ground floor layout.

The Head of Technical Services reported that the full design team had now been appointed. Coreus had been appointed as quantity surveyors, Giraffe as structural Engineers, Max Fordham as mechanical and electrical (M&E) consultants, Miles White Transport as highway consultants and Askew Cavanna were continuing to act as architects and principal designers. A cost plan was expected shortly from the quantity surveyors, the structural engineers were planning ground investigations, the highway consultant would soon be looking at vehicular access and parking issues and the architect had been working on a draft plan of the ancillary structures.

In addition, Mach Acoustics had been employed to carry out a noise survey and assist with the completion of the requirements for noise set out in the planning permission conditions, and Seasons Ecology had been employed to work on the required Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP).

Resolved:

To note the update.

P&A 34/23 Consultation on 20mph Limits in Corsham Town Centre (*Minute P&A 19/23 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services gave an overview of the responses to the 20mph consultation in the town centre. In total there were 337 responses.

In answer to the question 'Are you in favour of the Town Council introducing 20mph speed limits in the town centre?' 239 respondents were in favour and 98 were against (71% in favour, 29% against).

In answer to the question 'Are you in favour of the Town Council introducing its proposed scheme – 20mph limits on parts of Newlands Road, Pickwick Road, Station Road and Pound Pill?' 234 respondents were in favour and 103 were against (69.5% in favour, 30.5% against).

There was a difference in responses between those received in hard copy and those received via SurveyMonkey. The SurveyMonkey Responses revealed a closer split between those in favour and those against (133 in favour and 94 against) whilst the hard copies showed an overwhelming support for 20mph limits (101 in favour and 9 against).

Issues discussed included:

- That there had been a good level of response and that the Town Council could be confident that there was support for 20mph limits in the town centre;
- That the main comments from those in favour tended to be that the scheme did not go far enough; and
- That the main comments from those against tended to centre on concerns that the scheme wouldn't be adhered to or policed, that there wasn't a need for 20mph limits, the cost of implementing the scheme and the impact on journey times.

Resolved:

To consider the comments in detail at the next meeting of the Committee.

P&A 35/23 Park Lane Trolleys (*Minute P&A 22/23 and others*)

Consideration was given to a quote which set out options for facing the plinth which would house the two stone trolleys which had been restored by local volunteers through the Brunel Shed. The options included facing the plinth and building a wall to the rear with cut bath stone ashlar, with tumbled walling stone or just facing the plinth (no wall) with tumbled walling stone.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether a wall at the rear of the plinth really added anything to the display;
- Whether a wall could be constructed at a later date if felt to be necessary;
- The cost of the project and whether funds could be better used elsewhere.

Resolved:

To proceed with the option to only clad the perimeter of the plinth, but to ask for a quote for this to be done with cut bath stone.

P&A 36/23 Arnold House Maintenance (*Minute P&A 21/23 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services reported that he had been in contact with an architect who specialises in listed buildings with a view to submitting a listed building consent application to address the issues with the internal fabric and the damp issues in the Flat 2 entrance.

Resolved:

To note the update.

P&A 37/23 Lease for the Public Conveniences, Martingate

The lease for the public conveniences in The Martingate Centre (Newlands Road Car Park) expired in July and was holding over. A new draft lease had been received from the landlord's solicitors and the Town Council's solicitors were reviewing the terms, including queries raised by the Chief Executive. The intention was that the new lease would be for another seven years on no less favourable terms than the existing one.

Resolved:

That the Town Council enters into a new lease for the public conveniences on terms to be agreed, following advice from the Town Council's solicitors.

P&A 38/23 Update on Local Highway Group Issues

Lacock Road Kerbing

Consideration was given to a scheme produced for the LHFIG to install kerbs along the southern side of Lacock Road. The scheme was costed at £45,700 and would need to go forward as a substantive bid. The Town Council would need to contribute at least £7,000.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether the scheme would solve the issue of parking cars and muddy verges;
- That if this was accepted as a substantive scheme it would be unlikely that another scheme from Corsham would go ahead in the next few years; and
- Whether there was a more cost effective solution to prevent people from mounting or walking on the verge.

Resolved:

- To inform the LHFIG that the Town Council would not be contributing towards the scheme at the current time;
- To look for examples where physical barriers had been used to prevent people from walking on grass verges.

Neston 20mph Speed Limits

The Committee noted that there had been objections to the Traffic Regulation Order for the 20mph scheme. Wiltshire's Senior Traffic Engineer had stated that because of this, she now had to present the scheme to Cabinet for them to approve. She added that she still thought it would go ahead but that would be a slight delay. She would be proceeding with preparing the works package in anticipation of it being signed off.

Issues discussed included:

- Which meeting of Cabinet the scheme would be presented to.

Resolved:

To ask the Senior Traffic Engineer when the scheme would be presented to Cabinet.

A4 (Cross Keys) Speed Limit

Consideration was given to whether the Town Council should contribute an additional £650 towards lowering the speed limit to 50mph on sections of the A4 either side of the Cross Keys.

Resolved:

To contribute up to £2,400 towards the scheme to reduce the speed limit on the A4 either side of the Cross Keys to 50mph.

Speed Limits at Lacock Road, Lypiatt Road and Elley Green

Consideration was given to the results of metro counts at the three locations. All had shown an 85th percentile within the speed limit and the LHFIG had asked whether the Town Council really wanted to pursue speed limit assessments given the LHFIG's restricted budget.

Resolved:

To inform the LHFIG that the Town Council would consent to dropping proposals for speed limit assessments at Lacock Road and Lypiatt Road, but would ask that Elley Green be kept on the LHFIG's list, in abeyance, to be looked at again after the 20mph speed limit scheme had been introduced.

Speeding in Gastard, Engineering Solution

Consideration was given to an engineering solution drawn up by the Senior Traffic Engineer which involved re-siting the Coppershell junction to address the issue of parking near the junction.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether the proposal would have any effect on traffic speeding through the village.

Resolved:

To consult with members of the Gastard Community Speedwatch before responding to the LHFIG.

P&A 39/23 Requests for Highway Improvements and Traffic Surveys (Minute P&A 24/23 and others)

Pavement outside Londis, Pickwick Road – Request to install bollards.

Issues discussed included:

- The limits of the LHFIG budget;
- Whether bollards should go from the zebra crossing to the service road or right down to the High Street;
- Whether there was any merit in asking the Police or Parking Enforcement to address the issue; and
- The possibility of the Town Council funding the scheme under the auspices of the public realm.

Resolved:

To send the request on to Wiltshire Council stating that the Town Council supports the request and to ask the LHFIG to prioritise the request out of pedestrian safety concerns.

P&A 40/23 Update on the Speed Indicator Devices and Autospeedwatch

Since the last Committee meeting, the SIDs had been deployed at:

Elley Green (near the lower entrance to the Leafield Industrial Estate).
Average speeds were 25.52mph incoming and 25.87mph outgoing.
Maximum speeds were 50mph incoming and 51mph outgoing.

Furzehill. Average speeds were 25.42mph incoming and 27.47mph outgoing. Maximum speeds were 59mph incoming and 67mph outgoing.

The Head of Technical Services reported the Town Council was continuing to send the Autospeedwatch data to the Police though there was no sign that anything had been done with this yet. It appeared that the Police and Crime Commissioner's focus was on establishing a system to use SID data throughout the county to focus enforcement work. The Town Council would undertake a review of its SID sites to ensure that the worst areas for speeding were concentrated on and that the town did not miss out on Police enforcement.

Resolved:

To note the update.

P&A 41/23 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order

Consideration was given to a Traffic Regulation Order which proposed to lower the speed limit on part of the B3109.

Issues discussed included:

- That having a consistent speed limit along the Bradford Road would be better than having changes in the speed limit.

Resolved:

To respond to the consultation stating that consideration should be given to having a consistent speed limit along the Bradford Road and that consideration should be given to the presence of the informal crossing point used by residents of Park Place.

The meeting began at 7.30pm and ended at 9.07pm. There was one member of the public present.

CHAIR

DATE