

**Notes of the Informal Property and Amenities Meeting Held Remotely
on MS Teams 25 May 2022**

Present Councillor T Ellis (Chair)
Councillors S Abbott, H Belcher, N Brakspear, A Crockford,
J Robertson, T Smith and G Ward

In Attendance Councillor A Brown
J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors G McCaffrey and A White.

2) Declarations of Interest

Councillor H Belcher declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 – her property fronted onto Park Lane. She remained in the meeting during the discussion.

**3) Matters Arising from the Notes of the informal Property & Amenities
Committee meeting held remotely on 9 March 2022**

There were none.

**4) Public Realm Update (*Notes of the informal P&A Meeting 9 March 2022 –
Agenda Item 4*)**

The Head of Technical Services gave an update on the public realm project centred on Newlands Road.

The Town Council had submitted a request for a fee proposal for RIBA Stage 2 of the public realm project. Wiltshire had acknowledged receipt of the request and had confirmed that they were happy with the contents. The request had been sent on to Atkins to consider and respond. The fee proposal process for Stage 1 had been an iterative process and had taken a couple of months. The Head of Technical Services hoped that a fee proposal would be ready for the Committee to consider at the 27 July meeting.

Agreed:

To note the update.

5) **Local Highway & Footway Improvement Groups**

The Committee received an update on Wiltshire Council's decision to replace Community Area Transport Groups (CATG's) with Local Highway & Footway Improvement Groups (LHFIG's). Guidance Notes and Terms of Reference had been circulated with the agenda.

The Committee noted that a list of responsibilities was included on page five of the guidance which was broader than the old CATG responsibilities. The Corsham area had been allocated £21,683 for 2022-23. There was to be a more structured procedure for allocating funds to projects and individual LHFIG's would have to allocate budget to projects at the April and July meetings. If there were funds not allocated by this time, there would be a risk that the LHFIG would lose the money to a central integrated transport fund.

Issues would continue to be raised using Highway Improvement Forms. The guidance stressed that town/parish councils would have to support the request or suggest a specific solution before sending them on for the LHFIG to consider.

Issues discussed included:

- The implications of the groups not being able to carry over budget to the following financial year;
- That the CATG/LHFIG presently had a lengthy list of issues to deal with; and
- The need to ensure developer contributions towards footpaths when considering planning applications.

Agreed:

To note the update.

6) **Update on Community Area Transport Group Issues (*Notes of the informal P&A Meeting 26 January 2022 – Agenda Item 7*)**

The Head of Technical Services gave an update on issues being considered by the CATG/LHFIG:

Bradford Road Crossing: The topographical survey had been completed and the speed limit assessment was expected to be received at the end of June. A plan (with costs) for a footway were being prepared.

Pool Green/Elley Green: The CATG had put forward two options for the pedestrian build out. Option 1 involved a pedestrian build out at the southern side of the road. Option 2 involved the same works at the southern side of the road as well as a dropped kerb at the northern side. The CATG had agreed to contribute up to £6,795 and had asked the Town Council if it was willing to contribute £2,265 for the works, £438 for the Catman survey and to take forward option 2.

Agreed:

To support option 2 being pursued and to contribute £2,265 towards the works and £438 towards the Catman survey.

20mph: The 20mph reports were now expected to be ready by mid-June. The CATG had stated that implementation costs were expected to be in the region of £10,000. They had asked the Town Council to confirm whether it was willing to contribute 25% (£2,500).

Agreed:

To contribute 25% of the implementation costs up to £3,000.

Smith's Yard: The name plate had been produced and installed.

Freestone Way Bus Stops: Works had been due to start on 16 May and would take approximately ten days.

Station Road: The CATG had agreed to install a planter to protect the property.

Lacock Road: The CATG anticipated going forward with a substantive bid this year. A topographical survey and trial holes would need to be carried out ahead of this bid. The CATG had asked the Town Council to consider contributing 25% of the cost up to £1,625 towards the survey and trial holes.

Agreed:

To contribute 25% of the cost of the topographical survey and trial holes, up to £1,625.

Park Lane Speed Limit: Had been placed on a watching brief until officer time became available.

Pickwick Crossing: Had been placed on a watching brief until officer time became available.

Potley Lane congestion and speeding: Had been placed on a watching brief until officer time became available.

Park Lane parking: The CATG were not proposing to take any action at this stage, but to maintain a watching brief.

A4, Cross Keys speed limit: The CATG were awaiting a response from the Traffic Engineering Manager to representations asking for a 40mph limit to be introduced.

Velley Hill engineering solution for speeding: The issue had been added to the CATG list and also referred to the Traffic Engineering Manager to speak to Wiltshire Police about AutoSpeedWatch.

Cotswold Services Centre: The issue had been added to the CATG list.

Lane's End, Gastard: The issue had been added to the CATG list.

Field Houses, A4: The issue had been added to the CATG list.

Pound Pill: The issue had been added to the CATG list.

Lacock Road speed limit: Corsham Town Council had been asked to submit a metro count request.

Lypiatt Road: Corsham Town Council had been asked to submit a metro count request.

7) Requests for Highways Improvements and Traffic Surveys (*Notes of the informal P&A Meeting 26 January 2022 – Agenda Item 8*)

Park Lane – Request for traffic calming measures:

Issues discussed included that the request did not specify where along Park Lane the issue was or the type of traffic calming that was being asked for.

Agreed:

To ask the resident who submitted the request to provide more details concerning the exact location of the issue and the type of traffic calming that was required.

Valley Road – Request to re-surface pavements:

Agreed:

To contact the resident to ascertain the precise location(s) of the problematic pavements and to report the issue on the app and to the Highway Engineer for Chippenham and Corsham.

8) Requests for Residents' Parking in Priory Street (*Notes of the informal P&A Meeting 24 November 2021 – Agenda Item 9*)

In November 2021, the Committee considered requests for residents' parking in Priory Street. The Committee had not voted to support the requests but had resolved to send the requests to the CATG and ask if some means of protecting entrances to private drives could be found. The Senior Traffic Engineer had responded by stating that the requests fell under the waiting restrictions request process and not the CATG. The Committee was asked how it wished to deal with

the requests and whether it wished to re-visit the residents' parking element of the requests.

Issues discussed included:

- That the introduction of a residents' parking scheme in one street would necessitate its introduction throughout the town centre, otherwise it would simply move the issue to neighbouring streets;
- That support for residents' parking schemes tends to dissipate when people realise they have to pay an annual charge;
- The possibility of conducting a survey into residents' parking in the town centre; and
- The need to be cognisant of the growing number of electric cars and on street charging when bringing in a potential scheme.

Agreed:

- i. To send the request to protect residents' drives along Priory Street to the waiting restrictions process.
- ii. To conduct a survey in the newsletter to ascertain the interest in a town wide residents' parking scheme.
- iii. Not to submit the requests for residents' parking to the waiting restrictions process.

9) Proposed Traffic Regulation Order

Consideration was given to a proposed Traffic Regulation Order which sought to make changes to parking charges in Wiltshire Council's car parks and to remove the exemption from charging for blue badge holders. Issues discussed included:

- That using ticket machines could be difficult for some blue badge holders as they are mounted on posts quite high up;
- Whether an equality impact assessment had been carried out before proposing to get rid of the exemption;
- That 94% of blue badge holders are in receipt of benefits and so the introduction of charges could be seen as a tax on the poor; and
- The mis-use of blue badges.

Agreed:

To respond to the consultation by opposing the introduction of charges for blue badge holders, citing access issues and financial burden that would be placed on some of the poorest members of our community.

10) Update on Cycle Network Priorities (*Notes of the informal P&A Meeting 24 November 2021– Agenda Item 13*)

Consideration was given to an update on priorities contained within the Corsham Cycling Strategy. The Committee noted that the improvements to the link between Tramways and Pockeridge Drive had been completed last year and that Wiltshire Council had been asked to provide a price for repairs to Pockeridge Drive.

The update was noted.

11) Speeding in Gastard (*Notes of the informal P&A Meeting 9 March 2022 – Agenda Item 5*)

Information related to the Highways Improvement Form for speeding in Gastard had already been covered in Agenda Item 6.

12) Update on Speed Indicator Devices (*Notes of the informal P&A Meeting 9 March 2022 – Agenda Item 6*)

Since the last meeting of the Committee, Speed Indicator Devices had been sited in the following locations:

Cross Keys Road, facing south, 16-21 March: Average speed incoming 25.46mph, average speed outgoing 26.50mph.

Elley Green, facing east, 16-21 March: Average speed incoming 25.08mph, average speed outgoing 25.08mph.

A4, near the entrance to Dovecote Drive, 23-31 March: Average speed incoming 24.39mph, average speed outgoing 26.77mph.

Park Lane, facing east, 25-31 March: Average speed incoming 27.31mph, average speed outgoing 27.61mph. Maximum speed incoming 76mph, maximum speed outgoing 75mph.

Neston, at the southern junction with the industrial estate, facing east, 6-19 April: Average speed incoming 25.85mph, average speed outgoing 24.91mph.

Freestone Way, facing east, 6-14 April: Average speed incoming 20.44mph, average speed outgoing 21.19mph.

Velley Hill, facing south, 22 April – 5 May: Average speed incoming 27.37mph, average speed outgoing 29.99mph. Maximum speed incoming 66mph, maximum speed outgoing 75mph.

Furzehill, facing east, 22 April – 3 May: Average speed incoming 25.37mph, average speed outgoing 28.37mph.

Valley Road, facing south, 12-19 May: Average speed incoming 27.96mph, average speed outgoing 29.16mph. Maximum speed incoming 63mph, maximum speed outgoing 78mph.

Freestone Way, facing west, 12-19 May: Average speed incoming 19.03mph, average speed outgoing 18.85mph.

The update was noted.

13) Update on Service Delegation and Asset Transfer (*Notes of the informal P&A Meeting 9 March 2022 – Agenda Item 7*)

The Committee received an update on efforts to take over the management of five play areas under seven year leases (two at Katherine Park, two at Pockeridge Road and one at Bences Lane) from Wiltshire Council. The leases had been received and were now with the Town Council's solicitor who had been asked to check them before they are signed. The Chief Executive anticipates taking over the play areas in June. Part of the delay had been due to a site boundary query at Katherine Park where two properties had extended their gardens into the land to be transferred. These areas have been excluded from the lease until Wiltshire Council resolves the matter.

There was a £4,000 annual maintenance contribution for Katherine Park. There were not maintenance contributions for Bences Lane or Pockeridge Road, but the Town Council had budgeted for this. There was a separate agreement for refurbishing the two play areas at Pockeridge Road, totalling around £47,000.

Technical Services staff would be working with the Community Services Officer (Arts) and other colleagues at Pockeridge as there is also a community arts project being planned. Community engagement was an important element.

The little play area at Katherine Park will be a priority for attention once the leases come through. The play area was presently closed due to safety concerns and the Head of Technical Services would be working to produce a specification for the complete refurbishment of the site, to be completed this financial year.

The update was noted.

14) Councillor Site Visits 2022

The Committee were informed that the annual site visits were due to take place on 19 July and 2 August this year (both starting at 7pm). The site visits were a great way for councillors to keep up to date on initiatives and issues at town council sites. The first site visit would include the new sites that the Town Council proposes to take over on seven year leases.

Agreed:

To note the site visit dates.

The meeting began at 7.30pm and ended at 8.58pm. There were no members of the public present.