

ST IVES AND DISTRICT AREA ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mrs Margaret Lumb

Vice Chairman: Mr Colin Saunderson

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Minutes

Of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th of May 2019 at 7.30 pm – at St. Ives Town Hall

Present:

| | | | |
|------------------|------|---|--------------------------|
| Jean Chandler | (JC) | : | Co-opted member |
| Margaret King | (MK) | : | St. Ives TC |
| Peter Smith | (PS) | : | Co-opted member |
| Margaret Lumb | (ML) | : | Chairman |
| Owen McLaughlin | (OM) | : | Secretary |
| Tony Hulme | (TH) | : | Somersham PC |
| Dave McCandless | (DM) | : | Community Roadwatch |
| Colin Saunderson | (CS) | : | Fenstanton PC |
| Brian Burpitt | (BB) | : | HCV Group |
| Wendy Oldfield | (WO) | : | Earith Speedwatch |
| Andy Bush | (AB) | : | Hilton Action on Traffic |

1. Welcomes & Apologies

Apologies had been received from Eda McPherson, Jeff Nicholls and Jill Tavener

2. Minutes - To approve Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2019

Proposed AB: Seconded CS: All in favour.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

St. Ivo School:

ML reported that she had tried to contact Sam Griffin the headteacher regarding a meeting but had not received a response. She will keep pursuing this. OM added that the environmental monitoring kits that had been ordered by the HCV group had still not arrived so they could not yet set up a meeting with the school's environmental group to discuss collaboration.

JC said that the RSC had met with the school in the past to discuss road safety issues.

PS thought that it was unrealistic to expect the behaviour of the children to change. The problem at the traffic lights is that the delay is too long before pedestrians can cross. It seems that traffic flow is prioritised over safety. There is also a lot of red light jumping. PS had observed up to 4 cars at a time going through red lights even when it was green for the other direction. MK added that she had seen lots of near misses here.

Vegetation on Roundabouts:

There was some inconclusive discussion about whether it was always better to remove vegetation from roundabouts. A case could be made that thick vegetation might make drivers more cautious.

CS said that an upcoming planning application might provide an opportunity to do something to improve the Low Road/Harrison Way roundabout.

4. Correspondence

5. 20 MPH Limits

Wendy Oldfield gave a presentation on the Twenty is Plenty campaign to introduce more 20MPH limits. TfL are doing a lot of work to introduce 20 MPH limits in London and 15 million people in the UK already live in areas with 20 MPH zones. There are also 400 ongoing campaigns to introduce them. In Wales there is a campaign to make 20 the default limit in all built-up areas.

In this area there are zones in Buckden, St. Ives, Cambridge, Somersham and Warboys. It is also not true that you can't have 20MPH zones on A roads. There are lots of examples around the country. There is a lot more information available on the web-site. www.20splenty.org

OM said that Sutton PC are in the process of applying for a very extensive 20 MPH zone in the village. Earith should also consider a zone around the school and in Chapel Road which is a rat run for speeding drivers when the High Street is busy. Perhaps the RSC should write to Earith PC about this.

WO said it is probably better to consult the residents first as this makes an application more credible.

DM said it was also a bit misleading when the police claimed that they could not enforce 20MPH limits. They certainly have the power to enforce them but not the resources.

6. Cambs Accident Statistics and Vision Zero

| Month | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018* | | 2019* | |
|-----------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Fatal | Serious | Fatal | Serious | Fatal | Serious | Fatal | Serious | Fatal | Serious |
| January | 4 | 13 | 2 | 17 | 6 | 28 | 1 | 20 | 2 | 20 |
| February | 2 | 14 | 3 | 17 | 4 | 30 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 17 |
| March | 4 | 12 | 5 | 12 | 3 | 28 | 0 | 19 | | |
| April | 1 | 23 | 4 | 18 | 1 | 21 | 1 | 29 | | |
| May | 2 | 30 | 0 | 20 | 4 | 33 | 0 | 18 | | |
| June | 1 | 21 | 3 | 34 | 3 | 43 | 4 | 43 | | |
| July | 3 | 18 | 1 | 25 | 3 | 28 | 5 | 33 | | |
| August | 1 | 17 | 4 | 34 | 3 | 18 | 1 | 22 | | |
| September | 4 | 21 | 3 | 43 | 1 | 22 | 2 | 49 | | |
| October | 5 | 29 | 1 | 28 | 3 | 24 | 0 | 35 | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|--|--|
| November | 1 | 29 | 3 | 30 | 6 | 26 | 5 | 40 | | |
| December | 2 | 29 | 4 | 37 | 4 | 36 | 5 | 29 | | |
| Totals | 30 | 256 | 33 | 315 | 41 | 337 | 25 | 345 | | |
| KSI | 286 | | 348 | | 378 | | 370 | | | |

OM presented the latest accident and casualty statistics from Cambs County Council. The first few months of 2018 saw an unusually low number of fatalities but unfortunately the remaining months have seen a return to average levels. The total for killed and seriously injured is slightly fewer than 2017 but well above the two previous years. In the light of these figures the RSC should ask the Chief Constable how progress towards Vision Zero can be achieved. The previous target set by the Cambridge and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership was for a 40% reduction in KSIs (based on 2005 – 2009 baseline average) to fewer than 246 per annum by 2020. Looking at the data for the past 4 years it is very hard to see how that can be done.

The Public Health Framework Indicator for KSI casualties also show that Cambridgeshire is significantly worse than the national average and the worst in the East of England.

Action: OM to write reply to Nick Dean re: Vision Zero

7. Wheatsheaf Crossroads Update

ML said that the letter received from Steve Criswell could be described as rude. They had subsequently met to discuss the matter and she had told SC that the RSC had been asked by local parish councils if they could do anything about the Crossroads. The fact that we did not know what the county were doing was mainly because we had not been informed. There was a serious communication problem.

Steve Criswell said that he had persuaded Matt Staton, Interim Head of Projects, to add the Wheatsheaf Junction to the other 9 junctions to be evaluated for any improvement actions despite the fact that it was only 49th on the priority list. We understand that the speed limit on the B1040 will be considered as part of the evaluation. A new methodology is being developed to look at problem junctions in isolation. Under the new criteria the Wheatsheaf Junction is higher in the list.

CS said it would help to get the speed camera back into operation. Rumble strips could also be deployed because there is no housing in the vicinity.

BB wondered if a speed camera at the other side of the junction would be effective.

OM thought it was necessary to reduce speed across the board. Pity that the Speed Limit Review begun in 2008 had stopped before it had reviewed even half the roads on the list.

MK said the one of the biggest problems at the junction was poor visibility. A sign saying 'Junction Ahead' might also help. Perhaps Envar could put a sign on their own land?

ML said that Envar want to demolish the old pub near the junction. That might improve visibility.

JC thought a 'STOP' sign would solve the problem. It would also be the cheapest option.

WO asked about funding. At the village meeting with Shailesh Vara he said we could write and request funding. Also the mayor could be approached.

Actions: OM to contact Matt Staton to ask about progress and timescales for the camera upgrades and also information on rumble strips.

8. Watching Items

Item 6: Low Road/Harrison Way

CS said that Fenstanton PC intend to have another go an at LHI bid to reduce the speed limit in London Road. Incidentally some old plans for the Vindis site had houses built on stilts because of the possibility of flooding.

He is also proposing an extra lane on Harrison Way near the sailing club as a way of reducing congestion.

Item 31: Hill Rise

PS reported a serious problem with blocked gullies which leads to flooding. Blockages caused by sand, soil, weeds or litter cause water to drain away more slowly than it should posing a risk to all road users. One area of concern is Houghton road at the Elm Drive pelican crossing which is used by large numbers of children to going to and from school.



Action: OM to write to Brian Murdoch to highlight the problem.

Item 49: Morrison's Store:

MK: The roundabout at the junction of Somersham Road and the A1123 only has a pavement on one side although a lot of people work in the industrial estate.
CS said that the Aldi planning permission includes a 106 agreement for a pedestrian crossing but he will go and have a look at the problem and report back.

Item 50: Vegetation Cutting

This item is on the watching list because the RSC was told a couple of years ago that CCC were no longer pro-actively controlling vegetation growth that might affect road safety and were looking for volunteers to undertake these tasks. (RSC minutes 13/09/2016).

Action: Inquiries should be made to CCC to ascertain what the current policy actually is.

Item 51: Needingworth – Meadow Lane Junction

CS asked if there had been any more accidents at this spot since the fatality.

Item 52: Sawtry way Speed Limit Reduction.

DM said that the LHI bid to reduce the Speed Limit was effectively dead due to the incompetence of Highways. They had not been properly provided with costings or options and proper procedures weren't followed. The bid had only achieved a score of 0.79 out of 5 which was astonishing. Yet children have to cross this road and the footpath is very narrow. The LHI bid was also supported by residents and businesses and also by CCC councillor Ryan Fuller.

DM had a meeting with Matt Staton who admitted that they had got things wrong. But they are now taking a step back although the need for action is as urgent as ever. Plans for the new crematorium will increase traffic on this route.

CS: There is also potentially a proposal for the Wyton airfield which has been short-listed as one of the 3 possible new homes for Marshalls who are moving out of their Cambridge base.

9. Reports from members

JC, Co-opted: Reported that she had attended a planning meeting at Wyton-on-the-Hill school. Road safety issues were discussed and the new application was for fewer houses (c. 360) with a better design.

ML, Chair: CCC have set up a HGV Diamond Area Steering Group which is tasked with removing HGV traffic from the Diamond area defined within the A14, A10, A141 and A142 roads. A monitoring scheme is being put in place to measure current HGV movements using automatic number plate recognition.

AB, Hilton HAT: The new county HGV watch is in operation. There have been 2 sessions with 11 people trained in total. However, the ground rules have changed which means that the letters which are sent out to companies are much less effective.

BB, HCV Group: Mandy Pink from Earith PC has emailed to ask why CRW were doing speeding sessions in Earith?

PS, St.Ives TC: Related that he had been driving when at least 4 people flashed their lights to alert him to a Speedwatch session taking place. This would suggest that people are taking Speedwatch seriously. Also a mini had somehow got past the car trap on the guided busway near Waitrose.

CS said he would investigate.

CS, Fenstanton PC: Both the SIDs in St. Ives have already stopped working because of flat batteries. Also, all the PCs around Girton Junction want changes to the new design.

DM, Community Road Watch:

The PCC and ACC are now convinced that TRUCAM is an effective technology for controlling speeding that can be used by PCSOs. This change of heart came about after the presentation of irrefutable evidence to support the claims. The police are now referring the matter to CPRSP.

CRW have presented clear evidence of speeding and careless driving to the police. No response had been forthcoming despite videos of possible offences being uploaded to the web site and emails sent to Alice Draper. It is hard to understand why this is being ignored when the evidence is supported by the opinion of 2 people.

Pidley are now doing Lorry Watch and writing to companies when their vehicles are in breach of weight restrictions.

Finally, Speedwatch are now allowed to use SIDs. CRW have 3 SIDs that are available for use by Speedwatch groups.

(Latest CRW Speeding statistics can be found in the Appendix.)

MK, St. Ives TC: There is a great deal of information to digest at these meetings. Would it be possible to distribute this in advance if possible?

10. Items for Further Consideration - None

11. Next 3 RSC Meeting Dates

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| Tuesday | July 9 th 2019 |
| Tuesday | September 10 th 2019 |
| Tuesday | November 12 th 2019 |

Appendix

Community Roadwatch - Speed Check Services - Summary Between 01/01/2019 and 14/05/2019



| <i>ReportAs</i> | <i>FullName</i> | <i>Limit</i> | <i>Sessions</i> | <i>Clicked</i> | <i>Clocked</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>%</i> | <i>#Letters</i> |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Colne | Colne Village | 30 | 1 | 283 | 33 | 48 | 12 | 6 |
| Colne Somersham | Colne (North) | 30 | 4 | 605 | 206 | 71 | 34 | 4 |
| Earith | Earith | 30 | 2 | 313 | 85 | 70 | 27 | 8 |
| Haddenham | Haddenham(30) | 30 | 2 | 270 | 37 | 43 | 14 | |
| Haddenham | Haddenham(WE) | 30 | 1 | 74 | 42 | 52 | 57 | 2 |
| Hilton | Hilton | 30 | 10 | 3341 | 847 | 55 | 25 | 103 |
| Kings Ripton | Kings Ripton 7.5t | 30 | 10 | 2881 | 446 | 52 | 15 | 37 |
| Old Hurst | Old Hurst | 30 | 1 | 66 | 16 | 46 | 24 | |
| Pidley-cum-Fenton | Fenton (40) | 40 | 3 | 413 | 99 | 65 | 24 | 3 |
| Ramsey | Pondersbridge | 30 | 4 | 840 | 521 | 62 | 62 | 28 |
| Ramsey | Ramsey Forty Foot | 30 | 2 | 183 | 33 | 46 | 18 | 6 |
| Ramsey | Ramsey Heights | 40 | 2 | 274 | 36 | 56 | 13 | 5 |
| Ramsey | Ramsey St Marys (30) | 30 | 6 | 1393 | 183 | 51 | 13 | 12 |
| Ramsey | Ramsey St Marys (40) | 40 | 6 | 905 | 284 | 68 | 31 | 25 |
| Somersham | Somersham | 30 | 8 | 1683 | 444 | 54 | 26 | 11 |
| Warboys | Warboys | 30 | 12 | 2520 | 1070 | 95 | 42 | 44 |
| Willingham | Willingham | 30 | 3 | 1004 | 197 | 66 | 20 | 16 |
| Willingham | Willingham Station Rd (30) | 30 | 1 | 324 | 126 | 59 | 39 | 1 |
| | | | 78 | 17372 | 4705 | | 27% | 311 |

Highlighted Highs are ≥ 20 mph above the limit = Serious and needing addressing seriously

Highlighted % are $\geq 20\%$ Speeding = Serious and needing addressing seriously

Colne(North) = Colne Rd on Colne/Somersham border.

5% of letters to Companies were by 2nd class post. Donations to support this cost always welcome.