

Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee – Highways and Transport Working Group

**Minutes of meeting held at the Woodlands Centre, Rustington on Wednesday
5th July 2010**

Present:

County Councillors Peter Evans, Graham Tyler, Dr. James Walsh and Deborah Urquhart.

Councillors Tony Cooper (Ferring), Sue Lines and J E Ceiriog-Hughes (Rustington), Steve Mountain and Paul Bicknell (Angmering), Valerie Masson- Kaibey (Kingston) and Chris Roberts (East Preston)

Leah Harrell (WSCC – Safer Routes to School), Greg Merrett (Sustainable Transport) and Richard Bennett (WSCC – Assistant Highway Manager)

1. Apologies:

Councillors Joyce Bower (Littlehampton) and Geraldine Walker (Kingston)

Chairmanship

Cllr Evans opened the meeting and then formally stepped down from the role of Chairman and passed the Chairmanship to Cllr.Dr Walsh, who continued with the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting held on 24th March 2010

These were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

Roundstone Level Crossing

- Consulting on the Safer Routes to School (SrS) scheme shortly, following the inclusion of the Network Rail CAD drawing to the scheme drawings
- Network Rail had commented that they would want assurances that Pagetts Crossing would be closed as the cost of the works to assist WSCC are over and above the minimum requirements to ensure safety on the crossing.
- Concerns raised that Network Rail are linking the two issues together and would like to avoid Network Rail passing the blame to WSCC.
- WSCC have responded that we cannot predetermine the outcome of any proposed stopping up. However, an improved viable alternative route as proposed, as well as support from WSCC will hopefully ensure closure.
- Committee agreed that a letter to Network Rail to be sent reiterating that the two schemes are separate. Also request to copy MP's into letter.
- Crossing cannot be renewed by NR in Spring 2011 as proposed as the design has had to be outsourced to their consultants.. Works now due by 2012 and possibly late 2011. However (and since confirmed following a meeting with NR) that the necessary fencing revisions could be undertaken in advance of the main works which would enable the SrS scheme to proceed within the correct financial year.
- Discussions are taking place with the Rights of Way Team to proceed with the closure of Pagetts Crossing.
- Request for details on whether Network Rail will implement their improvements to coincide with any future carriageway improvements.

A259 Ferring

- Titnore Lane development has reduced original proposal from 850 homes to 700.
- No traffic impact or planning permission submitted. Will need to wait for these until any further action can be taken. Unlikely to seek planning permission until late autumn
- Committee reiterate that all in favour of having dual carriageway reinstated. Not just the improvement of lane markings.
- RAB explained the legislation regarding lane markings at roundabouts. Are only considered where traffic flows are consistently high throughout the day. Also, signs need to be provided as waiting vehicles will cover any lane markings. There is also a likelihood of dedicated lanes reducing the capacity of the junction as both lanes would not be available for traffic going straight ahead or turning right.
- Dr Walsh has asked for costings for the removal of the lane markings and revisions to the island at the Ferring turn, to enable the road to return to two lanes. This will be reported back to the meeting at the earliest opportunity.

Sea Lane, Rustington

- Nothing further to report. Full committee voted to look at the give and take scheme again. Due to staff commitments and shortages the study has not been completed. Noted that no funding is available for external consultants (Halcrow) to undertake a further review and this would have to be undertaken in-house.
- Cllr. Tyler produced letter dated February 2008 that was sent to Mr Grimes and Rustington Parish, stating that the Halcrow scheme (pinch points) would not work. Noted that there were problems with traffic exiting Cudlow Avenue and traffic heading south will back up to Church roundabout causing congestion during most of the day. The scheme also had a low priority when compared to other sites.
- Cllr. Tyler explained that Rustington PC had voted to reopen scheme and look at again because it was not as expensive as the traffic signal (£150k), but the majority of the parish councillors were unaware of the above letter.
- Request for committee to cite original WSCC/Halcrow letter of 2008 to close matter. (letter to be appended to these minutes)

Items for addition to the 'Blue Book'

East Preston PC listed 3 items, which were local highway issues rather than possible improvements to be funded by developer funds if they became available. Members were asked to review what is currently listed in the 'Blue Book' and to submit schemes of a similar nature at the next meeting.

Pier Road, Littlehampton

- RAB had attended a presentation by Halcrows on behalf of Environment Agency looking at the area between Arun Parade/Pier Road to approx 1km North of A259 road bridge.
- Halcrows showed options. Estimated cost £8million but excluded significant visual enhancement. New high quality lighting columns, paving materials and hand railings estimated at £700,000 for Arun Parade and £470,000 for Pier Rd.
- Environment Agency cost has an allowance of about 3% for enhancement (£240,000). Suggested that public fund raising be used to fill the funding gap e.g. sponsor a bench.
- Proposals due for public consultation in September including for footway improvements. Making part of Pier Road one-way, closure or seasonal closure. Hoped to have copies of consultation drawings available for the next meeting.

- Arun District Council seemingly no longer wants to pursue Pier Road as a pedestrianised area despite outcome of Waterfront Strategy and Member support.

4. Traffic Regulation Orders – Update on progress

- Noted that CPE was starting in Arun that day.
- Whilst the Western Area Office (WAO) were aware of small improvements such as errors on lining and signing being corrected as part of the introduction of CPE, the statement made by Officers at the full JEAAC meeting was in fact correct. (ie: - WSCC will look to introduce additional restrictions within Arundel (JDAC), Littlehampton (JEAAC) and Bognor (JWAAC) as identified by Arun District Council this autumn)
- As a result of pressure from WAO, the TRO Team have agreed to reconsider the existing restrictions in Arundel and Littlehampton which feature on the list of outstanding TRO requests. All likely to be implemented after consultation later this year. In Littlehampton these are:-
 - Beach Road, provide loading bays and limited waiting.
 - Surrey Street, provide loading and limited waiting.
 - Bayford Road, remove DYL from layby.
 - Beach Crescent (South Terrace), correct error following housing devt.
 - Norfolk Road, remove seasonal restriction.

The TRO team intend to provide a single page progress report for each full JEAAC meeting but the list will include schemes that have been identified but are not currently being worked on, such as

- Mill Lane, Rustington (Car Showroom development) is on the list but will not be progressed until the developers go forward with schemes.
- Travis Perkins/Lidl, Little has been approved and will be implemented upon store completion (estimated as early August)
- Manor Road/Nursery Close - DYL to do with development. Awaiting go ahead from developer.
- Downs Way/Station Road, Angmering – to be implemented about 14th July following the CPE commencement.
- Lashmar Road/North Lane – out to formal consultation. *(19/7 – no objections received, so scheme to proceed to formal consultation)*
- Station Road, Arundel Road and Greenwood Drive – out on formal consultation.

Other TRO related matters discussed were:-

- Aware of problems with speeding in Ferring. 1937 TRO covering 16 roads only. Council to discuss more permanent limits.
- Request for link to be made available for existing TRO's. minutes, which is <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/content/roads-and-transport/motor-vehicles-and-parking/parking/traffic-regulation-order-tro-map-browser.en>

5. Greencore/North Littlehampton Development

- Town Council has agreed in principle to release allotment land on the condition that the developers will construct a Lyminster bypass.
- Town Council has not agreed to further housing development being built near the Academy unless they are low level buildings.
- Courtwick Lane Development – Public consultation meeting shortly. Aim to encourage developer to improve Littlehampton infrastructure. Possibly relocate Doctors Surgery and include contribution to the Fitzalan Road extension.

6. Winter Maintenance Operations

- £11million spent in 2-3 months on carriageway resurfacing/patching and surface dressing due to worse winter seen since 1960's.
- Snow summit took place on 11th March with 70 participants discussing what went well and what could be done better.
- Issues raised from summit regarding liability, CRB checks on teachers not working at their normal schools and improved joint working with District, Parish and Volunteer Groups.
- Snow had a major effect on schools and public transport, especially the roads and some areas experienced loss of power.
- WSCC had good stocks of salt but were called upon by other authorities (West Berkshire, Portsmouth and East Sussex).
- WSCC currently salt 41% of road network on precaution salting, which is just over 1000 miles of road. Currently more roads than most other counties.
- Household/Shopkeepers had doubts about liability issues when clearing footways outside their property. This has been taken up nationally.
- Orders were placed for replenishment of salt stocks during mid-winter. Supplies nationally were taken over by the Highways Agency to supply areas most affected, meaning that WSCC order was delayed.
- The trial of using builder's bags of grit in village/town centres worked well. Needs an extended list and work with the Parishes to distribute.
- Also looking at how farmers can help with snow ploughs.

6. Any Other Business

- Would like an update on the Street Lighting contract. Their costings and why the charges are for 15 years of maintenance.
- Windmill Bridge roundabout – Would like a copy of the letter from the committee that was sent to the landowner. Has there been a response yet? Would like this kept on the agenda as there is concern that there is going to be an accident.
- Angmering Station – Parking problems south of railway. Member of public has complained about people picking up from station and late night loading from industrial estate. He was not aware of the problem when purchasing the property. *Noted that it was a private road and that Arun Works Unit is to go from that site with possible redevelopment.*
- Kingston Lane signs still missing as previously stated in last meetings minutes. Would like an update on progress.
- Chaucer Avenue, Rustington – Are there any plans for adoption by WSCC? Can WSCC bring and enforcement to the frontages? There is also a problem with drainage along this road. *It is up to the residents and they have not reached an agreement on how to divide the payment to bring the road up to WSCC standards.*

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 28th October 2010 at 10:00 at the Woodlands Centre, Rustington

**Richard Bennett
20th July 2010**