

MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL ROAD SAFETY AND SPEED AWARE WORKING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY 2023

Present:

Bob Baxter, Cllr Vaughan Blake, Penny Cohen, Cllr Andrew Foster (Chair), Bill Goodall, Lynn Ingram, Cllr David Henderson.

1. Apologies

Cllr Corin Elliott, Laura Houel.

2. Election of Chair

Cllr Andrew Foster was elected as Chair.

3. Review Terms of Reference

A question regarding the current status of the Alcester Neighbourhood Watch Group was queried and **Bill Goodall to speak with the NHW outgoing Chair.**

It was confirmed that one of the remits of the working group would be to decide on the locations of community speed watch sites subject to Police approval.

The draft Terms of Reference were approved.

4. Current Issues

That there continues to be concern from residents regarding the transition from 30mph to 40mph on Birmingham Road leading up to the Roebuck Traffic Island.

The county councillor (Cllr Piers Daniel) continues to apply pressure to reverse the decision to maintain the 40mph limit. It is understood that the whole stretch was not changed to 30mph due to an issue with the original Bloor Homes Planning application process.

That is not currently possible for Police to approve a Speed Watch site in a 20mph zone. **Cllr Vaughan Black to raise with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.**

That concerns remain regarding the number of school buses that use School Road despite previous requests for them to follow an alternative route. **Cllr Vaughan Blake, Bill Goodall and Bob Baxter to conduct a survey during the next school term.**

That inconsiderate parking by members of the Tennis Club is an ongoing concern for residents in Ropewalk.

There are concerns regarding speed traffic in the Town Centre principally on Henley Street, Church Street and the High Street including the absence of any enforcement signs.

That there is no clarity regarding the High Street 'humps' and whether pedestrians have right of way to cross.

Harvington Parish Council have previously erected Community Concern Speed Enforcement signs. It is understood that permission was granted due to serious incidents in the area including a fatality. **Cllr Andrew Foster to circulate previous correspondence from the Town Clerk.**

That there are ongoing concerns regarding inconsiderate parking in the area near Alcester Grammar School including Eclipse Road and Jephcott Close.

There are concerns for elderly residents wishing to cross Evesham Street due to speeding traffic.

That the working group would produce an action plan for the highlighted issues and work with District and County Councillors as well as the Police. It was accepted that although Alcester Town Council has no jurisdiction regarding highways, the working group will act as a conduit between residents and relevant bodies.

Following recent communication with the Highways team at Warwickshire Council, it was advised that new volume and speed surveys were conducted in order to collect evidence for future improvements. The cost for a week survey at four sites would cost £414 plus VAT. The working group are supportive of this expenditure. **Cllr Vaughan Blake to speak with the Town Clerk and County Councillor regarding funding options.**

5. Matters for Communication

That a resident survey would be initiated which would communicate with residents through the Town Council website, social media and offline forms.

Volunteers from the Working Group will be sought to run a stall at the Alcester Community Fair to be held on Saturday 16th September.

6. AOB

Next meeting Wednesday 23rd August, 19:00 at the Depot, Eric Payne Community Centre