

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR OADBY AND WIGSTON HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
AT THE OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD,  
WIGSTON ON THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015 AT 2.00PM

**PRESENT**

<b>County Councillors</b>	<b>Borough Councillors</b>
Cllr G A Hart (Chairman)	Cllr D M Carter
Cllr G A Boulter	Cllr I Darr
Cllr M H Charlesworth	Cllr R Fahey
Cllr D A Gamble	
Cllr J Kaufman	

The following also attended the meeting:

County officers present: P Crossland (part), B Holt, L Quincey, S Dann

Borough officer present: J Carr

136. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members, officers and visitors to the meeting.

137. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr H E Loydall and Borough Cllrs K Loydall, K Chalk and Mark Hall (O&W DC).

138. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

140. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr G A Boulter CC asked for feedback on the sealing of the road surface on Bell Street and he hoped that operatives had made sure the road surface was cleaned before sealing. Mr Holt responded that the sealing of the road had started a week ago and, starting at the bottom of the road and working up.

Cllr Boulter updated Members on the improvements on the West Avenue junction as Mr Wright had updated him before the meeting and advised that this was being dealt with.

Cllr Boulter wanted it noting that in paragraph 128 of the minutes of the last meeting, he reported that a previous Assistant Director had stated that there would be a decline in the condition of the network and not Cllr Boulter.

Cllr J Kaufman expressed his thanks to officers for looking at the issues on the bus lane on the A6.

Cllr Kaufman requested some information about the enforcement of the TROs in Oadby town centre. Mr Quincey stated that he would take this back for officers to

investigate and report back to Cllr Kaufman. Mr Holt asked whether cars were parked on the new paved area. Cllr Kaufman stated that there had been many complaints about parking outside the florist and that he thought the paving stones in this area were stronger to accommodate this.

Cllr I Darr advised that there are parking problems near to the bus stop in the area opposite Weatherspoons. These problems affect the buses in the evening and in the day and he requested that something be done about it as this is causing obstructions. Mr Quincey agreed to take this back to officers to investigate and report back to Cllr Darr.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That officers investigate the enforcement of the TROs in Oadby town and report back to Cllr Kaufman; and
- ii) that officers investigate the parking problems near the bus stop in the area opposite Weatherspoons both in the evening and in the day and report back to Cllr Darr.

#### 141. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

There were no items in the papers for the Chairman to update Members on.

#### 142. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 36

A petition with 77 signatures from Cllr B Fahey BC will be presented. The petition requests a revision of the highway markings on The Yews, New Street and Stoughton Road in Oadby to tackle car parking abuse by parents

The Chairman asked Cllr Fahey to formally present his petition.

Cllr Fahey presented his petition, the wording used by Cllr Fahey is appended to these minutes for information.

The Chairman confirmed that the issues will be investigated by officers and a report will come to the next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Cllr Fahey will be kept advised of the outcomes of the investigations undertaken.

Cllr Kaufman asked that it be noted that investigations have been carried out by officers previously on this following a prior request from Cllr Sarah Dickinson.

The Chairman agreed to accept a petition from Cllr D A Gamble CC on behalf of the residents of Hill Field, Oadby regarding Greenbelt land owned by developers. The Chairman confirmed that this petition will be formally presented at the next meeting and a response will also be brought to the next meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the petition be noted;
- ii) that a report in response to this petition be brought to the next meeting; and
- iii) that the petition regarding the land at Hill Field, Oadby be formally presented and responded to at the next meeting.

143. REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 'HAVE YOUR SAY' EXERCISE ON THE PROPOSED FULL PEDESTRIANISATION OF BELL STREET, WIGSTON

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the outcomes of the 'Have your say' exercise on the full pedestrianisation of Bell Street, Wigston. The report was presented by Mr Quincey with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Quincey took Members through the report, which follows the recent 'Have your say' consultation exercise. He gave a summary of what the consultation covered and where and how it was publicised. Mr Quincey explained that the exercise generated a very high number of responses and from those responses the vast majority of respondents favoured Bell Street being fully pedestrianised but not for it to be used by cyclists. Mr Quincey also stated that there were a number of objections and a good number that favoured cycling which are detailed in the report and that they should not be overlooked and given serious consideration to.

Mr Quincey explained that the next steps were to discuss the outcomes with the Borough Council which will allow them to make an informed decision on how to take this forward. He went on to say that since writing the report discussions had been held with the Borough Council where it was recommended that if they wanted to pursue fully pedestrianising Bell Street then they could request the County Council to do so under an experimental order. However, he confirmed that it is the County Councils position that cyclists be permitted to use Bell Street if it is fully pedestrianised as banning cyclists would be against one of its key LTP3 objectives of promoting active and sustainable travel.

Mr Kaufman stated that he would welcome this and is happy for the Borough Council to go ahead with the temporary order. He went onto say that he has no problem with cyclists as long as they have a segregated area, as he is concerned about pedestrians with hearing and sight problems, along with the elderly not hearing the cyclists approaching. He would also welcome signs asking cyclists to dismount, especially in shopping areas.

Cllr M H Charlesworth CC also agreed that he was concerned about the cyclists but would not want to hold up the process. He stated that a lot of residents had concerns about cyclists, especially in the shopping areas. He asked officers if a little more work can be done on calculating the number of cyclists, could they speak to the local businesses and establishing what their concerns are, could they ask about the loading areas and calculate how many disabled spaces there are. He stated that there had also been problems with the emergency bollard not going up due to the key being lost.

Cllr Charlesworth stated that he was also happy to go for the temporary order. He asked if all the funding had been used. Mr Quincey confirmed that all the money had been used on officer time, collation and digesting information and producing a report for the Borough Council.

Cllr Boulter also stated that he fully supported the order but although he would like to ban cyclists, he would not want to hold the process up. He would like the process to go ahead as soon as possible as does the Borough Council so he asked if officers have any problems to ensure these are reported to Mark Hall immediately so that they can be overcome.

Cllr D Carter BC stated that he also supported the idea of an experimental order and, as an enthusiastic of cycling, he suggested that cyclists be segregated from the pedestrians. He also suggested that Paddock Street and Frederick Street be reconfigured for cycling although he would not want to hold up the process by these suggestions. He also asked if there was a map of Oadby and Wigston showing the cycling routes.

Mr Crossland thanked Members for their comments and stated that some cyclists will speed through regardless. The concept of shared space is to give and take. He also

stated that the practical approach would be to get the experimental order made and this can then be tweaked if necessary to reflect the above suggestions.

Mr Quincey stated that Bell Street is a key destination and as a cyclist you may want to park in the middle and not at the end of the street. He also stated that there are cyclists who will cycle through there whether or not cyclists are banned.

Cllr Kaufman said that he was amazed that you cannot ban cyclists from an area. He went on to say that we need to realise that people are uncomfortable with shared spaces, he felt that they cause a serious problem for elderly people.

Cllr Darr asked for signage asking for cyclists to dismount. Mr Quincey confirmed that the signs are already in place but some cyclists ignore the signs.

Cllr Charlesworth asked officers to move this forward and to talk to Mark Hall. He also asked if this could be done before Christmas.

Mr Crossland agreed to note this request and officers will endeavour to see if we can work towards this.

Mr J Carr stated that Mark Hall had confirmed that the funding had been earmarked. He also stated that the problems with the bollard have been sorted now as officers had discussed this with the emergency services and a key safe pad is now going to be installed.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- ii) that officers take on board Member's comments.

#### 144. 2015/16 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMMES – INFORMATION ITEM

Members noted the report.

#### 145. PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS AND SIGNING AND LINING SCHEMES – CURRENT POSITION – INFORMATION ITEM

Members noted the report.

#### 146. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

There were no outstanding on-going actions.

#### 147. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

The Chairman asked Members to submit any items that they want considered at a future meeting in writing to Sue Dann within 10 days of the date of the meeting. Items for the agenda can be e-mailed to [sue.dann@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sue.dann@leics.gov.uk)

#### 148. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED IS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

149. DATE OF MEETINGS IN 2016

The Chairman confirmed the dates of the meetings in 2016 as follows:

4<sup>th</sup> February

5<sup>th</sup> July

4<sup>th</sup> October

All meetings to be held in the Council Chamber at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council offices and will commence at 2.00pm.

150. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked Members and officers for their attendance at the meeting.

15<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Chairman

2.00 – 2.50

Date