

Whiteley Parish Council

Highways and Transport Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held at Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley on Wednesday 25th February 2009 at 7pm.

Parish Council Committee members present: Kairen Goves (Chairman), Brian Hughes (Vice-Chairman), Vivian Achwal, Mike Evans, Brenda Hatch

Highways Working Party members: Roland Diffey (East Whiteley resident Highways Engineer), Jan Hyde (East Whiteley resident), Chris Jenkinson (Fareham resident and public transport representative), Andrew Rollings (Manager of Whiteley Village)

David Jenkins (Parish Councillor), Freddie Allgood (County Councillor), five members of the public, Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver

- 1. To receive apologies for absence:** Lesley Dennis, Pat Thew, Andy Hickman (WCC Head of Access and Infrastructure)
- 2. To receive declarations of interest regarding agenda items:** none.
- 3. To adjourn meeting to allow participation by members of the public**
Members of the public raised concerns about bollard maintenance and replacement, maintenance of footpaths and pavements, horseriding on Meadowside and verges causing damage. **Chairman / Clerk to action repair requests and check the legal situation regarding horseriding again.**
- 4. Meeting resumed to consider the following agenda items:**

4.1 To consider proposals for further traffic calming measures to Leafy Lane following presentation from Cllr Freddie Allgood. **Report on presentation attached, the proposals for Leafy Lane are not ready for consultation yet, no response will be made or formal view adopted until full details are available.**

4.2 To develop proposals in response to request from WCC for local highways improvement projects that could be funded through developer contributions. **Chairman Kairen Goves circulated a paper with proposed projects that would improve the pedestrian and cycle routes to Whiteley Primary School, it was agreed to recommend to Full Council that the paper and its proposals be adopted and forwarded to WCC. Copy of paper attached.**

4.3 To research the Emergency Action Plan Procedure for Yew Tree Drive rising bollards in the event of an incident at Junction 9. **See attached report on presentation by Cllr Allgood.**

4.4 Update on the yellow line review regarding the parking issues in Parkway and elsewhere. **No further news.**

4.5 To discuss / prepare an action plan for improvements to the Gull Coppice footpath and Yew Tree pedestrian crossing points – main walk to school route. **See item 4.2 above.**

4.6 To receive update on proposed improvements to Whiteley bus services. **See attached report on presentation from Cllr Allgood attached.**

4.7 To receive update on further requests to HCC regarding:

Road markings on R1

Improvement or relocation of Solent Way / Rookery Avenue crossing point

It was agreed to make further requests to HCC.

4.8 To review 2007/8 key objectives & strategy issues for this Committee, revise and update as appropriate for 2009/10:

Campaigning for improvements in public transport

Continued campaigning for improvements in road infrastructure including additional links in and out of Whiteley

Encouraging walking and cycling wherever possible, raising awareness of local rights of way and footpaths

It was agreed to maintain these key objectives and strategies for 2009/10.

4.9 To receive an update on maintenance requests: repair requests to be forwarded to the Chairman.

5. Recent correspondence: none.

Attached:

1. Report on presentation by Cllr Allgood on Leafy Lane, SATURN study, emergency access plans and bus services.
2. Paper on Whiteley pedestrian issues requiring improvements for safer access to school.

Whiteley Parish Council

Highways & Transport Committee Meeting 25 February 2009

Report on presentation by Hampshire County Cllr Freddie Allgood

Cllr Allgood explained that as the previous Full Council meeting had been cancelled due bad weather, he had asked to meet prior to the March Full Council meeting to explain the Leafy Lane proposals, the current status of the SATURN study and the Emergency Plan for Whiteley. It was agreed this Highways & Transport Committee meeting, at which members of the Highways Working Party would be present, would be an appropriate venue.

Leafy Lane

Cllr Allgood explained that the high volumes of commuter traffic on the Leafy Lane / Bleriot Crescent / Bader Way route through East Whiteley were unacceptable and that the County had been working with the residents through Whiteley East Residents Association (WERA) to improve the present situation.

Various options have been considered including closing the route completely, prohibition, one way system, additional calming, no right turn out (to Parkway) and no left turn in to Leafy Lane (from Parkway)

An idea that has emerged as financially viable and attractive to WERA is the introduction of pinch points at between 5 and 9 locations along the route.

This would result in traffic having to give way at the pinch points making the route slower and less attractive as a through route. The scheme could include planting to give a 'village feel' to the area.

The location of the new pinch points is not yet defined and will be dependent on services beneath the road, driveways and side road access.

It is hoped the designs will be completed in the next two weeks, the emergency services will then be consulted to ensure the scheme meets with their requirements. A consultation with East Whiteley residents will follow.

The Parish Council will be consulted when the results of the consultation are available.

If approved the scheme will be installed on a three month trial basis. If this proves successful it will be made permanent.

Cllr Allgood concluded by stating the aim was to discourage the use of Leafy Lane as a through route.

Questions were then invited from Highways & Transport Committee and Highways Working Party for Cllr Allgood:

The Parish Council noted that when requests had been made to HCC to discuss the East Whiteley traffic volumes it had been advised by HCC Officers that no action could be taken until the SATURN model was complete.

The issue in East Whiteley is the volume of traffic; not the speed of traffic which averages between 16/17mph according to the HCC Speed Gun Surveys. How can traffic calming which you already stated will slow traffic down improve the volume? *Cllr Allgood advised the aim was to make the route less attractive as a through route.*

It was pointed out to Cllr Allgood that the East Whiteley route is actually 0.4m shorter than the alternative via Segensworth roundabout and a 5mph reduction in speed along the section would only result in an additional journey time of 30 seconds.

How has this method been decided this is the best option? *Cllr Allgood advised that various schemes have been discussed at length with the residents and it was decided this was worth a trial.*

What will happen if it doesn't work, is there a Plan B? *Cllr Allgood advised there are other ideas that can be tried.*

Has the scheme been run on the SATURN model? *Cllr Allgood advised that the SATURN study is not complete yet – the surveys have been completed and input and the system is now being validated. It was decided to run the scheme as a trial and not wait for the SATURN.*

You said the three month trial will be carried out from June – that will coincide with the school holidays when traffic will be lighter. Wouldn't it be better to trial in term time? *Cllr Allgood agreed - the trial is more likely to be September onwards.*

What will be used as a benchmark for success for the scheme? *Cllr Allgood advised that a 10 to 20% reduction in volume would be seen as a success.*

How will cyclists be catered for with the pinch point scheme as presently they cycle either side of the speed bumps in the drainage gaps? *Cllr Allgood to check.*

How many residents are involved with Whiteley East Residents Association? *Cllr Allgood not able to answer question.*

HCC has advised the PC that its ideas to improve access to Whiteley can not be progressed until after the Saturn study has been completed, the same should apply to proposals for Leafy Lane. *Cllr Allgood did not agree.*

Other comments:

How will the trial be monitored? The officer time needed will have a financial implication on the project costs.

No room for further calming along the route other than on existing speed humps, proposals will impact more on residents than on the commuters.

Other suggestions for reducing traffic volume have been discounted without testing in the SATURN model.

SATURN Model

Cllr Allgood explained that the scheme is currently being validated. Various scenarios will be tested including closing Leafy Lane and opening Yew Tree Drive and Rookery Avenue.

Members asked why Yew Tree Drive couldn't be opened for a three month trial as the trial proposed for Leafy Lane. *Cllr Allgood advised Fareham Local Plan prevented the opening of Yew Tree. Councillors and Working Party members refuted this.*

It was noted that the origin and destination figures for Yew Tree Drive must be available, for every 100 vehicles taken off the Park Gate – Segensworth – Whiteley route would save 40,000 vehicle miles per year. *Cllr Allgood thanked Highways Working Party member Roland Diffey for this pertinent information.*

Emergency Plan for Whiteley

The County Council is developing an emergency traffic plan should Whiteley Way or Junction 9 be closed. Two diversion routes will be used in the event of an emergency: Leafy Lane and Yew Tree Drive would be opened to all traffic.

A centre point is needed for emergency diversion signs and a communication procedure.

It was suggested that the Reliant Security Housing could be the ideal location for the sign storage. *Cllr Allgood will investigate.*

It was asked how the emergency plan affects Whiteley beyond R2 where there are no alternative exits should a serious incident occur at R2 or at the Whiteley Way / Parkway North (Zurich) junction? *Cllr Allgood will look into this but did not think the plan covered the whole of Whiteley only the procedure for Yew Tree Drive.*

Whiteley Bus Service

Cllr Allgood explained that the current Operator Licence expires in September. Two new routes have been identified. Substantial funding is needed for these routes to run and grants are being explored including the European Fund and Kick Start Fund.