

Astons' Community Led Plan - Roads, Traffic and Public Transport project team

Minutes of a meeting held at 8.00pm on 7 December 2017

Those present: Jane Knight, Ted Betts, Greg Locke, Andy McLellan, George Curtis and Simon Young.

Apologies were received from Bob Picken.

Parish Council - at their meeting on 20 November 2017 the Parish Council approved, on the recommendation of the project team, payment of £2,600 to Oxfordshire County Council to cover legal costs for the proposed implementation of a 20 mph speed limit in the villages. (There was also an agreement in principle to proceed with the necessary measures to implement the speed limit at a likely cost of around £12,000).

Junctions with the A417 - Simon reported that, primarily due to Ted's efforts, OCC Highways had erected new signage at our two junctions with the A417 showing an advisory 30 mph speed limit (at their cost) and that a mirror had been installed at the junction with Chalk Hill (funded by the Parish Council).

The remaining aim is to try to get OCC Highways to erect a "queues likely" sign as traffic approaches the Chalk Hill junction from Goring and Streatley. It was explained that, although Ted had tabled a comprehensive paper in February demonstrating a history of accidents and queues at the junction, the officers at OCC Highways have ignored the request (notwithstanding an offer by the Parish Council to bear the cost of installation). After discussion it was agreed that we should try to escalate the matter by asking the Chair of the Parish Council to write to OCC Highways with a request for action, copying in the appropriate County Councillors.

20 mph speed limit - Ted ran through his Progress Update and explained that if we just asked OCC to change the existing 30 mph limit to a 20 mph limit the police would probably require supplementary measures, such as a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on the Moreton Road. The alternative would be to keep Moreton Road at 30 mph, and introduce the 20 mph speed limit closer to Croft Corner (perhaps at the point that the pavement ends). Following discussion there was a concern that some residents in Moreton Road, and others in the villages, would object to a VAS but there was also a consensus that it would be preferable to start the 20 mph limit at the entry to the village (with the benefit of associated cost savings).

It was agreed that the working party would recommend to the Parish Council that a repeat speed test should be carried out in the Moreton Road early next year (at a cost of £100) on the grounds that, if the average speed turns out to be below 24 mph, we could then argue for the implementation of the full 20 mph limit without supplementary measures.

OxCam Expressway - Andy briefed the meeting on the current proposals. There was concern at the lack of consultation and agreement that if the southern route was chosen, with the associated housing development, there would be an unwelcome impact on our villages. It was agreed that the villages should join The Expressway Action Group and that the working party should monitor progress.

Fullers Road - George had raised concerns (both direct with Thames Water and through the village eNews) about damage to properties from heavy vehicles due to the diversion in place during the Fullers Road closure. It was agreed that villagers should be encouraged to continue to record and report damage from heavy vehicles, but apparently the damage reported in this instance pre-dated the closure.

Priorities for 2018 - having made progress on the A417 junctions, the priority in 2018 will be on the implementation of the proposed 20 mph speed limit. Work will also continue to improve safety at the Croft Corner junction.

AOB - none.

Date of next meeting - to be arranged when required (but there was agreement that there should ideally be no more than two meetings a year).