

Astons Community Led Plan - Roads and Traffic working group

Minutes of a meeting held at 8.00pm on 24 January 2017

Those present: Jane Knight, Ted Betts, Bob Picken, Greg Locke, Andy McLellan and Simon Young. Louise Binder joined the meeting to discuss the A417 junctions.

Apologies were received from George Curtis.

Working group - As the CLP has now been approved by the PC, various working groups have been formed to work up, and where possible implement, the wishes of the community. This group, together with the Planning and Development group, is viewed as one of the more important ones by the PC (with Parish Councillors represented on both). It is envisaged that the members of the CLP steering group will stand down, and that the working groups will report directly to the PC.

Draft Roads and Traffic action plan - Various changes were suggested and have subsequently been incorporated in the action plan (copy attached). In particular there was a consensus that there should be a greater emphasis on safety and that the potential sources of funding should be wider than the PC or community. It is envisaged that the action plan will be reviewed and updated periodically.

Junctions with the A417 - There was a lengthy discussion on the risks posed by the two junctions, with a useful report from Louise on the most recent accident at the Chalk Hill junction. Those present at the site meeting with Mark Francis of OCC Highways on 19 December 2016 provided a summary of the discussion and the subsequent email exchanges. It was felt that, as a first step, the working group should continue to press OCC to improve the signage (including a "queues likely" sign as you approach the Chalk Hill junction from Streatley) and it was agreed that two members (Ted and Simon) would arrange a further meeting with Mark Francis. It was also agreed that we should progress the idea of placing mirrors, on private land, at the Chalk Hill junction (in consultation with OCC Highways).

Traffic calming report, Entran Limited - There was a general view that the traffic calming schemes proposed by Entran Limited failed to reflect the wishes of the community (and also displayed a lack of understanding of the traffic flows through the villages). The response to the CLP consultation process has demonstrated a wish to discourage traffic cutting through the villages, to reduce traffic speeds and to improve road safety (particularly at Croft Corner). There is a general reluctance to introduce more signage or hard traffic calming measures in the villages, and a strong wish to avoid having street lighting. Greg mentioned that earlier plans by the PC to introduce flashing slow down signs on the Hagbourne and Moreton Roads were dropped after villagers objected. There was, however, a feeling that "gates" at the entry points to the villages would be beneficial.

After discussion, there was agreement that Entran Limited should be asked to stand down (subject to them first re-issuing their report with a correct heading) and that we should, at least initially, try to involve Mark Francis - particularly regarding the wish to introduce a 20 mph speed limit in the villages. Ted agreed to “sound out” Mark on the best way to progress this.

Ted, Andy and Jane kindly agreed to lead the process.

Future meetings

Future meetings of the working group will be arranged (normally at 8.00 pm on a Tuesday evening) as required. Simon to suggest a date for the next meeting once further progress has been made with OCC Highways.

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It was felt that it would be helpful to have a salt bin positioned closer to the Chalk Hill junction and Simon agreed to mention this to the PC.