

Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Tuesday, 11th April, 2017 at the Meeting Room 4, Chalvey Community Centre, The Green, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2SP

Present:-

LAF Members

David Munkley (Chair)
Councillor Satpal S Parmar
Trevor Allen (Vice-Chair)
Toby Evans
Tony Haines
Ken Wright
John Keegan,
Councillor Mohammed Rasib

Observers

Arnold Richardson

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Jacqui Wheeler
Rights of Way Officer

239. Apologies

Andy Packer

240. Welcome & Declarations of Interest

None

241. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

242. Matters Arising (excluding items on agenda)

Pavement Parking Policy

KW highlighted that the Council is now changing the scheme to what was originally wanted so that it targets locations where there are serious issues. However, prior to this policy change the blanket roll out in Central Ward and Elliman Ward meant that all roads received treatment via the Pavement

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Parking Scheme whether they required it or not. Some roads have suffered as a result eg; Myrtle Crescent; where the scheme has caused problems.

He suggested that retrospectively all the orders made under the original rollout scheme should be reviewed and brought in line with the new policy of "where needed". TA felt that the original approach meant that some roads where no intervention was needed were included. Myrtle Crescent suffers as due to the two up two down parking now in place mobility scooters have to use the road.

JW said the new policy is due to be signed off in the next few weeks. Residents now need to lobby their councillors after which requests would be added to a list which is then reviewed annually to decide which areas would be implemented. TA was concerned that this was dependent on the pro-activeness of the individual Councillor.

DM asked if there was a chance to see the draft policy and comment. JW said it had gone beyond the point of consultation and is almost signed off. All agreed that overall the PPS in Central and Elliman has been a success with only some locations where it hasn't worked. Cllr Rasib agreed to bring LAF concerns to Cllr Matloob.

Myrtle Crescent is definitely a problem, where the two up two down parking has obstructed the footway on the side that people used. Members again highlighted the problem parking on the central reservation on the Uxbridge Road.

Resolved – the Local Access Forum formally recommends that the Council retrospectively reviews the PPS where it was implemented with blanket coverage in Central and Elliman wards. This would include reviewing the TRO in Myrtle Crescent with the same attitude that the new policy is inviting. JW agreed to attain a copy of the new "needs based" policy so that members could see the detail and make representations.

Flexi-pave Surfacing

JW showed the meeting samples of the flexi-pave surface dressing. Recycled tyre rubber mixed with aggregate of varying kinds and bound with a polymer to create a honeycomb like structure which is a fully porous and flexible surface. It is sanctioned by the BHS as being suitable for horses and is suitable for cycling and walking too.

JW is trying to build interest among the Highways & Transport engineers to trial this surface. Cost would depend on the type of ground conditions and the sub base being used and though quite high can be offset by longevity of the product and the other benefits. Wokingham Council are using this surface on their greenways project and on bridleways and cycle ways surrounding a large housing development.

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The flexi-pave has to be installed by the specialist supplier but Council's contractors can be taught the laying process. TA asked for details of the surfacing for a private project.

Benefits of the flexi-pave surfacing:-

- Extremely Flexible.
- Highly porous allowing natural drainage.
- Non-cracking even in freeze/thaw conditions.
- Slip resistant due to the rubber content.
- Impact absorbent and able to withstand vehicular use up to 80 tons.
- Self-cleaning –will not silt up.
- Sustainable, using three recycled tyres per m2.
- Sensitive to nature & water bodies –removes phosphates/nitrates.

JW agreed to circulate further information to members.

243. Canal Updates

JW updated that the construction commencement of the basin regeneration will be Q4 of 2018 and contracts have now been exchanged on the Travis Perkins site. No news on any pre-app for Planning. TH stated the latest is there would now be 250 dwellings, with 1 or 2 bedroom flats of 5/6 storeys high situated very close together. The concern is that this is going to be overdeveloped, high density and therefore any public space designed into the scheme will be instantly under greater pressure for use by existing and new residents.

KW highlighted the fly tipping on either side of the Wexham Road steps access to the towpath and the bad condition of the steps. JW has a quote ready for approval to undertake this work.

Cllr Rasib questioned how a development of solely apartments could be allowed so far away from the Town Centre. Apartment only developments satisfy planning only if they are directly in the town centre. TH thought perhaps there was some kind of compromise being made because the Travis Perkins commercial land is being used where the existing buildings were already 4 storeys high. Members felt that there are too many apartment only developments in the town generally.

Members agreed that the LAF should press again for a safer footpath on the north side of the canal now and during construction. Bearing in mind the tiling company site is now empty so there is no physical reason why the path can't be widened especially since the construction commencement has been pushed back a year.

Community facilities as part of the new development were not included as the majority local feeling after consultation was that this would only attract more anti-social behaviour.

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JW reported that CRT has given permission for a communications cable to be installed under the surface of the towpath and verge all the way along the Slough Arm. This has caused disruption and damage to the bonded gravel surface which after much effort, had been very level and smooth for walking and cycling. Negotiations are happening between the Council, CRT and the contractor to get remedial works done to repair the damage. JW agreed to inform South Bucks District Council, Bucks County and Hillingdon Council's about the damage. JW to update.

Members felt that an ongoing maintenance budget is needed for the towpath. The state of the fencing and overgrown vegetation facing onto the Stoke Road is in a bad condition and there has been dumping happening on the public car park spaces. DM to visit the Basin with JW.

Resolved – The LAF agreed to press CRT and SUR again to have the fence on the north side moved back a couple of metres, as it is a major safety issue and that all other issues mentioned above would be taken up.

244. Local Plan Consultations & Responses

JW tabled the row response to the Slough Local Plan Consultation wherein the LAF views were expressed. All agreed the response. TH drew attention to Lavender Farm which is owned by SBC but which is in South Bucks and which could be released from the Green Belt.

The current position with the Slough Local Plan is that after 700 responses to the Issues and Options consultation a report will be presented to the Planning committee in June 2017. This will be a preferred strategy based on analysis of the consultation responses.

The South Bucks and Chiltern response to Slough's Local Plan makes it clear they do not agree with the expansion of Slough's housing needs into sites across the boundary to the north and possibly east in South Bucks. TH expressed concern that the Wexham Court Parish allotments site on Church Lane alongside the Uxbridge Road which is in South Bucks along with other green spaces surrounding north Slough could be up for development.

JW heard that the BHS representative for Buckinghamshire responded to the Slough Local Plan due to the possible expansion north and the consequences this could have in funding solutions to the severance of bridleway and walking/cycling access by the Uxbridge Rd between the two country parks. The preferable option is for a green bridge. TH highlighted that there are no safe areas to cross the Uxbridge Road for cyclists and pedestrians with the design of the road and vehicle speeds.

The BHS representative, Alison Heath is aware that there is a need for a horse riding member on the Slough LAF and is asking around. She is also pushing for funding via her membership in the Bucks LAF for a surface on the

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bridleway in Wexham north of the towpath linking to the NCN route to Trenches Lane. There is funding opportunity through the new Community Access Fund administered by Sport England.

245. Blandford Road North

JW updated members about the current situation with Blandford Road North. The Inquiry held in November 2016 resulted in the Inspector's interim decision which modified the original order made by the Council so as to alter the status and width of the "road". The implications of the decision are such that the Council has been compelled to object to the modified order.

Clarification is required on all fronts on matters of law. No-one is satisfied with the decision and two other objections have been made to the Planning Inspectorate. With regards to the legal situation the Planning Inspectorate will decide how the matter is dealt with.

JW will keep the LAF updated on this issue.

246. Joint LAF Chairs Meeting

Due to lack of time this item will be re-visited at the next meeting. JW will forward any details in the interim.

247. SMART Motorway M4

No time available to look at this item. – postponed.

248. LAF Work Programme 2017

This item to be carried forward to the next meeting for discussion and appropriate actions.

249. Next Meeting

6.30pm Training Room 2 Chalvey Community Centre, Tuesday 11th July 2017

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.45 pm)