

Minutes of the Aylsham Town Council Traffic Group Meeting held on Wednesday 27th April 2022

Present

Clare Alban	Mary Evans
Ellie Baker	Catherine Fletcher
Paul Baker	Lynda Hartley
Trevor Bennett	Barry Lancaster
Gordon Clarke	Richard Laxen
Sue Catchpole	Pat Prekopp
Andy Christie	Arthur Rope

Sue Lake

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from:

Nicholas Haag David Faulkner

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th March were circulated with the agenda. The minutes were **AGREED**

3. Traffic Survey

The draft Traffic Survey had been received and circulated to all members

4. Discussion on Draft Strategy

a) Initial Thoughts

The chairman opened the discussion advising he didn't usually comment first on items such as this but in this instance felt he had to state that he was disappointed with the document with its main fault being no reference to the impact the possible two new developments will have on the town. There also appeared to be no modelling, or at least it has not been referenced.

Others also felt the strategy needed a lot more work and felt it reflected little knowledge of the town. One member did not like the phrase fear and intimidation and felt it was particularly inappropriate.

It was noted that paragraph 1.2 referred to a 'suite of documents' therefore there may be other documents that are still to be received which will clarify the situation.

b) Review of the Issues

The document was then discussed under the various issue headlines

Issue 1 - Vehicle speeds and reduction of 20mph zone

Many felt this was a backward step and did not agree with the argument for this. This could only work if enforcement was also increased.

Issue 2 – Penfold Street Give Way

Support for reducing carriage width providing this did not cause issues for the Black Boys and other residents. Also did not agree/understand the argument for keeping the current priority. The stopping up of the section of Penfold Street south of the island was thought to be not workable.

Mary Evans and Andy Christie who both use this area frequently will provide written information on this.

Issue 3 – Cawston Road/Mill Road

Some thought this had not been addressed adequately.

Issue 4 – Buses in Market Place

Confused as to what route the southbound buses would be taking as this is not mentioned or not clear in the document. Not happy at loosing parking spaces in the Market Place.

Issue 5 – Burgh Road Give Way

No issues with this but interesting that the same argument is used to give a different result to the Penfold Street issue. However, there is no indication of the strain on Burgh Road when the new developments start.

Issue 6 – Red Lion Street

It was felt that making Red Lion Street a pedestrian priority route would not work as was proven during the covid arrangements. The impact of displacing the traffic had not been discussed and the signage suggested for Oakfield Road would have little or no impact as was proved in 2020. It was also felt that mixing pedestrians with buses could be a serious issue and could lead to some unwanted results.

Issue 7 Red Lion Street/White Hart Street Crossing

No issues with this proposal

Issue 8 – Wayfinder Signage

No issue with this proposal

Cycle Routes

These were thought to be very dangerous and Paul Baker and Arthur Rope as keen cyclists will provide written information on this.

Car Parks

Possibly now is the time that charging will need to be looked at but it was agreed that if Broadland introduced charging then there should be a period of two hours offered free of charge initially.

It was **AGREED** that all members send in their written comments to the Town Clerk by Tuesday May 3rd for the clerk to write a response letter to the strategy.

5. Car Parks

See above

6. GNLP

A letter had been received by the District Council from Natural England stating that no applications can be agreed that consist of 'overnight accommodation' until the effect of nitrates and phosphates on the water supply can be mitigated. This has effectively stopped all plans being approved. Barry Lancaster advised that this is really Anglian Waters issue as they are financed when a new development is built to deal with this situation – they have been paid so they need to do the work.

This issue is likely to delay the agreement of the GNLP by the Planning Inspectors.

7. To summarise failures and successes of the first year

There was little time to discuss this but members were reminded that there is only 34 weeks until the project is scheduled to end.

8. To note items for future discussion

Feedback on the Strategy.

9. To note date of next meeting

Next scheduled meeting Wednesday May 25th 2022

The meeting closed at 9.25pm