

## NOVEMBER REPORT

### FROM NFDC CLLR CHRISTINE FORD

My main activities since my last report for RTC.

In addition to several training sessions on various topics organised by the member training officer of NFDC I have attended the following meetings:-

#### 5 Nov.

Attended a meeting of **the Cabinet**. The main items of interest for Ringwood being 1) the **robust response to the NFNPA consultation documents**. This has now been published, along with that of HCC, in various media so Ringwood Members should be familiar with the objections registered. 2) The publication of the Fordingbridge Design Statement which is a splendid document and well worth obtaining a copy to read.

3) A response to a SEERA consultation regarding sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It was agreed to support option 1, that all new spaces should be provided as close as possible to where Gypsies and Travellers currently live, which may mean that some council areas have no spaces.

Then on to the **Green Audit Board** where discussions turned in a direction indicating that NFDC will 'get very tough' with itself in an effort to reduce carbon emissions and the use of un-renewable sources in the course of its delivery of services and its own domestic operation.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Monthly surgery.** This was taken up with lengthy lists of smaller problems and complaints which needed follow up with NFDC Officers. Also, as usual, planning matters causing anxiety.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Nov

Chaired the **Environment Review Panel** at which main agenda items were 1) to examine in detail the aims of the Portfolio Holder for the coming year, the budget to cover the essentials, and funding for the aspirations. To agree fees and charges for Council services within the Environment Portfolio. This took up most of the morning, the meeting continued after lunch. 2) To examine the governments' performance indicators and to see how the Council is meeting its statutory obligations. 3) There is to be a Street Cleaning report published early in the new year. 4) The government (Environment Agency) is to help with the cost of remedying the failure of the coastal defences in Milford-on-Sea, but our District coastline/cliff top is eroding particularly at Barton-on-Sea due to underground runoff from development on and near the cliffs. This is a particular dilemma for the Planning Department, many hours have already been devoted to this problem. 5) The Panel then went on to examine the latest design concepts for public conveniences, which were approved as 'a good thing'. 6) Abandoned vehicle collection still to continue free of charge at the moment. It was however noted that the collection company will be under pressure now that there is a fall in scrap metal prices due to less demand from purchasers eg. China.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

Attended a live demonstration of the new Police **Crime Reduction Unit Speed Detection Van**, on a main road near Lyndhurst.

The van contained state of the art equipment including number plate recognition and cameras, hugely impressive and fool proof. My advice – *always drive sensibly and within the law, and do not speed!!!!*.

#### 19<sup>th</sup> Nov

Attended the **Planning and Transport Panel** to support and speak to Cllr Thierry's motion on the 50mph speed limit on the A31 from Picket Post to the Dorset border.

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov**

**Corporate Overview Panel.** A very impressive presentation by Michael Lingham Willgoss on the work of the CAB, resulted in continuing funding being granted by NFDC.

The item which startled a number of Members was the list of Developers' Contributions available to some Towns and Parishes in the District. These have to be used up within a certain time (not specified) otherwise the developers are entitled to *ASK FOR IT BACK*. Ringwood had £1,064,865.80 as at 30/09/08

In the afternoon I attended one of the required **training seminars on Risk Management**.

And late afternoon I attended the **Cabinet Briefing**.

**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PAGE OF THE CABINET AGENDA TO BE DISCUSSED ON WED 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER. THERE IS AN AMENDED WORDING TO CLLR THIERRY'S ORIGINAL MOTION BUT IS STILL VERY SIGNIFICANT INDEED FOR THE A31 AT RINGWOOD. PLEASE STUDY CAREFULLY.**

This is of great interest to Ringwood residents and I urge anyone who is concerned to make all efforts to be present at 10.00am in the Council Chamber on Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec at Appletree Court Lyndhurst.

**21 Nov**

By invitation, attended the Environment Portfolio's Briefing to be appraised on current and imminent actions under this portfolio.

**25<sup>th</sup> Nov**

Attended the launch of a HCC.Trading Standards project to raise awareness of rogue traders, unwanted door step callers and other fraud who concentrate on the elderly, mentally impaired, or other vulnerable people. I hope to lobby various groups in the Town to invite the Team to give a presentation on this initiative.

Christine Ford

26<sup>th</sup> November 2008

## A31, RINGWOOD - REQUEST FOR A 50 MPH SPEED LIMIT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At Council on 27 October 2008 the following motion was referred to the Planning and Transportation Review Panel:

#### ***Speed Limit on A31***

*“That in consideration of the high number of recorded motor accidents from minor to fatal, reported on the A31 section at Ringwood, and as a result of public concern and demand, this Council requests the Highways Agency to implement a 50 mph speed limit on the A31 from Picket Post to link up with the 50 mph speed limit already in operation on the A31 at St Leonards*

- # 1.2 The Planning and Transportation Review Panel considered the above motion at its meeting held on the 19 November, the report attached as Appendix A refers.

### 2. RESULTS OF THE PANEL’S CONSIDERATION OF THE MOTION

- 2.1 Cllr Thierry’s motion was considered by the Panel. The Panel concluded that most effective way of reducing the number of road casualties was through a package of measures. The Panel felt that the speed limit should be reduced to 50 mph but that other measures would also contribute towards improving road safety. Also that queue detection linked to warning signs had significant road safety benefits and could be provided within a relatively short period.

- 2.2 The Panel’s recommendation was as follows:

The Panel recommends to Cabinet that the Highways Agency is informed that NFDC:

- (i) Thanks the Highways Agency for providing accident information and details of their emerging proposals for the A31.
- (ii) Requests urgent action is taken to reduce the number and severity of personal injury accidents along the A31 from Picket Post to the Hampshire/Dorset county boundary.
- (iii) Urges the Highways Agency to introduce a package of measures that will improve road safety along the A31 in the Ringwood area and improve conditions for residents near the A31 including:
  - queue detection linked to warning signs to alert drivers to traffic queues ahead within the next 12 months
  - the trial use of road markings (possibly chevrons on the road surface) to help drivers to better judge their speed
  - the introduction of a 50 mph speed limit with appropriate enforcement
  - the development of detailed proposals to close the West Street link to the A31 so as to enable further consultations with the Council and others to be undertaken.

- the development of proposals to improve the westbound carriageway of the A31 before 2012 by the addition of a westbound traffic lane on the A31 west of the “on slip” from the A338/B3347 roundabout so as to enable further consultations with the Council and others to be undertaken.

(iv) Asks the Highways Agency to inform the Council of its timescale for implementing the above measures and the estimated costs.

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL, FINANCIAL CRIME & DISORDER, EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The environmental and crime & disorder implications for the possible closure of the West Street link to the A31 and the proposed additional westbound traffic lane on the A31 west of the “on slip” from the A338/B3347 roundabout will be considered when detailed proposals are available from the Highways Agency.

3.2 There are no significant environmental and crime & disorder implications from the other proposals. The limited visual impact of additional signs will be offset by significant road safety benefits. Widespread compliance with any new 50 mph speed limit is likely to require special enforcement measures such as average speed enforcement cameras (SPECS).

3.3 There are no equality or diversity implications from any of the proposals.

3.4 There are no financial implications for this Council from any of the proposals.

### **4. PORTFOLIO HOLDER’S COMMENTS**

4.1 The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder agrees with recommendations set out in this report.

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Thanks the Highways Agency for providing accident information and details of their emerging proposals for the A31.
- (b) Requests urgent action is taken to reduce the number and severity of personal injury accidents along the A31 from Picket Post to the Hampshire/Dorset county boundary.
- (c) Urges the Highways Agency to introduce a package of measures that will improve road safety along the A31 in the Ringwood area and improve conditions for residents near the A31 including:
  - queue detection linked to warning signs to alert drivers to traffic queues ahead within the next 12 months
  - the trial use of road markings (possibly chevrons on the road surface) to help drivers to better judge their speed
  - the introduction of a 50 mph speed limit with appropriate enforcement