

**RINGWOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES  
INFORMAL LOCAL MEMBERS LIAISON MEETING – 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2008**

**Present :** Cllr Nigel Clarke, County Councillor  
Cllr Brian Terry, Ringwood Town Council  
Cllr Christine Ford, Town & District Councillor  
Cllr Neville Chard, Town Councillor  
Cllr Don Cole, Town Councillor  
Cllr Jeremy Heron, Town & District Councillor  
Cllr Michael Thierry, District Councillor  
Cllr Chris Treleaven, District Councillor

**In attendance :** Allan Ellis, Transportation Section, NFDC  
Terry Simpson, Ringwood Town Clerk

**1. Previous Minutes of 12 November 2007 – agreed.**

With regard to Item 2, it was noted that the map displayed at the meeting showed figures on a 3 year rolling list up to 29 February 2008. Generally, there was a fair spread of accidents along the A31, but also a number in Christchurch Road and High Street. Most of the accidents were on those roads and there were few, which led to personal injury, on estate roads.

**AGREED** that a copy of the Injury Accident Statistics in written form could be provided to Cllr Thierry.

**2. 2007/08 Traffic Management Programme (Agency Programme)**

- i) Hightown Road (plus revisions to Bickerley Road area, Quomp and A338 Service Road). Members reviewed the summary of objections and comments received from the public as set out in the Paper circulated prior to the meeting by officers.

The proposals for the A338 have been introduced to enable proper access to the electricity sub-station and for the fire service. Some parking would still be available. It was suggested that there would be an opportunity for charging for those spaces and that this issue should be considered by John Bull at the District as a separate issue.

Hightown Road proposals have been advertised. It was noted that a garage was currently using the grass verge adjoining the link roadway between Hightown Road and Castleman Way for the sale of cars. This would be better used for residents' parking. Whilst this could not be included in the current scheme, Allan Ellis was asked to include it in a future scheme. Minor changes were needed to the proposals along The Bickerley and at Kingsburys Lane. **AGREED** that, subject to the alterations expressed above, all of the proposals as advertised can now be approved.

It was noted that works to implement the Orders could now proceed and it was expected that all amendments would be in operation by 1 September 2008.

Arising from discussion of the 2007/08 programme, it was noted that the previously approved scheme for an experimental one way (south bound) proposal for Kings Arms Lane had been omitted from the programme. It was explained that this had been removed from the programme at the last HAT meeting. There was concern that this scheme had been in the pipeline for many years and the Town Council had received no indication from either the District or the County that it had suddenly been removed from the programme.

**AGREED** that the Kings Arms Lane experimental scheme be reinstated in the programme at the earliest possible date.

**ii) Experimental Market Day closure**

No preliminary consultations had been undertaken on this scheme. There were very significant practical problems about its introduction and it was likely that there would be substantial opposition to any proposals by some people in the town.

**AGREED**

1) that the experimental market day closure be retained in the programme, but that commencement of any consultations or works be deferred to allow the Kings Arms Lane experimental one way scheme to proceed.

2) that all of the schemes be included in the monthly HAT report.

**3. 2008/09 Traffic Management Programme (Agency Programme)**

Noted that it was now intended to introduce Traffic Regulation Orders for Ringwood, Bransgore and Fordingbridge to make the existing advisory school zig-zags legally enforceable. The proposal for the highway outside Ringwood Junior School would be included as part of the previously approved Hightown Road Traffic Regulation Order. Members requested that further legal advice be sought on the ability of Police Community Support Officers being able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for transgression of such TRO's. Notwithstanding, it was **AGREED** that once the Orders are made, then, in the interests of the safety of children, all officers with appropriate powers should be instructed to issue tickets immediately someone parks within the yellow zig-zag areas. Such tickets should be issued immediately, with no warning or period of grace given to any person who offends against the Orders.

4. i) **Bickerley Road.** The meeting considered further representations received with respect to the 'no waiting' arrangements introduced in The Bickerley. Letters of the 27<sup>th</sup> February & 22<sup>nd</sup> March, together with a further e-mail from Mr Lachlan had been previously circulated. Notwithstanding the concerns expressed about the current objections, it was noted that the 'no waiting' proposals had been implemented, largely at the request of residents. There was a need to balance parking, road safety and traffic management generally. None of the arguments now made were sufficiently compelling for the Council to change its view and make further adjustments to the Traffic Regulation Order at the present time. The scheme implemented appeared to those present to be the most suitable and it was

**AGREED** that no further changes should be made at the present time but that the Order should be reviewed during 2009 as originally intended.

The meeting also considered the introduction of further changes outside nos 37-41 Bickerley and the minor adjustment of parking arrangements along several stretches of Bickerley Road.

**AGREED** that these further changes requested by the Town Council be added into the Programme bids as part of the overall review of Traffic Regulation Orders.

- ii) It was noted that there were difficulties with car parking in the **Butlers Lane area**. This car park is in private ownership and it would not be appropriate for Local Authorities to involve themselves in its management. Some improvements might be made in the area if pinch points were installed in Holm Close near the rear entrance to the shops.  
**AGREED** that a bid should be made for these works to be included in next year's Programme.

- iii) **Market Place/High Street**

Concern was expressed that the new Traffic Regulation Orders were not being fully enforced and a number of people were flouting the regulations.

Allan Ellis explained that, following introduction of the new arrangements in the High Street, there were some problems with location of dropped kerbs in relation to the disabled and loading bays. Members debated that proposal and generally supported these adjustments. However, it was noted that there was no pedestrian, pelican or zebra crossings in the High Street and, taking account of traffic movement, this was causing difficulty for pedestrians, particularly for those with poor eye sight.

**AGREED** that a bid should be made for a full traffic survey for the High Street with a view to adjustments being made to the existing Traffic Regulation Order to enable the eventual provision of a pedestrian, zebra or pelican crossing and adjustments to the lengths of the loading and perhaps disabled parking facilities.

## **5. A31**

Noted that the speed limits reduction to 30 mph did not come into force until the bottom of the slip road on the main access to the town from the A31 going westwards. This meant that traffic could approach the pedestrian crossing at 70 mph.

**AGREED** that this issue should be added to any discussions with the Highways Agency in relation to improvements to the A31.

## **6. Eastfield Lane – bus stop**

Noted that there were continuing problems with regard to the bus stop in Eastfield Lane. There was a disagreement between the County Council and the adjoining property owner about ownership of the grass verge. The owners of the property had removed the bus stop sign. The County Solicitors were dealing with the issue.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

**AGREED** that the next meeting be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.