



AGM including ROAD TRAFFIC issues

MEETING MINUTES

7:00pm Tuesday 9th April 2019 at Smestow Community School

	ACTION
<p>FCCA: Chairman Andrew Atkinson Secretary: Brenda Bates Treasurer: Howard Stride Minutes Secretary Barbara Cole Committee Members: Andrea Cantrill Heather Rous Judith Tanswell</p> <p>Wolverhampton City Council Councillors: Jane Stevenson Wendy Thompson Chris Haynes</p> <p>Wolverhampton City Council Transport Department: John Roseblade – Head of Transport Adrian Dawson – Traffic Engineer</p> <p>Members of the Public: Mr Cartwright J H Moon N Clifton R C Moon Debbie Cotter N Owen John Cotter Karen Pearce Jonathan Croft Linda Pearce N Cullis Neil Robinson J Cullis Arthur Russell Alice Dove H Samoli Chris Dalton Kuli Shoker Maria Dalton Paljinder Singh Wendy Dalton Dan Smith W Durnall Jess Sterling Lisa Hurdley Carol Talbot Sarah Howell Peter Vanbrook Sarah Jane Howell Andrea Wakely Robert Howell Tim White Lisa Hurdley R Wood Sue Jevon Steve Wood Kay Johnson</p>	

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<p>1. <u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Andrew Atkinson welcomed everyone to the FCCA AGM and Public Meeting.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Annual General Meeting</u></p> <p>2. <u>Apologies</u></p> <p>There were no apologies</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes of AGM 11th December 2018</u></p> <p>No corrections were identified. John Rowley proposed that the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record. This was seconded by Brenda Bates. The minutes were approved by Andrew Atkinson.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>There were no matters arising</p>	
<p>5. <u>Chairman's Report</u></p> <p>Andrew Atkinson presented the following Chairman's Report:</p> <p>The past twelve months have been relatively quiet for FCCA, the issues raised at our last meeting have in the main been resolved, or are still on – going.</p> <p>Our weekly I.T. class, “Smart Device Yoga” is now in its 5th. Year, and continues to attract a good attendance. We were successful in obtaining a further grant from the National Lottery – our 3rd. Year of funding, which enables us to continue until end of October. We will engage with the lottery again in July to explore the possibility of a 4th. Year.</p> <p>We had no involvement with Creative Black Country and The Arts Council last year, owing in main to a change in their funding structure, however we have been approached to facilitate an out-door play in the Rose Garden at Bantock Park, and we are currently in talks with The Mikron Theatre Company and City of Wolverhampton Council to confirm the viability of this venture. A provisional date of July 25th has been agreed</p> <p>Judith Tanswell proposed that the Chairman's Report should be approved. This was seconded by Heather Rous.</p>	
<p>6. <u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>Howard Stride presented the Treasurer's Report and the Accounts as follows:</p> <p>The surplus for this accounting year of £651 compares with £2301.25 previously.</p> <p>As FCCA receives no funding for its non computer activities, the accounts only represent those of Smart Device Yoga.</p> <p>My only comment is that whereas two grants were received in 2017/18, in 2018/19 there</p>	

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<p>is only one</p> <p>The grant figure of £6421 consists of £2137.50 being the balance of the grant received in 2017 and £4283.50 being half of the grant received in 2018 from the National Lottery.</p> <p>Members are free to ask any questions</p> <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>Heather Rous proposed that the Treasurer's Report and the Accounts should be approved. This was seconded by Judith Tanswell.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Election of Officers 2019/2020</u></p> <p>At this point in the meeting the Chairman and Officers stood down in order for a new Chairman and Officers to be elected.</p> <p>The nominations were as follows:</p> <p>Chairman. Brenda Bates proposed Andrew Atkinson. This was seconded by Judith Tanswell. Andrew accepted the position.</p> <p>Treasurer. Brenda Bates proposed Howard Stride. This was seconded by Heather Rous. Howard accepted the position.</p> <p>Secretary. Heather Rous proposed Brenda Bates. This was seconded by Judith Tanswell. Brenda accepted the position.</p> <p>The Committee:</p> <p>The meeting agreed that the Committee should remain in place as appointed at the meeting held on 11th December. The members of the Committee being: Andrea Cantrill, Heather Rous and Judith Tanswell</p> <p>Andrew asked if there were any other volunteers willing to join the Committee. Wendy Dalton said that she would like join. Andrew therefore proposed Wendy. This was seconded by Brenda Bates</p> <p>At this point the Officers and Committee were deemed to be complete.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Public Meeting</u></p> <p>8. <u>Apologies</u></p> <p>There were no apologies</p>	
<p>9. <u>Minutes of Public Meeting 11th December 2018</u></p> <p>Howard Stride said that the minutes could be found on the FCCA website.</p> <p>Judith Tanswell proposed that the minutes should be taken as read and accepted. This was seconded by Heather Rous. The minutes were approved by Andrew Atkinson.</p>	

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<p>10. <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>John Rowley informed the meeting that the washing of Castlecroft Bridge would take place on Saturday 13th April</p>	
<p>11. <u>Local Issues - Highways</u></p> <p>Andrew Atkinson explained that the main focus of the meeting would be discussions about the potential for traffic road calming measures on Windmill Lane and Castlecroft Road; ways to reduce speeding and the provision of crossing places.</p> <p>Andrew introduced John Roseblade (Head of Transport) and Adrian Dawson (Traffic Engineer) from Wolverhampton City Council's Transport Department. He said that they were attending the meeting in order to obtain opinions and suggestions for improvements from the community. These would then be taken away and evaluated.</p> <p>Andrew then asked the attendees for their thoughts. The following were recorded:</p> <p>N Cullis suggested that speed restrictions were required with a 20mph limit from Bantock Park to Bridgnorth Road. This should be accompanied by flashing speed warning lights and number plate recognition. Several attendees thought that the speed limit should be 30 mph.</p> <p>Mr Cartwright said that drivers would not care about warning signs, speed camera signs and a speed camera are required. He observed that the proposed new housing development at Perton would result in a lot more traffic on the roads. He added that speed bumps were not the answer. They are noisy and not good for motorcycles.</p> <p>Lisa Hurdley asked Transport if flashing speed warning signs were effective. She was told that they were for a time but then they get ignored. Transport do have mobile flashing signs that can be circulated around the City. Wendy Dalton said that she had not seen of them.</p> <p>Wendy Dalton said that the pedestrian crossing in Windmill Lane, outside The Firs was in the wrong place. N Cullis said that the crossing was not in the right place.</p> <p>Roger Moon observed that there is only one pedestrian crossing from Bradmore Road to the Firs. He said that putting a crossing at the shops in Castlecroft Road would not be safe and that it would be moving the parking problem from the shops to the houses. He said that the crossing by the Firs could possibly be controlled by lights.</p> <p>Andrew Atkinson suggested a layby outside the shops in Castlecroft Road. Roger Moon said that this had been done at Bradmore. It does seem to help as long as consideration is given for the ability to view clearly and not cause obstruction. He added that double yellow lines were not wanted because of the impact on the shops at Castlecroft. He said that more pedestrian crossings should be introduced</p>	

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<p>because there are not enough. The road is a semi main road and the volume of traffic will only get worse with the introduction of new housing.</p> <p>John Roseblade asked if there was room for a layby outside the shops in Castlecroft Road. Kuli Shoker said that he was a shop owner and he thought that it would work. A short stay layby of 10 to 15 minutes would make the location safer because there would be less parking on the pavement. John Roseblade observed cars were parked in a layby then there would be more speeding on the road.</p> <p>Andrea Cantrill agreed that the Castlecroft Road shops location is currently dangerous, drivers coming down Bhylls Lane do not look sufficiently. She added that there are parked cars in Bhylls Lane but this does not slow the traffic down. She said that she was in favour of a 20mph speed limit. She asked if there was anything else that could be considered. She observed that a lot of people cross the road at Castlecroft Bridge and suggested that a crossing could go under the road here. John Roseblade thought that there was too much of a drop.</p> <p>Wendy Dalton suggested a narrowing of the Castlecroft Road with Give Way signs in each direction. She said that this had been done in Bradley. John Roseblade said that there had been complaints about this approach.</p> <p>Andrew Atkinson said that Sedgley Street has laybys and no yellow lines. He commented that it works well there and has not affected the shops.</p> <p>The owner of the hairdresser's shop said that a short stay layby would not give enough time for her clients. The layby would need to be long stay.</p> <p>Cllr Chris Haynes (Merry Hill) quoted an example of a layby on the Penn Road at Lloyd Hill. He said that parking is allowed for quite a long time there. He said the layby allowed a better flow of traffic but as a result the traffic was faster. He recommended a layby, combined with pedestrian crossings on Castlecroft Road and a speed camera. He felt that a speed camera would in fact be better than a crossing.</p> <p>Neil Robinson suggested a mini roundabout at the bottom of Bhylls Lane. Adrian Dawson said that there was not enough visibility for this. In addition, it would necessitate taking away parking and may make existing queues worse.</p> <p>A mini roundabout outside the Firs was also mentioned.</p> <p>Mr Russell said that he had lived in Windmill Lane for 47 years. The mini roundabout by the Castlecroft Medical Centre might just as well not be there as many drivers totally ignore it. He said that he had contacted the Transport Department but no one had come out. Cllr Wynne had then taken up the cause. He said that signs asking people to slow down do not work. He observed that drivers frequently travel at 40 to 50 mph up Windmill Hill and motorcyclists often overtake going up the hill. The new housing development at Perton will make things worse. What can be done? Speed bumps are unfair for the disabled. In addition to the speeding issue there is a problem of fumes from queuing traffic for two hours each day.</p>	

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<p>Cllr Jane Stevenson said that speeding was becoming an increasing problem. Speed cameras were currently not being looked at in the area but they have been reintroduced in places. She said that a community speed watch would be good. However, there was no clear option for the shops in Castlecroft Road.</p> <p>N Cullis queried how much space would be required for a lay by. It was recognised that the cost of providing a lay by to Wolverhampton City Council would be an issue. It was also recognised that the lay by would need to be close to the Castlecroft Road shops because people would not be prepared to walk. Roger Moon said that there had been some good suggestions and maybe a 20mph limit from the Avenue to the Medical Centre should be considered. He quoted the example of Welshpool where 20mph limits have been introduced by schools but only for part of the day. This works well.</p> <p>Wendy Dalton questioned why speed cameras were not being considered.</p> <p>John Roseblade observed that it would not be possible to please everyone but there were some good ideas. The issue would be money. Other areas have safety cameras. Two speed limit signs and a 20mph limit from the Avenue to the end of Castlecroft Road would be good. He said that surveys have shown that it would be worth doing something.</p> <p>Peter Vanbrook observed that the island in Castlecroft near Castlecroft Surgery does not work.</p> <p>John Roseblade said that average speed cameras were being put in place on the A449 and A444 because there had been some deaths on those roads. He said that police would only support the use of cameras for absolute safety. Contrary to popular opinion, speed cameras are not cash cows for Wolverhampton City Council. In fact, they only just cover the cost of installing and running them.</p> <p>Wendy Dalton said that a pedestrian crossing in Bhylls Lane must also be considered.</p> <p>There was a general discussion about the effectiveness of speed limits, speed bumps and zebra crossings. The opinion being that the 20mph limit in Linden Lea does not work. Speed limits only work when the police are there to stop people. Community speed watches were considered to be good, especially when on receipt of a third letter an offender is fined. Speed bumps were considered to be a problem because they damage cars. Drivers do not observe zebra crossings unless there are cameras on them.</p> <p>Wendy Dalton asked if there was a budget for any work in Castlecroft. John Roseblade said that the budget was part of a pool spread across the City. Ideas need to be put forward and then prioritised across the City.</p> <p>John Rowley said that the provision of a pedestrian crossing would cost approximately £30,000 but this has not been budgeted for.</p> <p>Heather Rous said that she was thrilled that so many people had attended the</p>	

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<p>meeting and that the councillors must now realise the importance of the topic. Currently there is an accident just waiting to happen. People do not want the Castlecroft Road shops to close. She said that the layby suggestion sounds good. Heather thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.</p> <p>John Rowley said that the zebra crossing by The Firs is not safe. It cannot be seen coming up from Windmill Bank and motorists do not notice the warning triangle. There used to be a school crossing patrol person on the crossing but this person has now retired. There was also one at Castlecroft Bridge. This kept the traffic moving and was also safer. The very broad Castlecroft Road junction is an issue which also needs looking at.</p> <p>John Roseblade observed that traffic has increased and drivers are now less courteous. It was noted that buses will not go across speed bumps and there is pollution from traffic outside schools.</p> <p>Andrea Cantrill questioned what has worked in other areas for a minimum cost. The general consensus was that community speed watches seem to work.</p> <p>Cllr Wendy Thompson said that the issue had been recognised for a time. A consensus on what needs to be done is required followed by the cost. A lot of good ideas had been put forward but now direction was needed in order to find a solution. A show of hands was now required to determine the preferred options. Senior members of transport from Wolverhampton City Council were present at the meeting. However, a further meeting would be required. She warned that it may take six months in order to get a community speed watch via a PACT meeting,</p> <p>Brenda Bates commented that when FACTAR supported the putting in of traffic calming measures in Castlecroft Lane which included a mini roundabout, arrows and a speed limit on the bend, there were issues because the speed limit was just advisory. Adrian Dawson said that a 20mph limit could be legal or advisory.</p> <p>Sarah Howell asked what could be put at the top of Windmill Hill. John Roseblade said that this issue had not yet been looked at.</p> <p>Andrea Cantrill asked if narrowing a road helped. It was concluded that it was different in each location. People are just impatient.</p> <p>Andrew Atkinson asked for a show of hands on the following proposals, each of which was returned with a majority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pedestrian crossing in Bhylls Lane • Control of the pedestrian crossing outside the Firs with lights • A layby in front of the shops in Castlecroft Road • 20mph speed limit from the Avenue to The Firs, in Bhylls Lane and in Windmill Lane <p>John Roseblade was asked if the bottleneck at the junction by the Firs was being looked at. He said that he would place a mobile camera by the Firs for a time in order to see what was occurring.</p>	

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<p>Cllr Wendy Thompson said that there were going to be 14,000 new houses at Perton as well as the issue of lorries, now that permission has been given for a quarry on the Bridgnorth Road. A lot of the traffic in Finchfield and Castlecroft is and will be South Staffs traffic. A new arterial road is required linking Codsall, Perton and Wombourne.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson thanked the transportation staff for attending and FCCA for arranging the meeting. She hoped that resolution of the issues will now move forward.</p> <p>John Roseblade said that Transportation would look at the suggestions and come back for another meeting in approximately three months' time to inform the attendees of feasibility of the suggestions that had been made.</p> <p>N Cullis requested that the police attend the next meeting.</p> <p>Andrew Atkinson brought the meeting to a close, saying that he would ensure that the next meeting was well publicised. He thanked John Rowley and Judith Tanswell for putting out the publicity for the current meeting.</p>	
<p><u>12. Summary of Suggestions</u></p> <p>The suggestions put forward at the meeting by the community can be summarised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 20mph speed limit from Bantock Park to Windmill Lane, accompanied by flashing speed warning lights and number plate recognition. 2. 30mph speed limit from Bantock Park to Windmill Lane, accompanied by flashing speed warning lights and number plate recognition. 3. 20mph speed limit from The Avenue to Windmill Lane with 2 speed limit signs. 4. 20mph speed limit in Bhylls Lane. 5. Short term 20mph limits during school times. 6. Speed camera signs and speed cameras. 7. Control of the pedestrian crossing outside the Firs with lights. 8. A pedestrian crossing in Bhylls Lane. 9. A layby outside the shops in Castlecroft Road (short or long stay) 10. A crossing under Castlecroft Bridge. 11. Road narrowing of Castlecroft Road with Give Way signs in each direction. 12. A central reservation in the very wide Castlecroft Road junction. 	

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<p>13.A community speed watch.</p> <p>14.Profiles of kerbs.</p> <p>15.Return of school crossing supervisors (an invitation was issued for anyone who wished to apply)</p> <p>Possible solutions that the community were not in favour of were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speed bumps 2. Double yellow lines 3. A mini roundabout at the bottom of Bhylls Lane 4. A mini roundabout outside the Firs 5. A pedestrian crossing outside Castlecroft Road shops 6. Moving the bus top from outside Castlecroft Road shops 	
<p>Provisional Date and Time of Next Meeting: Date to be confirmed by Andrew Atkinson</p>	AA