



PUBLIC MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

6:45pm Tuesday 9th July 2019 at Smestow Community School

	ACTION
<p>FCCA: Chairman Andrew Atkinson Minutes Secretary Barbara Cole Committee Members: Andrea Cantrill Wendy Dalton</p> <p>Wolverhampton City Council Councillors: Jane Stevenson Jonathan Crofts Wendy Thompson</p> <p>Wolverhampton City Council Transport Department: John Roseblade – Head of Transport Adrian Dawson – Traffic Engineer</p> <p>Members of the Public: Mr and Mrs Cotter Maria Dalton Kathleen Down Neil Robinson John Rowley Andrea Wakeley</p>	
<p>1. <u>Welcome</u> Andrew Atkinson welcomed everyone to the FCCA Public Meeting.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Brenda Bates, Judith Tanswell, Howard Stride and Bill Durnall</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes of Public Meeting 9th April 2019</u> Andrew Atkinson asked if those who had received and read the minutes of the previous meeting had identified any changes to be made. As no changes were reported Andrew approved the minutes.</p>	

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<p>4. <u>Matters Arising- Transport</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>At the end of the meeting held on April 9th the suggestions put forward by the community for consideration by Wolverhampton City Council Transport Department were summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. 20mph speed limit from Bantock Park to Windmill Lane, accompanied by flashing speed warning lights and number plate recognition. 4.2. 30mph speed limit from Bantock Park to Windmill Lane, accompanied by flashing speed warning lights and number plate recognition. 4.3 . 20mph speed limit from The Avenue to Windmill Lane with 2 speed limit signs. 4.4. 20mph speed limit in Bhylls Lane. 4.5. Short term 20mph limits during school times. 4.6. Speed camera signs and speed cameras. 4.7. Control of the pedestrian crossing outside the Firs with lights. 4.8. A pedestrian crossing in Bhylls Lane. 4.9. A layby outside the shops in Castlecroft Road (short or long stay) 4.10. A crossing under Castlecroft Bridge. 4.11. Road narrowing of Castlecroft Road with Give Way signs in each direction. 4.12. A central reservation in the very wide Castlecroft Road junction. 4.13. A community speed watch. 4.14. Profiles of kerbs. 4.15. Return of school crossing supervisors (an invitation was issued for anyone who wished to apply) <p>Possible solutions that the community were not in favour of were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.16. Speed bumps 4.17. Double yellow lines 4.18. A mini roundabout at the bottom of Bhylls Lane 4.19. A mini roundabout outside the Firs 4.20. A pedestrian crossing outside Castlecroft Road shops 4.21. Moving the bus stop from outside Castlecroft Road shops 	

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<p>5. Local Issues - Transport</p> <p>Andrew introduced John Roseblade (Head of Transport) and Adrian Dawson (Traffic Engineer) from Wolverhampton City Council's Transport Department. He invited them to report back on their findings so far.</p> <p>5.1 Pedestrian Crossings</p> <p>John Roseblade said that they are still waiting on surveys for a pedestrian crossing in Bhylls Lane (see 4.8 above) and a change of crossing type on Windmill Lane (4.7).</p> <p>5.2 Layby Outside Shops in Castlecroft Road</p> <p>A discussion about the provision of a layby outside the shops in Castlecroft Road (4.9) took place. John Roseblade said that Transport had looked into this but it would be difficult because they would have to block off the entrances to the shops and the garage and this is private land. The layby would have to be parallel to the road not perpendicular to the road because if it was perpendicular then there would not be room for a footpath. In addition, cars would either have to reverse in or reverse out. Either way would be dangerous and Transport could not encourage this. In order to construct the layby the shops would need to sell the land to the council. Would they be willing to sell the land and how would it be funded? Another consideration is whether there are any services running through the area in front of the shops. Any services would have to be diverted. Access for delivery vehicles must also be considered.</p> <p>It was agreed that double yellow lines outside the Castlecroft Road shops would be an issue for the shop keepers. This had already been considered in the previous meeting and had not been a popular solution (4.17). Wendy Dalton said that double yellow lines outside the shops would result in cars being parked on the pavement and this was undesirable. John Roseblade wondered whether parking restrictions had been given enough consideration. It was then pointed out that the shops were important to the community. John Rowley said that parking restrictions would not be popular. There is also a need for the shop keepers to park their own cars. It was suggested that parking duration could be limited with agreement from the shop keepers.</p> <p>John Rowley suggested that chevron parking (angled parking bays) might work. He said that he and Andrew Atkinson had been to look at the chevron parking in Dudley Road. They had measured it out and they had thought that a narrow layby would work at the Castlecroft Road shops. Wendy Dalton said that there was just not enough room for layby parking. Even with chevron parking the garage owner would still have an issue, people living in the flats above the shops would still need access and deliveries would still need to be made.</p> <p>Mrs Cotter, the manager of the animal welfare charity shop said that any parking restriction would mean a loss of passing trade. People park wherever they can. The Castlecroft Road shops are very popular.</p> <p>Neil Robinson suggested that the size of the pavement could be reduced. Wendy Dalton suggested that the garage could be asked if a walk way could be put where the wall is next to the garage. She said that she would want to see</p>	

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<p>confirmed pedestrian access. Cllr Jane Stevenson quoted an example near the school at Gerrards Cross where the footway is directly in front of the shops. However, it was observed that if the footpath was moved directly in front of the shops, access to and from the garage would still be an issue.</p> <p>Andrew Atkinson said that parking for the garage causes a problem. At the last meeting one of the shopkeepers said that he would be prepared to give up land in front of the shops but this would not be the case with the owner of the garage. Andrew said that a layby was the best solution but it was not straight forward due to access, the bus stop and penalising the shops.</p> <p>John Rosedale said that there was no easy answer. Andrew Atkinson asked if Transport are producing a report on the issue.</p> <p>5.3 Pedestrian Crossings Outside Castlecroft Road Shops The suggestion of a pedestrian crossing outside Castlecroft Road shops was not favoured at the last meeting (4.20). Wendy Dalton observed that no one walks on the opposite side of the road to the shops therefore there is no point in having a pedestrian crossing. In addition, the zig zag lines either side of the crossing would mean that no one would be able to park outside the shops. John Rosedale recognised the objection to a pedestrian crossing here.</p> <p>5.4 Speeding and Traffic Calming Measures John Rowley said that speeding in the area of Castlecroft Road shops is an issue. Traffic calming measures are required in order to warn people that it is a difficult area. He said that pedestrian crossings either side of the shops up and down the road would slow things down.</p> <p>Cllr Wendy Thompson said that the speed of traffic on Windmill Lane is an issue. Even if parking outside the Castlecroft Road shops cannot be resolved, something must be done to slow down the traffic.</p> <p>Kathleen Down of Denham Gardens also identified speeding as an issue.</p> <p>Andrew Atkinson agreed that speed is an issue, giving an example of a recent three car collision near to Bagridge Crescent. He said that this was a good case for speed control.</p> <p>John Rosedale and Adrian Dawson said that Transport had looked at the speed of traffic in Castlecroft Road in 2018 and it was quite slow, the mean speed being below 30 mph. It was observed that if parked cars were taken away from the area then the speed of the traffic would become a lot faster.</p> <p>John Rowley observed that before 8 am there are not so many cars on the road and then there is more speeding. Later when there is more traffic on the road, the speed of the traffic slows down. He said that speeding on Windmill Bank is an issue.</p> <p>Flashing speed signs were proposed at the last meeting (4.1 and 4.2). John Rowley observed that they slowed down normal people but not “boy racers” but they would be a good idea.</p>	

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<p>John also favoured control of the pedestrian crossing at the Firs (4.7) with lights as he thought that this would slow things down. In addition, he suggested a pedestrian crossing in the dip on Castlecroft Road, although Wendy Dalton questioned whether this would be used.</p> <p>Cllr Wendy Thompson suggested a mini roundabout in Castlecroft Road at the junction of Denham Gardens and Castlecroft Gardens similar to the mini roundabout at Finchfield Hill. She asked if the Transport department would look at this. Although it was questioned whether a mini roundabout at Denham Gardens would be as effective as the one at Finchfield Hill where drivers arriving at the roundabout are expecting vehicles to come from all angles.</p> <p>Andrea Cantrill favoured planting something in the middle of the island outside Castlecroft Surgery. However, others questioned how long that anything planted there would last before being vandalised.</p> <p>Rather than a pedestrian crossing outside Castlecroft Road shops, Wendy Dalton favoured a ramp or raised section of road. Block paved raised sections of road from the Avenue to the Firs were also suggested.</p> <p>Cllr Wendy Thompson suggested that different coloured strips painted on the road (not rumble strips) would slow people down.</p> <p>John Rowley raised the suggestions from the last meeting of 20 mph speed limits (4.1, 4.3 and 4.4). Adrian Dawson said that people would not take any notice of them. John said that at least they would alert people.</p> <p>John Rosedale said that the Transport could look at erecting flashing speed signs (4.1 and 4.2). Andrew Atkinson suggested that they could be put up at Denham Gardens and Windmill Bank.</p> <p>Wendy Dalton suggested that big SLOW signs could be painted on the road (like the ARAF signs in Wales). John Rosedale said that Transport could look at road markings. They are not costly. Cllr Wendy Thompson said that psychologically they could work.</p> <p>Andrea Cantrill suggested that the schools could get some of the children to design a sign aimed at slowing down traffic. She also asked what had happened about the idea of a crossing under Castlecroft Bridge (4.10). John Rosedale said that this would be too expensive compared with the cost of providing a pedestrian crossing (£20,000 to £30,000).</p> <p>John Rowley asked if anything had been done about the suggestion for a central reservation in the very wide Castlecroft Road junction (4.12). Adrian Dawson said that this had not been looked at. John asked if Transport could look it.</p> <p>5.5 Community Speed Watch</p> <p>The need for a Community Speed watch was identified in the last meeting (4.13). This has now started to happen. Cllr Jane Stevenson said that she had already been on a training course given by West Midlands Police. Andrew Atkinson said that another course was scheduled for 23rd July at 7:00 pm at Aldersley Stadium.</p>	

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<p>Members of the public can book places on the course.</p> <p>Cllr Wendy Thompson said that notices warning drivers that a community speed watch is being carried out should be put up. The Transport department can put them up. She said that they could be then be left up permanently. Andrew Atkinson said that the speed watch should work if notices are put up.</p> <p>5.6 School Parking</p> <p>John Rosedale said that he would take away an action to see what had been done about school parking in the city.</p> <p>It was suggested that cars with cameras could be used. An observation was made that blocking residents' driveways was anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Andrea Cantrill suggested that parking could be stopped by "greening up" areas by planting to provide a barrier between cars and the pavement.</p> <p>5.7 Air Pollution</p> <p>John Rowley spoke of the issue of air pollution around schools due to vehicles. He mentioned the idea of using the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve walk way for pupils to walk to school. He asked whether the Transport department get involved.</p> <p>John Rosedale said that they are involved in a pilot project with Coventry University using mobile monitors to measure air quality. The first site will be Wolverhampton ring road. However, he wondered if the same thing could be done around schools. Paul Lever is currently undertaking some work with schools on air pollution. Andrea Cantrill thought that it was a good idea. She asked if FCCA could be sent the results of the pollution survey.</p> <p>5.8 Further Action</p> <p>Cllr Wendy Thompson asked what the Transport department would be taking away from the meeting John Rosendale responded with the outstanding surveys, vehicle activated speed signs and additional road markings highlighting speed. He agreed to let Andrew Atkinson know when they have more information on any of these and the other suggestions (as summarised in section 4 of the minutes).</p> <p>Andrew Atkinson said that there would be no immediate overnight solution. He thanked John Rosendale and Adrian Dawson for their time</p>	
<p>Provisional Date and Time of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Date to be confirmed by Andrew Atkinson following the receipt of update from the Transport department.</p>	AA