



PUBLIC MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

7:00pm Thursday 24th October 2019 at Windmill Community Church

	ACTION
<p>FCCA:</p> <p>Chairman: Andrew Atkinson Secretary: Wendy Dalton Treasurer: Howard Stride Minutes Secretary: Barbara Cole Committee Members: Heather Rous Judith Tanswell Andrea Cantrill</p> <p>Wolverhampton City Council Councillors: Jane Stevenson Jonathan Crofts</p> <p>Members of the Public: John Rowley Stella Morris</p> <p>Windmill Community Church: Terry Wilkes</p>	
<p>1. <u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Andrew Atkinson welcomed everyone to the FCCA Public Meeting and thanked Terry Wilkes for the use of the Windmill Community Church.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Wendy Thompson and Cllr Christopher Haynes</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes of Public Meeting 9th July 2019</u></p> <p>Andrew Atkinson asked if those who had read the minutes of the previous meeting had identified any changes to be made. As no changes were reported, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record.</p>	

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<p>4. <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Andrew gave a precis of the minutes of 9th July. John Roseblade (Head of Transport) and Adrian Dawson (Traffic Engineer) had been present from Wolverhampton City Council's Transport Department. The main focus of the meeting had been the potential for traffic road calming measures on Windmill Lane and Castlecroft Road; ways to reduce speeding and the provision of crossing places. The following had been discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian Crossings (5.1) • Layby Outside Shops in Castlecroft Road (5.2) • Pedestrian Crossings Outside Castlecroft Road Shops (5.3) • Speeding and Traffic Calming Measures (5.4) • Community Speed Watch (5.5) • School Parking (5.6) • Air Pollution (5.7) <p>Andrew said that John and Adrian were not present at this evening's meeting, however, Adrian had sent an email to Andrew with his responses. Andrew said that this email would be presented to the meeting later under Agenda Item 6. Transport Issues - Wolverhampton City Council's Response</p>	
<p>5. <u>Smaller Topics</u></p> <p>5.1 Smart Device Yoga</p> <p>Andrew reported that the Smart Device Yoga computer classes at Bantock Park were continuing. New faces were appearing each week, dropping in as designed. There were approximately twenty people attending last week.</p> <p>5.2 Uplands School Minibus – Crowd Fund Wolves</p> <p>Andrew said that FCCA had joined Wolverhampton City Council's Crowd Fund Wolves to raise money for a new minibus for Uplands School. The previous minibus had been stolen approximately eighteen months ago. FCCA are trying to raise £30,000 by 14th February 2020. So far around £20,000 has been raised. Business pledges have been received as well as donations from individuals. Uplands School may qualify for funding from the Active Citizens police fund. John Rowley said that he would speak to Andrew about this</p> <p>5.3 FCCA Noticeboards</p> <p>Andrew reported that FCCA were talking to Wolverhampton City Council about the provision of noticeboards to advertise FCCA matters and events. FCCA had previously used the Wolverhampton Homes noticeboard but this had been taken away some time ago. Ward funds are available. Cllr Stevenson said that they are currently awaiting sign off. Andrew said that FCCA have the plate sourced. Cllr Stevenson asked what size noticeboards are required. The consensus was green A1 size. Andrew said that FCCA would pay the cost difference if they can have the biggest boards possible. Heather Rous observed that the noticeboards must be very secure, otherwise other people would put things in it that are nothing to do with FCCA. The noticeboards must be lockable and only FCCA Committee members will have keys. There will be two noticeboards located on the green at Finchfield and in Castlecroft where the Wolverhampton Homes noticeboard had previously been, adjacent to the Dragon Fly shop. Cllr Crofts recommended that a VAT exempt option would be the best choice. Permission is in place for both noticeboards, the sites have been surveyed and approved.</p>	<p>JR</p>

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<p>6. Transport Issues – Wolverhampton City Council’s Response</p> <p>Andrew presented Adrian Dawson’s email response from Wolverhampton City Council about the transport issues discussed in the meetings held on 9th July and 9th April.</p> <p>Adrian’s response is shown below in italics (cross references to the minutes of 9th July are shown in brackets). Responses from the current meeting are shown following each of Adrian’s points where applicable</p> <p>a) <i>Implementation of SLOW markings to be investigated (5.4)</i></p> <p><i>Department for Transport (DFT) guidance states that SLOW markings should only be implemented adjacent to a warning sign. This makes sense as drivers should know then why they are being asked to slow down and are, consequently, more likely to comply. Accordingly, we can certainly install SLOW markings where appropriate.</i></p> <p>b) <i>Implementation of “stripes” across the road to be investigated (5.4)</i></p> <p><i>Experience has shown that the implementation of “stripes” or rumble strips on the carriageway often creates unacceptable noise and vibration in adjacent properties. Consequently, we tend not to use this particular measure if we can avoid it.</i></p> <p>c) <i>Implementation of Vehicle Activated Signs (VASs) to proceed if possible (5.4)</i></p> <p><i>The VASs that we currently use are powered from a mains supply. Each new installation should have a new post and ducting for a new electricity supply. This is working out to be expensive for each new site and consequently, we are investigating the purchase of new lightweight, battery-powered VASs that can be mounted on lighting columns. However, this is proving to be a little more complicated than originally considered – mainly due to the varying specifications of each manufacturer’s sign and their implications for the Council’s procurement policy. Rest assured that Castlecroft Road is on the list of sites for the new signs when they arrive.</i></p> <p>d) <i>Road safety activity in local schools (5.6)</i></p> <p><i>Our Road Safety department arrange a number of activities in local schools. Castlecroft School benefits from the Bikeability scheme. Children attending Smestow School should already have benefitted from Bikeability in their feeder primary schools (under the terms of the Bikeability grant, children can only attend a course once) – e.g. Uplands and Castlecroft Junior.</i></p> <p><i>Road Safety Awareness sessions are offered to all primary schools in the city. No local schools have taken up this offer so far this school year. In addition, we offer “Street Feet” to infant schools. This is role-playing equipment aimed at road safety awareness. Again, no local schools have taken this up so far this school year.</i></p> <p><i>N.B. Bhylls Acre School is in Staffordshire</i></p> <p>Andrew said that FCCA should explain to the school heads (including Bhylls Acre) what is available and try to find out why there has been no uptake of the sessions available. An email to the Wolverhampton City Council Director of Education was also suggested. The councillors agreed to help.</p> <p>e) <i>Introduction of splitter island on Castlecroft Road (junction with Windmill Lane) to be investigated (5.4)</i></p> <p><i>Vehicle tracking analysis has been undertaken on this junction. This has shown that the bus that uses this junction requires so much space to turn that it would be very difficult to accommodate a splitter island safely. Judging by the road layout, the left turn towards the Rugby Club was the one</i></p>	<p>FCCA JS JC</p>

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<p><i>“straight on” manoeuvre. However, the road was built out so that the right turn to Windmill Lane effectively became the main road. That building-out also had the effect of reducing the speed of any vehicles that turned left towards the Rugby Club. Unfortunately, that double bend forces buses to use a substantial area on the road. Any reduction in the size of that build-out would widen the junction even further and may increase the speed of vehicles turning left.</i></p> <p>John Rowley observed that buses are able to get round the roundabout at the Chestnut public house and there is more room at the Castlecroft Road junction. John asked Andrew if he would reply to Adrian Dawson questioning his comments about the roundabout as he could not see a problem with the bus getting round it. Andrew agreed and also said that he would go to look at the junction himself</p> <p>f) <i>Air Quality to be measured in the area. Cycle mounted apparatus to be mobilised (5.7)</i></p> <p><i>As we explained at the last meeting, this is a new technology that had not been delivered at that time. We are expecting to be able to use it in the very near future and Castlecroft will be one of the areas that will benefit</i></p> <p>g) <i>Investigation of provision of pedestrian crossing on Bhylls Lane to continue (5.1)</i></p> <p><i>The City of Wolverhampton’s current policy is that a site must meet certain criteria in order for a formal pedestrian crossing to be justified. One of those refers to a numerical relationship between the number of pedestrians and the number of vehicles using the site. That relationship must reach a minimum figure and a number of surveys have been carried out to establish the result at this site. However, the site does not reach the minimum figure and a formal crossing is not justified.</i></p> <p>It was agreed that Andrew would ask Adrian Dawson for the minimum percentage as well as all figures used by the Council to determine their percentage and the calculation itself.</p> <p>h) <i>Investigation of conversion of zebra crossing to puffin crossing on Windmill Lane to continue (5.1)</i></p> <p><i>The City of Wolverhampton’s current policy states that the 85-percentile speed on a road must be at least 35mph before a signal controlled crossing is justified. A formal (24-hour, 7-day) speed survey has been undertaken on Windmill Lane and the result is that the 85-percentile speed is less than 35mph. Consequently, we cannot recommend that the existing zebra crossing should be converted to a signal controlled crossing.</i></p> <p>It was agreed that Andrew would ask Adrian Dawson for the sample size, dates, times and direction of the traffic.</p> <p>Cllr Crofts said that this did not address the lack of visibility at the crossing or people driving over it.</p> <p>John Rowley said that he would be happy for this to be raised, along with the 85-percentile at the next FCCA meeting</p> <p>i) <i>Residents and shopkeepers are strongly opposed to the implementation of a pedestrian crossing outside the shops on Castlecroft Road (5.3)</i></p> <p><i>All work on the implementation of a crossing here has been cancelled.</i></p> <p>John Rowley observed that Adrian Dawson’s response had not addressed the issue of restricted parking outside the shops in Castlecroft Road and the provision of a layby (5.2). Also what had happened about his suggestion of a shaped layby. He said that he</p>	<p>AA</p> <p>AA</p> <p>AA</p> <p>AA</p> <p>JR</p>

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<p>was still in favour of this solution. Heather said that it would require agreement from all of the shop keepers. Cllr Stevenson said that it would mean giving up pavement and some of the shop forecourt.</p> <p>Howard Stride observed that Wolverhampton City Council's report focussed more on what cannot be done rather than what can be done.</p> <p>Cllr Crofts said that the issue was funding. He queried what had happened to all the Section 106 money.</p> <p>Cllr Stevenson said that there needs to be best solutions but none have been identified. She said that someone needs to come up with schemes that everyone wants but at present there are none.</p> <p>John agreed with Howard. He said that the Wolverhampton City Council should be pressed to say what they can do, not what they cannot do. He also pointed out that the Local Neighbourhood Plan had recommended a pedestrian crossing at Castlecroft Road shops. He said that some sort of layby outside the shops should be acceptable. He agreed with Cllr Stevenson that some sort of agreement was necessary, for example, a layby with a fifteen minutes time restriction, a lower kerb and a warning to drivers. It would stop pavement parking. John said that he would speak to the shopkeepers. Andrew said that this would be helpful.</p> <p>Howard questioned whether Wolverhampton City Council believe that there is not a transport problem in the FCCA area and that is why they have no recommendations.</p>	JR
<p>7. <u>Other Transport Matters</u></p> <p>Other transport matters discussed were:</p> <p>7.1 Community Speed Watch (5.5)</p> <p>Andrew reported that a FCCA Community Speed watch had taken place in Warstones Road. This was outside the FCCA area but it is not unusual for people to go outside their immediate local area to undertake a speed watch. The next one will take place on October 30th in Langley Road. This will be followed by Linden Lea and Castlecroft Road. The speed watches have all taken place in day light and in good weather. Andrew said that FCCA have had the assistance of two good PCSOs. Howard said that average speeds should be calculated. If a driver's name appears three times on the register of motorists exceeding the speed limit, they are visited by a speeding officer. If a motorist is found to be over a certain speed, the traffic police can be sent for. Traffic police cars are now unmarked. It is no longer necessary to display a sign that there is a speed watch in an area but the police are going to put some signs up. The signs are currently on order.</p> <p>7.2 School Parking (5.6)</p> <p>John raised the subject of school parking. In the last meeting John Rosedale had said that he would find out what had happened elsewhere in Wolverhampton. However, there was no response in Adrian Dawson's email. Andrea Cantrill said that double yellow lines do stop people from parking. Judith Tanswell said that this worked well near to where she lives and that there should be double yellow lines outside all schools. Cllr Stevenson said that some people still park even if there are double yellow lines. Andrea suggested that something similar to a Community Speed Watch should be put in place to catch people parking on double yellow lines outside schools.</p>	

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<p>7.3 Air Pollution and Walking to School (5.7)</p> <p>John commented that Adrian Dawson seemed to have avoided the subject of air pollution in his email response to FCCA. He asked if Wolverhampton City Council is encouraging traffic free routes to schools, saying that there is already an avenue in place in the form of the Smestow Valley Railway walk. Andrea wondered whether mothers are to blame for not encouraging their children to walk to school. Heather observed that few children have the luxury of walking partly due to time constraints on their parents. John said that there is evidence that the level of air pollution is becoming unhealthy. He suggested that FCCA should think about doing something to encourage local schools to find traffic free routes to schools. Andrea said that there should be more cycle lanes but people need to feel safe in using them. Cllr Stevenson said that roads are difficult because they go from wide to narrow and back again. Cllr Crofts said that John's idea of traffic free routes has potential but it needs buy-in. He said that Wolverhampton needs to become a "green city".</p> <p>John said that he would like to see a FCCA sub-committee on walking routes to school. Andrew asked if John and Andrea would draw up a proposed pollution free route for cycling and walking to school. John agreed and said that he would take into consideration light and safety. The proactive map will then be placed in the new FCCA notice boards and presented to school governors.</p>	<p></p> <p>JR/AC</p>
<p>8. Any Other Business</p> <p>John Rowley raised the following:</p> <p>8.1 Autumn clean-up in the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve</p> <p>An autumn clean-up is being arranged by the rangers on 28th October between 10:00 and 12:00 meeting at the WEC. Andrew said that he would put an advert about the clean-up on the FCCA website.</p> <p>8.2 Platform at entrance to Smestow Valley Railway Walk near Castlecroft Shops</p> <p>Wolverhampton City Council have put steps at the entrance to the railway walk near to the Castlecroft Road shops. However, there is a problem about where people can stand whilst waiting for other people to come up the steps. There is therefore a proposal for WREN (Wightwick & Regis Enterprise Network) to erect a platform on which people can wait. John said that he would try to get Section 106 funding for the platform.</p> <p>8.3 Impact of housing in the WEC on the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve</p> <p>John raised a new point about the impact of housing development at the WEC on the Local Nature Reserve. At the public meeting showing the proposed layout, John had spoken to the architect about whether he had considered the impact of the housing on the nature reserve. It would be 24/7. The architect had not considered this and John thinks that he should be asked to mitigate the impact. Andrew agreed to put this on the agenda for the next FCCA meeting. All those present at the current meeting were asked to think about the issue before the next meeting.</p>	<p></p> <p>AA</p> <p>JR</p> <p>AA</p>

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<p>9. <u>Update on Windmill Community Church</u></p> <p>Andrew thanked Terry Wilkes for the use of the Windmill Community Church for the meeting. Terry thanked everyone for coming. He said that the Windmill Community Church is a debt free registered charity. He gave the following update on events that are taking place or being planned at the community church, which is part of the Wolverhampton Voluntary Council, befriending the lonely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endless youth group activities • A crafting group is planned in the near future • A community choir • A coffee shop is open every week day (with the exception of Tuesday) between 10:00 and 12:00 (Approximately 80 people are attending each week) • Little Windmills, a parent and toddler group takes place every Tuesday morning in school term time • NHS parenting course (in association with the courts) • Work with Romania charity shop in Wolverhampton • A healthy eating group want to set up at the community church • A planning application has been made for an extension to the building providing a youth room • An open day will be held at the Community Church on Saturday 30th November between 10:00 and 16:00 	
<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 30th January 2020, 7 pm at the Windmill Community Church</p>	