



DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 6.30pm in Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling.

Present: Cllr. R. Stapleton (Chair), Cllr. R. Orme, Cllr. P. Farrands, Cllr. J. Barna, Cllr. R. Mills (Westmeston PC), Julia Goodbourne (Ditchling Society) and Sarah Mamoany (Clerk).

Public Participation:

No members of the public were present

1.	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Street Parish Meeting, Jon Wheeler (ESCC Highways) and Jodie Blake (SDNP Conservation Officer). The Clerk from Streat had advised that no representative was available to attend as the meeting was the same evening as their Parish Meeting. They noted that it seems from the consultant's report that no issues arise in Streat, however, they do have speeding concerns along Street Lane, which residents have raised. He also noted both Streat and Westmeston should have the opportunity to read and submit any comments on the final Phase 1 report before this is approved by the full Council.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were made.</p>	
3.	<p>To review Terms of Reference These were reviewed and the following amendments were made, which will be recommended to the Parish Council for approval. Authority – The Traffic Committee reports to the Parish Council. It has no decision-making powers but is delegated by the Council to consider traffic proposals and provide recommendations, and when appropriate to consult with Highways and other appropriate bodies and provide recommendations to the full Council. Record of Meetings – The Clerk or person delegated by the Clerk shall minute proceedings and resolutions of all meetings of the Committee. Membership – The committee is not limited but is subject to a minimum of four members of Ditchling Parish Council. Stakeholders – amended to East Sussex County Council, Ditchling Society and South Downs National Park. The sentence will be removed in relation to committee members attending all meetings.</p>	
4.	<p>To review the recommendations in Phase 1 draft traffic report and consider subjects for discussion with the traffic consultant Cllr. Stapleton informed the committee that he had spoken with Jon Wheeler (ESCC Highways) and will circulate a note of the conversations which included an update on the consultant's project, funding, and views on some traffic measures. Jon Wheeler has offered to attend a future meeting with Motion, but was unavailable to attend on the date arranged.</p>	

	<p>Cllr. Stapleton asked for views on the overall objectives of the Phase 1 proposals and the following comments were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal of parking in High Street and South Street would need additional traffic calming measures which could impact on the character of the village; • Residents are concerned about pedestrian safety and this is a priority, however the street scene needs to be considered in relation to some proposals, such as bollards, widening of pavements and the materials that might be used in such measures, which could potentially have an impact on the character of the village; • The East Sussex Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (2020) should be referenced in the report and the consultants should note its contents in the report; • B2116 heading west to Keymer/Hassocks is on the East Sussex/West Sussex boundary and it should be noted that both County Councils need to work together; • The implementation of any scheme should be considered by a designer in addition to Highways engineers to ensure the character of the village is considered, it was noted that this could increase costs/timescales of any project work; • Parking is an issue for some residents, in particular those that have no off-road parking and have to park on the road; • The Beacon Road is used by SECAMB as a main route between Haywards Heath and Brighton hospitals, it was unsure why this route was used and Julia advised she would look into the reasons behind this. <p>Cllr. Stapleton had provided a document showing the recommendations on the Phase 1 report which the committee reviewed and the comments were noted on the attached document.</p> <p>The main proposals were all supported except for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signalised junction to replace mini-roundabout at the village centre crossroads; • Closure of Beacon Road at the Beacon; • Making Underhill Lane a 'no through road'. <p>Cllr. Orme advised he could provide the briefing paper that was supplied to Motion in relation to comments from residents.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>To review locations for additional ATC (Automatic Traffic Counter) data It was noted the Clerk had not received a response from Motion in relation to a request for costs and exact locations on Clayton Road and north of Folders Lane roundabout It was noted that potentially the traffic data on Folders Lane may not be of assistance to the report and would not give enough information about traffic flows. The Council had agreed to fund these additional costs at the September meeting up to £1000. It was noted that this could be discussed further at the meeting with Motion to be held on the 17 November and the Committee would report back to the Council.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>To discuss future liaison with East Sussex Highways and MP It was noted above that Cllr. Stapleton had been in communication with Jon Wheeler at ESCC Highways and that he was content with the draft Phase 1 report and the Council should proceed with Phase 2. He would now refer the Phase 1 Report to his road safety team who would in due course feed in their comments for inclusion in Motion's Phase 2 work.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that Maria Caulfield was going to call a public meeting several weeks ago and Cllr. Stapleton had advised her about the current stage with the traffic consultancy report and the meeting did not proceed. It was noted that the Council will need to consider at some stage when and how they share the traffic consultation findings/report.</p> <p>Residents are in constant communication with Maria Caulfield due to their concerns about road safety in the village and she is therefore aware of the issues.</p>	
7.	<p>To discuss funding for future traffic mitigation measures</p> <p>Cllr. Stapleton noted that Jon Wheeler had explained, in summary terms, three possible finance sources for funding traffic measures. Local transport improvements, which is a £3m countryside annual fund for which bids can be submitted; Community Match Funding which can be backed by match funding up to £50,000 per project on a bid system and CIL Funding which could be obtained from County, District or SDNP on a match funding basis.</p> <p>Cllr. Orme noted the potential for S106 funding, which was financing the consultancy project and this could be available potentially from other local authorities, where large developments are being built which impact on traffic in the village. Currently existing nearby settlements are not considered in traffic studies which are submitted with planning applications. Cllr. Orme noted that he is preparing a paper in relation to the relevant planning policies which he will circulate to the Council. With the review of the SDNP Local Plan this could be an opportunity to put a new policy forward relating to this area and work with ESCC to request that developers should have to contribute to existing settlements that are affected by increased traffic.</p>	
8.	<p>To discuss 20's Plenty schemes</p> <p>This was discussed within item 4 and it was noted that the Police were understood to be supportive of this type of scheme to reduce permitted speeds in villages to 20 mph. Whilst it can be a relatively inexpensive way to introduce traffic calming it is anticipated both the Police and the County would want it to be accompanied by other traffic calming measures that would make it self-enforcing. Thus, it might not be suitable for all roads in the village.</p>	
9.	<p>Items for information or future agenda</p> <p>HGV's were discussed and it was noted that signage is present and has previously been looked at. The issue is that drivers must be able use local roads to make deliveries and unless you follow them to their destination, you have no proof they are driving through the village without a valid reason.</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>It was noted a meeting with Motion will be held on Thursday 17 November at the Parish Office with Cllr. Stapleton, Orme, Barna and Farrands.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.06pm