

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP HELD AT THE GUILDHALL ON THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2006 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor D M J Gibbon JP, in the Chair.
Councillor G D A Bowden, W J Jones, Mrs M Palmer, Mrs E Thomas, P M Whiteman (also District Councillor)
Mr Hugh Dannatt, Shropshire County Council
Mr B Bennett, Assistant D/S, Shropshire County Council
Mr R Braddock, Bridgnorth District Council
Mrs A Downes, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D N Hill (another meeting), Councillor E W Humphries (holiday) and Councillor Mrs B Ward (personal reason), Peter Lindsell, Bridgnorth District Council.

Declarations of Interest: Councillor D Gibbon declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Bridgnorth District Council and Shropshire County Council and declared a personal interest in land at the rear of Havelock Crescent (County and District Councillor) and Councillor P M Whiteman declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Bridgnorth District Council (District Councillor).

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held 11 July 2006, having been circulated were signed.

Matters arising:

Traffic Signs – Hugh Dannatt had met with Adrian Brown of Parkman. They felt the number of signs could be reduced and rationalised and the legality of some of the signs has to be established. Some signs may not be necessary following results of traffic survey. He will report to a future meeting with amendments.

Councillor Mrs Thomas referred to 2012 and the fact that signing needs to be improved for the museum.

The traffic survey will take into account the new car park off High Street.

Bus Signs – Signing to the Priory will be included when signs are considered in the traffic survey.

20 mph speed limits – Hugh Dannatt confirmed that physical features have to be introduced to ensure vehicles do not travel over 20 mph and that the zones have to be self-enforcing. He agreed to produce a report to present to the Parish Plan Committee.

New Road Pedestrian Access – the County Council will look at the provision of dropped kerbs opposite the entrance to Manor House Close.

Salt Bin – Shropshire County Council agreed to provide a salt bin at Hunters Gate.

Decriminalisation: After 20 November 2006, anyone found parking on double yellow lines will receive a fixed penalty notice and fine. Warning letters will be issued in the week prior to 20 November.

Problems of congestion still occur outside 15 and 16 St Mary's Road. This area will be considered as a priority for road safety measures, including double yellow lines, in the traffic survey.

Also to be considered for double yellow lines will be Back Lane and the corner by the entrance to the farmyard of Brook House Farm in Queen Street. Hugh Dannatt agreed to arrange, through the Town Clerk, a meeting to discuss this.

Traffic Survey: The County, District and Town Councils have been working together towards 2012. The effects of increased visitors and vehicles to the town will have to be managed and controlled. It was suggested that the terms of reference for the traffic survey should include forward thinking about the implications on the town of 2012 and beyond. It is hoped the traffic survey will commence within the next two months and it was agreed a special meeting be held to discuss and confirm the terms of reference for the traffic survey.

The Gaskell Corner: Town Councillors had expressed to Shropshire County Council their concern about the length of time this contract had taken and whether the junction had in fact slowed down traffic and been made safer for pedestrians. Councillors considered it had not been made any safer and Hugh Dannatt reported that the work was not yet completed – guard rails and lighting had to be provided. The contract had taken longer because residents complained about the men and noisy machinery working at night and this had delayed completion of the work. Shropshire County Council will continue to monitor this junction and it will also be included within the traffic survey. He agreed to look at where pedestrians crossed the top of High Street and whether a safer crossing could be provided lower down the street.

Rear Service Road to St Mary's Road Houses: Town Councillors considered this road should be improved to enable residents to park at the rear of their properties and thereby reduce congestion on St Mary's Road. The service road is owned by Bridgnorth District Council and the residents have no responsibility for the upkeep of the road. Hugh Dannatt confirmed that this road and St Mary's Road will be included in the traffic survey.

Following the Local Plan Inquiry when it was asked what was happening to this road the Inspector had stated that it should be included in the development of the land at the rear of High Street but this had not materialised.

Councillor Whiteman said something had to be done about the traffic congestion in St Mary's Road – traffic restrictions will have to be introduced and this service road improved.

Service Road at the rear of Havelock Crescent: Residents of Havelock Crescent have a right of access to the rear of their properties but have to pay towards any improvements or maintenance to the service road. An application had been received to access a builders yard at the rear of 12 Stretton Road over this service road but this had been withdrawn and enforcement action may be taken. Because of its use by heavy low loaders and machinery, the road was now in a very bad condition but Bridgnorth District Council do not have funds to carry out improvements. The front area of Havelock Crescent needs to be tidied up – cars persist in parking on the grassed area and the parking area should be extended.

Blue Car Park Sign: A blue car park sign is required when approaching from the Telford direction directing cars to the car park off New Road – this will be considered when signing is dealt with.

Street Cleansing: The District Councillors are to meet with Steve Brown (BDC) to discuss areas which need attention.

Broken Utility Markers: Please inform the Town Clerk of the locations and she will forward a list to Brian Bennett.

High Street Lighting Scheme: The Town Clerk reported that a scheme to improve lighting in the High Street had been agreed by the Town Council and the Conservation Officer at Bridgnorth but some Town Councillors expressed concern at the height of the columns (8m). Hugh Dannatt will discuss this with M D'Alesio of Street Lighting at SCC.

Any Other Business: Hugh Dannatt confirmed that the relief roads for Much Wenlock would be considered as part of the traffic study.

Date of next Meeting: This will be after the traffic study has been carried out – probably 8 February 2007.

Signed Chairman

Date 2007