

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Helen Simpson
57 Fairview Road
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0BP
Tel: 07920 110380
Cllr.helen.simpson@hungerford-tc.gov.uk



The Town Clerk
Mrs Joanna Pike
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0JG
Tel: 01488 686195
townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk

MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on 26th May 2020 at 7pm remotely.

Present: Cllrs Chicken, Knight, Downe, Hudson, Hawkins, Fyfe

Also, Newbury News, Representatives from Boots and John Willmott, District Cllrs Benneyworth and Cole

- 1) **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Simpson
- 2) **Declarations of interest** – None.
- 3) **Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 27th January 2020:** *Cllr Knight proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, one abstention (Cllr Hudson), rest in favour.* (Note the committee did not meet in March due to lockdown)
- 4) **Update on Actions from previous meetings.**
 - a) **Station Road parking and access to the 3 Swans** – This is not an HTC issue and the dispute is ongoing between WBC, 3 Swans and the residents' group.
 - b) **Parking at Atherton Crescent** – A request for additional parking has been passed to WBC and due to lockdown, we have yet to hear back.
 - c) **Petition to move taxi rank to outside the Town Hall** – Cllr Chicken previously instigated a petition and received no objections from the shops close to the Town Hall and much support. He advised the only concern was market day and it could be possible to use another location for that day. He is waiting to hear back from WBC.
- 5) **Smarten up Hungerford (SUH)**– John Willmott (JW) presented his report. He advised 6 additional planters on the bridge would block the view of the canal. Instead planters could be placed either end of benches in the High St. Safety is a concern and these should not be placed on the edge of the pavement or where pedestrians can be blocked from the view of motorists. A risk assessment will be required.

ACTION: JW will provide the Council details of his suggested locations for planters, for permission. Any purchase orders should come through the Clerk.

JW advised Russell Marshall are funding SUH to fill their planters. He will also approach Fisher German on the same basis. He hopes to get a sponsor to restore the pub sign by the old Lamb Pub and put up a flower display. There are plans to decorate around the BT boxes. These are an eyesore and need painting.

ACTION: Cllr Downe to take photos of the BT boxes by Co-op and Great Grooms.

ACTION: Clerk to approach BT to request the boxes are painted.
- 6) **Update on Hungerford in Bloom** – Cllr Hawkins advised the competition is still going ahead but will be judged through photos. All details can be found on our website. She thanked the press for their coverage.
- 7) **Update following monitoring of use of delivery bay / taxi rank in High Street** – Cllr Downe reported the dominant use is deliveries. Lorries can pull into the bay and this avoids blocking the traffic. Over the period assessed there were only four visits by taxis. It is clear deliveries need the bay for the whole of the day

although the occupancy time is not high. There were two or three occasions when there were two vehicles in the bay. Once there was a taxi and a car but during other times taxis were there solely. The monitoring arose from a complaint from a taxi company. The rank is only available from 11am onwards. Cllr Chicken said the Town Hall would be the perfect place for taxis to stop now there are no buses operating from there.

ACTION: Chase update from WBC on potential use of area outside town hall as a taxi rank.

ACTION: Cllr Chicken to continue to pursue GWR for use of an area near the cycle park at the station, for taxis. Cllr Hudson warned they may charge a fee to the taxi companies.

- 8) **Discuss government guidance document on Safer Public Spaces (taken after item 4)** – Representatives from Boots (Hungerford, High St) spoke about their concerns over managing queuing and social distancing outside their shop once neighbouring shops reopen on 15th June which may also have queues outside. Boots are increasing the limit to 6 customers allowed in Boots at any one time but need a holding area somewhere. The bakery nearby only let in one person at a time.

We have three weeks to prepare for these changes. HTC suggestions involved suspending parking to allow space for queuing, putting cones in place, one-way systems on pavement, closing part of the road and using a virtual queuing system (by appointment).

Queueing outside the butchers and WH Smiths on the opposite side of the road is also a potential problem. Other pinch points highlighted were Bridge St pavement, the junction by The Bear and access to the station. There is not the 2m required in these areas to carry out social distancing. The committee were informed in writing of a concern from a member of public about the area outside Howards Pets.

JW declared an interest and requested HTC's support in suspending 6 parking bays for use by Eliane's (café) for setting up tables and chairs outside so the business can operate when it reopens, as social distancing is not possible inside.

The Clerk advised WBC has suggested HTC and Chamber of Commerce co-ordinate with businesses to survey all requirements. HTC should provide a list of requests and WBC will assess the impact as a whole to ensure they are being fair and consistent to all. We need to be mindful to leave enough public parking. WBC has a range of signs for use by businesses and can consider any temporary traffic orders needed to assist with safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Newbury Town Centre has been pedestrianised.

District Cllr James Cole agreed it was a good idea to look at all the above as one project to get the town running again.

a) Consider formation of a working party to identify relevant areas – Cllrs Knight and Hudson and District Cllr Benneyworth agreed to work on this project.

b) Consider setting up a meeting with WBC representative – **ACTION** -Set up a meeting with Gabrielle Mancini at WBC who is the recommended contact.

ACTION – The working party will approach shops/businesses for a list of their requirements and carry out an audit, recording all pinch points and possible solutions.

- 9) **Discuss report of speeding traffic on A4** – A complaint was received about speeding from the Shell petrol station to the Garden Centre in both directions. Since lockdown speeding problems have increased and the speed enforcements by the police had stopped but these have recently resumed. What measures can be put in place when the police are not carrying out checks? Other locations with speeding problems were highlighted: - south of Hungerford at the top of Salisbury Road and west of Hungerford. Suggestions were chevrons or to change the A4 signage on the approach from Newbury to Hungerford to include a gradual reduction from national speed limit to 40mph to 30mph. This could include a lower speed limit at the Lower Denford/A4 junction which is dangerous. VASs (vehicle activated signs) is an option. Previously HTC identified three locations where these could be placed, and one could be purchased and moved around for maximum impact.

ACTION: Cllr Hudson will circulate the previous information gathered on VAS including the costs.

It was agreed the Cllrs Downe and Fyfe will use their SID (Speed indicator device) training to monitor the speeding in approved areas.

ACTION: Cllr Downe will book a date for hire of SID equipment.

ACTION: Clerk to add this to next agenda for update.

Cllr Fyfe said nothing had been done following his report to WBC on broken signage and on shrubbery that needed cutting back so road signage can be seen. The Clerk advised this is still a matter for WBC although they have stopped cleaning signs. JW reported SUH has arranged for sign cleaning to be carried out.

ACTION: Cllr Fyfe will check and update his report and forward to District Cllrs for them to pursue.

- 10) Consider response to Speed Management Framework Consultation** – Cllrs Downe and Knight have responded to the consultation personally but a HTC response is required. Cllr Downe commented if over 20% exceed the speed limit there may be a design problem with the road. It was noted that speed cameras are not an option. As speed escalates the options change from SID, to temporary signs or posters, to VAS.
ACTION: Cllrs to read the documents and forward comments to the Clerk for compilation of an HTC response.

- 11) Receive report from Pigeon Working Party** – The party has not met due to lockdown. Cllr Chicken has contacted Network Rail requesting the netting under the bridge (over the highway) is repaired and he said it is on their list to do. Since the sign has been removed from no.5 the number of droppings on the footway has reduced. Boots has netted their premises well and other premises could do this.

ACTION: Cllr Downe will take photos of the netting.

ACTION: Clerk to set up a Zoom meeting for the working party.

- 12) Receive report from Christmas Lights Working Party** – The party has not met due to lockdown.

ACTION: Cllr Hawkins will contact Shield Contractors and R Ballard to set up a date for a conversation. She will report back.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm