

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 24th July 2023 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs, Schlanker, Hudson, Simpson, Carlson, Alford, Cusack, Knight and Fyfe.

In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), District Councillor Denise Gaines (DG) and three members of public.

HT20230054. Apologies for absence – Cllr Winser, Cole, Greenwell, Armstrong

HT20230055. Declarations of interest – None

HT20230056. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 30th May 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Alford

Seconded: Cllr Cusack

Resolution: Agree minutes of 30th May 2023 as a true record, one abstention.

HT20230057. Update on actions from previous minutes not on this agenda.

No extra litter or dog waste bins are required at Salisbury Road.

It was agreed to remove the action to place a bollard by the edge of the pub to protect the building being hit by vehicles, as this will be noted instead in the action plan of safety concerns for the high street.

EV chargers are on the agenda to discuss.

ACTION: The Clerk will arrange a meeting with Thames Water for Cllr Schlanker and DC Cole to discuss flooding issues.

A response has been received from WBC on the new combined litter/recycle bins. This is on the agenda to discuss.

Reference the telephone box, BT has advised that due to recent OFCOM regulation changes, because the call volumes exceed 52 in one year, the public telephony cannot be ceased. We can still relocate the listed box but the cost to do so will be considerably higher than if the box could be decommissioned. No further interest was expressed in pursuing this.

ACTION: Clerk to request WBC repoint the brick wall along The Cuttings and Network Rail cutback the overgrown vegetation behind the railings.

ACTION: Cllr Fyfe will contact Nick Coulson at WBC about the weeds coming through the newly surfaced footways. Cllr Carlson has taken some photos.

ACTION: Cllr Fyfe will put together a PowerPoint of all the green areas that are being damaged by cars parking or driving on them and send to the Clerk for forwarding to WBC.

ACTION: Add 'Changing Places' facility to Full Council agenda. Currently there is a £45K funding gap.

HT20230058. Safety of High Street and consideration of traffic calming measures – Update (this item was brought forward due to the interest of the members of public present) Cllr Schlanker advised a working party was put in place to consider safety concerns in the town and these have now been listed in a spreadsheet. A date is being set with WBC to meet to review these. A priority concern is speeding. The potholes by the Bear have been dealt with as the area has been resurfaced. The members of public present expressed their concern about the speed of the vehicles travelling through the town and past their gallery in Bridge Street. They commented that it is dangerous

crossing the road and they are shocked by the number of heavy vehicles that go over the bridge, including huge tractors with hay bales.

Cllr Schlanker advised that it is an 'A' road and a military road and there are estate farms to the south of town. He added it is the only route through other than a long diversion and Hungerford are not practically going to get a by-pass being in the AONB but what we can do is look at traffic control and speed control.

Cllr Hudson commented that Bridge street is a problem area and with a corridor effect the traffic impact is greater. He advised there are around 10 environmental factors for consideration including noise, air pollution, vibration etc. and this area is amber dipping on red. Hungerford is a wealthy town, most people have a car, and we are not helped by the train strikes. Cllr Hudson chairs the H2036 Neighbourhood Development Plan team and the new NDP will require development to have a minimal impact on the high street. A pedestrianised area in the centre of town is not possible but we would like 20 mph speed restrictions. Cllr Hudson suggested that we should focus on three main points being improvement of the Priors Road junction where accidents have occurred, obtaining a 20mph zone and getting a zebra crossing at the top of town. Speed Indicator Devices (SID) have been installed to record and build evidence.

DG is going to try and implement a 20mph zone and will need to pick areas for trial and put in place an experimental traffic order. She stressed that this process would take time. It was questioned if 20mph would be enforced and DG commented that WBC has been given more powers of enforcement. Also, the 20mph zone in Kintbury works well.

HT20230059. Feedback from EV Charger meeting with Adrian Abbs – Cllrs Schlanker, Simpson, Town Clerk and John Downe had an hour's meeting with Adrian, the portfolio holder. The current situation is the WBC has gone out to tender to install the chargers. Cllr Schlanker asked for a plan in writing.

ACTION: DB will get a timescale.

HT20230060. Dog Waste Bins – Update from CRT on removal of 4 bins from the canal tow path – Refer to attached report.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Knight

Resolution: Adopt the 4 bins from Canal & River Trust and add them to the existing schedule of dog waste bins being emptied. Funding for half of this additional cost (approx. £355 annually) will be provided each year by Town & Manor.

Proposed: Cllr Schlanker

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

Resolution: Delegate to Clerk to find the remainder of budget £355. Marketing will be carried out by HTC, T&M and CRT to update the public of the change.

HT20230061. Consider change to new contractor for dog waste bin emptying due to poor service – Refer to attached report.

No change of contractor was agreed at this stage. Committee will wait and see how the service improves with the extra employees.

HT20230062. Concern of unlit PROW from prospect Road to Church Way.

ACTION: Cllr Schlanker will speak to Cllr Keates for full details.

HT20230063. Triangle Field CCTV – Consider cost of broadband.

Broadband is needed to connect the CCTV images from the Rugby Club to the office. Quotes were presented from both Gigaclear and BT.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Schlanker

Resolution: Wait until the Gigaclear duct at Triangle Field is ready for service to obtain the fastest broadband connection. One abstention.

HT20230064. Parking on footways and verges – Update on progress of installation of bollards. This was discussed above under item HT20230057.

HT20230065. Receive any updates on SIDs, new locations, speeding and 20mph.

Cllr Hudson talked through the SID summary (refer to attached). The figures show the devices are having a good impact and vehicles are slowing down.

ACTION: Cllr Hudson will write some explanatory notes to accompany the data.

The solar panel is working very well but does make the SID awkward to move around. Time periods are available for the captured data. All sites show excess speed, and this could be reported to the Police. Speed cameras are only installed where there is a record of serious accidents.

HT20230066. Update on works to repair verges at Sanham Green. This has been completed although it is yet to be seeded.

HT20230067. Consider locations for new combined litter/recycle bins.

ACTION: Cllr Schlanker will carry out a survey of the litter bins and mark them on a map.

HT20230068. Receive any updates on footpaths, signage and footway works. Cllr Fyfe and DG attended a footpath meeting with West Berks Council. Cllr Schlanker has circulated a spreadsheet of the information gathered from surveys of the footpaths and signage and also has plotted sites on a map. These are available to view in the shared documents on 365.

Photos are needed of a couple of dangerous issues involving steps at Froxfield and Oak Tree Hill. West Berks Ramblers usually work with WBC but are unsure when they might be covering Hungerford. Cllr Fyfe has asked for 10 signs from WBC that he has volunteered to put up. He is waiting to hear back. Cllrs Hudson is working on the south paths and Cllr Schlanker on the north.

HT20230069. Church St Public Toilets – Tender update. The tender closes at the end of this week. We have received a competitive response and expect others. This will be on the agenda for August Full Council.

HT20230070. Any H&S issues of concern.

Cllr Hudson received an email complaint about a sandwich board on the corner next to Coffee 1. WBC has a policy on this that we can refer to.

There are quite a few comments on Facebook and emails asking about the situation with the traffic lights at the top of the high street. A consistent response is needed and will be displayed on our noticeboard and on site.

A member of public ended up in A&E when they hit a curve in the road and their mobility scooter overturned. This happened in Church Street and they have been advised to report it to WBC.

Meeting closed 8.35pm.

HT20230060/61 Dog bins

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report to: H&T 24th July 2023

Objective

Keep Hungerford free of dog waste. Consider which bins we require and ensure we have a contractor that can empty them efficiently and at a competitive price. Where possible encourage people to take the dog waste home with them.

Agenda Item Nos:

HT20230060 Dog waste bins - Update from CRT on removal of 4 bins from the canal tow path

Background Canal River Trust announced on 24th May 2023: -

- They will be removing the 4 dog waste bins along the K&A canal at the end of July. These are emptied weekly at a cost of £2080 per year.
- The trust spends half a million a year emptying bins. They have taken the decision to remove many of their tow path bins to prioritise funds on helping to pay for vital canal repairs.
- They will be asking people who benefit from visiting their local canal to follow the Countryside Code by taking their waste home with them.
- They will also be continuing their Plastics Challenge Campaign to encourage responsible use of the waterways and carrying out tow-path clean ups with the support of volunteers and the wider community.
- CRT are asking if Council will take over or fund the service or knows of a local sponsor who may be willing to do so.

Only recently has CRT responded to any of my emails or phone calls. I had suggested they contact WBC whose costs to empty bins are very competitive compared to the costs CRT are paying (about a third). Today they have confirmed they are unable to pay towards the service at all. They will advise what communications will be in place but there will be a strong message to public about taking it home.

Options

1) Do nothing and CRT will remove the four dog waste bins along the towpath on 7th August 2023.

The locations are (what three words):

Fairway highlighted radiating [what3words /// The simplest way to talk about location](#) (2 x back of St Lawrence church)

Theme reward rationing [what3words /// The simplest way to talk about location](#) (on towpath opposite canal wharf)

Paler logs inner [what3words /// The simplest way to talk about location](#) (under the high street bridge)

- 2) Consider taking on the cost of emptying some or all of the dog bins. CRT will gift us the dog bins.
- 3) Approach other organisations to see if they are willing to contribute to the cost. T&M are considering helping.

HT20230061 Consider change to new contractor for dog waste bin emptying due to poor service

Background

The dog bins in and around Hungerford are mainly owned by HTC (a few belong to others), but all apart from the ones along the Canal Tow Path are emptied by WBC. The service for some time has been poor with bins overflowing and not being emptied. WBC appoint contractors to do the service and following a change of staff and records not being maintained not all the locations of the bins were known. This is a problem across West Berks not just for Hungerford.

I have spoken with Paul Hendry at WBC and he confirms they are putting in place an extra team to help empty the bins. He explained that many bins take a while to access due to their locations, across fields, down footpaths etc. We are not currently in a contract with WBC so are free to appoint a different contractor should we wish. Problems also arise where there is no cover for staff off sick or on holiday.

Options

- 1) Do nothing. WBC's contractor continues to empty the 14 dog waste bins that we pay for and we see how the promise of an improved service develops.
- 2) We consider moving contractor. The only competitive quotation I have found is with Tactical Solutions who offer virtually the same price contract (1p cheaper £3.40 per bin). They come recommended by WBC as they have helped assist them. They are a smaller company.

Henry from Tactical has been in touch. His company has recently taken on the emptying of dog bins for around half a dozen parishes in this area due to the poor service of WBC's contractor Continental Landscapes.

WBC went out to tender recently and appointed CL, they are not new. They were the contractor in place for the last 3 or 5 years. The issue is one of the main employees left and the records of locations of bins hadn't been updated for 10 years.

Financial and Legal implications

Annual budget £2500. £1817 left to date.

WBC contractors charge £3.41 per bin empty per week x 14 (existing number of bins) x 52=£2482.

An additional 4 bins would cost £709.28 annually.

Reference to Council Strategy, where relevant

Aim - Improve health and safety for road users and pedestrians, residents and visitors. Improve the town's image for visitors.

Consultation: with CRT and T&M

Other information

Other than mess, risk to health through bacteria and roundworm.

Recommendation(s)

The best option, based on the above information.

Signed: Town Clerk 24/7/23

HT20230065 - Report

Explanation by Column Reference Numbers along the top		
1	SID No:	The reference number of the Speed Indicator Device (SID)
2	Date from	Start of time period that the analysis applies to
3	Date to	End date of the period that the analysis applies to
4	Ave speed	The mean average of the speed of vehicles (on approach to sign)
5	Max speed	The maximum speed registered (on approach to sign)
6	Speed 15%ile	Speed of the vehicles at the 15th percentile (on approach to site)
7	Speed 50%ile	Speed of the vehicles at the 50th percentile. (NB often used to help identify speed limits)
8	Speed 85%ile	Speed of the vehicles at the 85th percentile. (NB often used to help identify speed limits)
9	% > Speed Limit	Percentage of vehicles that exceed the speed limit (on approach to site)
10	Speed in	Average speed of vehicles on the approach to the SID
11	Speed out	Average speed of vehicles at the SID
12	% reduction	Percentage reduction in speed between the approach to the sign and at the sign. (This can be negative)
Each line is a summary of more detailed data analysis. If you wish to see this for any sites then please request to the Town Council		

SID Sites in Hungerford: Data Summary															
Site	Direction	Speed Limit	Site Ref	SID No.	Date from	Date to	ave speed	max speed	Speed 15%ile	Speed 50%ile	Speed 85%ile	% > speed limit	Speed In	Speed out	% reduction
A4 Charnham St, West of BMW	Westbound towards Marlborough	30		749	23/07/2022	27/07/2022	28	72	22	29	34	36.7	28	28	0
				751	30/11/2022	15/12/2022	25	77	19	26	32	28.6	25	26	-4
				19577	15/05/2023	24/07/2023	27	98	21	29	34	35.1	27	28	-4
A4 Cotterell Close	Eastbound towards Newbury	30		749	27/07/2022	22/10/2022	24	86	16	24	31	18.7	24	26	-8
				749	22/10/2022	30/11/2022	24	77	16	26	31	18.8	24	25	-4
				749	30/11/2022	24/12/2022	24	64	16	24	31	17.3	24	26	-8
				749	09/03/2023	12/03/2023	23	62	14	24	31	16	23	25	-8
				749	10/07/2023	24/07/2023	24	70	16	26	31	21.2	24	25	-4
A4 Garden Centre	Westbound towards Hungerford	30		749	16/05/2023	16/06/2023	34	101	26	34	44	69.6	34	28	18
				749	16/05/2023	10/07/2023	34	90	26	36	45	71.4	34	28	18
Site	Direction	Speed	Site Ref	SID No.	Date from	Date to	ave speed	max speed	Speed 15%ile	Speed 50%ile	Speed 85%ile	% > speed limit	Speed In	Speed out	% reduction
A338 Salisbury Rd, south of Priory Rd	Northbound towards town centre	30		750	18/07/2022	27/07/2022	26	55	8	29	34	40.9	26	24	8
				750	27/07/2022	22/10/2022	26	82	3	29	34	39.7	26	24	8
				750	22/10/2022	30/11/2022	21	86	3	26	31	26.3	21	20	5
				750	30/11/2022	15/12/2022	23	60	3	26	32	30.3	23	21	9
				750	10/03/2023	17/03/2023	25	65	3	29	34	38.3	25	23	9
				15067	10/07/2023	24/07/2023	32	72	27	31	37	70.3	32		
A338 Salisbury Rd, south of Priory Rd	Southbound away from town			750	17/03/2023	SID DATA ERROR									
Common, 100m west of Kintbury Gate	Westbound towards town centre	30		751	22/07/2022	21/09/2022	27	70	16	29	36	39	27	26	4
Common, Park Street, 100m west of Inkpen Rd	Eastbound towards Kintbury	30		751	21/09/2022	22/10/2022	29	72	21	31	37	53.4	29	26	10
				751	22/10/2022	30/11/2022	28	75	21	31	37	50.5	28	25	11
				751	16/05/2023	16/06/2023	29	73	21	31	37	51.2	29	26	10
				751	16/05/2023	09/07/2023	28	72	13	31	37	51	28	26	7
				751	09/07/2023	24/07/2023	25	67	3	29	37	46.9	25	23	8
Notes:		See Explanation page for details. The highlighted rows refer to recent data.													