

**HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE
2 MARCH 1998**

Present: Councillor Flood (Chairman), Councillors Mrs Ballin, Mrs Clifford, Mrs Doyle, Finnie, Good, Ryan, Veakins and Wade, County Councillors Mrs Boyd, Dr Murray, Mills, Wheaton and Winter

Also Present: Councillors Adams, Angell, Bayle, Bettison, Birch, Harrison, Mrs Keene, and Taylor

85 Membership of the Sub-Committee

The Chairman thanked the five County Councillors for their contributions to the work of the Sub-Committee over the past year. It was noted that after April, representatives of the six Parish Councils in Bracknell Forest would be co-opted onto the Committee. The Chairman also thanked the Acting Borough Engineer Mr R Smale who would be retiring at the end of March for his efforts and work with the Sub-Committee and the former Area Highways Section.

86 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 8 December 1997 were approved and signed as a correct record.

87 Petitions (Item 1)

The Sub-Committee received the following petitions:

(a) Maidens Green Crossroads

Mrs Bruton presented a petition in support of junction safety improvements at Maidens Green crossroads Winkfield.

(b) North Street, Winkfield

Mr McCory presented a petition in support of a 30mph speed limit and "Slow Down" signs regarding speeding traffic at North Street, Winkfield.

(c) Traffic Volumes in the Bracknell Area

Mrs B Jerome presented a petition in support of a wide variety of measures being taken by the new unitary authority aimed at reducing the overall traffic volumes in the Bracknell area and to encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking.

(d) NDR/Longhill Road Junction, Chavey Down

Mrs R Timbrell presented a petition in support of advanced road signing, traffic calming and road lining in the area of the junction of the NDR and Longhill Road, Chavey Down and Winkfield.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the problems of road safety at Maidens Green crossroads and A330/B3022 be referred to the Planning and Transportation Committee with a recommendation for inclusion in the Northern Parishes Traffic and Safety Study;
- (ii) the petition presented on behalf of Bracknell and District Friends of the Earth be passed to the Planning and Transportation Committee for further consideration along with the Road Traffic Reduction Bill consultation;
- (iii) the problems and potential problems concerning Longhill Road be referred to the Planning and Transportation Committee with a recommendation for inclusion in the Northern Parishes Traffic and Safety Study; and
- (iv) the petition on North Street, Winkfield be dealt with as part of the requests for service list.

88 **Warfield Street, Forest Road and Newell Green - Proposed 30mph Speed Limit (Item 2)**

The Sub-Committee considered a report which had been requested at its June 1997 meeting on the viability of the 30mph speed limit over Forest Road and Warfield Street at Three Legged Cross and Five Ways. The report had been deferred at the Sub-Committee's meeting in September 1997.

RESOLVED that a Traffic Regulation Order for a 30mph speed limit over the sections of Warfield Street, Forest Road and Newell Green between points A and D via B and B to C as shown on Plan No TM605/98/4 be advertised, and the results be brought back to this Sub-Committee for consideration and the following speed reduction measures be incorporated in the scheme:

- (i) "Gateway" signs be provided at Three Legged Cross, Five Ways and in Newell Green south of Brownlow Hall;
- (ii) a report on the inception of the 30mph limit as from approximately 50 metres west and north of the Three Legged Cross junction of Forest Road and Maidenhead Road and approximately 100 metres north of Five ways corner on Bracknell Road and 100 metres south on Jigs Lane and 50 metres east on Forest Road be requested;
- (iii) "Slow" and red strip carriageway markings be provided; and
- (iv) a further report be brought back to the Sub-Committee in approximately six months after the installation of these measures containing a review of their effectiveness, including traffic speeds, volumes and accident records.

89 **Highways Services - Fees (Item 3)**

The Sub-Committee received a report detailing the increases for Highways Services with effect from 1 April 1998.

RESOLVED that the fees described in the Annexes 1 and 2 to the report be approved.

90 **Road Safety on the A321, Wokingham Road, Sandhurst (Item 4)**

The Chairman agreed to the consideration of this report as a matter of urgency on road safety grounds.

The Sub-Committee received a report, tabled at the meeting, outlining proposals for speed restrictions along A321 Wokingham Road, Sandhurst. It was noted that the speed limit would be emphasised by gateway features etc. and that a Road Traffic Order would be needed. The proposed measure would be subject to funds. A report would be made to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on priorities for highways schemes given their costs and the availability of funding.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the investigation into the surface characteristics of the road and lopping of highways trees as described in paragraphs 12 and 13 of Annexe 1 to the report be approved;
- (ii) a proposal to reduce the current speed limit on the A321 between the Borough boundary at Wellingtonia Avenue and Perrys Bridge from 50mph to 40mph be approved in principle as part of a scheme comprising also the works described in paragraph 15 of Annexe 1: the provision of rumble strips, a yellow background to the speed signs and a reduction in the lane width by road marking;
- (iii) the proposed 40mph speed limit be extended as far as the roundabout junction with Wellingtonia Avenue, subject to the agreement of Wokingham District Council; and
- (iv) the scheme be implemented subject to the future availability of funds and the response to an advertisement of the Traffic Regulation Order required for the change in the speed limit.

91 **A321 Yorktown Road/Rackstraw Road Junction (Item 5)**

The Sub-Committee received a report detailing the outcome of investigations into the feasibility of improving road safety and traffic flow on the A321 Yorktown Road in the vicinity of Rackstraw Road junction. It was noted that the MOVA system had now been installed and the local member reported that it was very successful. A decision would be made about a pinchpoint in the Yorktown Road west of the junction following a full evaluation of the MOVA system.

RESOLVED that a report be made to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the effectiveness of the MOVA system at the junction following a period of monitoring.

92 **Street Naming and Numbering (Item 6)**

The Sub-Committee received a report proposing road names for a new private housing estate in the Sandhurst area.

RESOLVED that the following names be approved from the list set out in the report: Old Forge, Gardener, Saddler, Farrier, Weaver, Archer, Cutter, Coachmans.

93 **Harvest Ride, Bracknell/Pedestrian Crossing (Item 7)**

The Sub-Committee received a report requested at its last meeting on the sighting of a toucan crossing on Harvest Ride, Bracknell in the vicinity of Warfield Primary School. It was emphasised that the crossing should be appropriate to the needs and because of its main road siting, there would be consultation with the Government Office for the South East. Given the need for consultation, a more flexible approach might need to be adopted and it was suggested that the Director be given delegated authority to progress this issue.

RESOLVED

- (i) that a toucan crossing be implemented to the north of All Saints Rise at the existing pedestrian refuge, subject to the necessary approvals and advertisement, and the provision of funds; and
- (ii) that the Director of Planning and Transportation be given delegated authority in consultation with Warfield Parish Council, and Governors of Warfield Primary School and the local Ward member to implement works of a lesser nature, should external permissions and funds not be available in the short term.

94 **Temple Way, Binfield - Road Safety (Item 8)**

The Sub-Committee received a report requested at its September 1997 meeting regarding road safety on Temple Way, Binfield. The Sub-Committee emphasised the need for an integrated approach to be adopted on issues like this and it was agreed that the issue should be included in the Northern Parishes Traffic and Safety Study shortly to be considered by the Planning and Transportation Committee.

RESOLVED that the measures detailed in paragraph 15 of the Annexe to the report be considered as part of the Northern Parishes Traffic and Safety Study with the addition of a cycle lane from London Road to Binfield Road as an alternative to point 10 in paragraph 15 of the annexe, the conversion of the verge on the north west side of Temple Way to a shared pedestrian/cyclist facility.

95 **Harmans Water Road - Pedestrian Facilities (Item 9)**

The Sub-Committee received a report requested at its September 1997 meeting regarding the feasibility of the provision of pedestrian facilities on Harmans Water Road. It was noted that a zebra crossing was a cheaper solution than a light controlled crossing. The kerbs would not need to be dropped if the crossing installed were to be raised as part of a road hump scheme. Concern was also

expressed about any loss of the hedge mentioned in paragraph 27 of the consultant's report.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the low cost measures detailed in paragraph 28(b) 1-3, 6-8 be implemented plus the installation of a zebra crossing at the school crossing patrol point, subject to the provision of funds;
- (ii) a report be prepared for the next meeting of the Sub-Committee detailing a package of comprehensive safety measures to include the viability of a 20mph zone from north of the existing zebra crossing to the west of Wellington Drive, including raised crossings, providing traffic calming measures at the zebra crossing and the cycle crossing and the school crossing;
- (iii) the effectiveness of the improvements detailed in resolution (i) above be monitored and the report be brought back to the Sub-Committee six months after the implementation of the scheme; and
- (iv) no action be taken on the removal of a length of hedge without consultation with the local ward members.

96 Staplehurst, Wooden Hill, Bracknell - Possible Footpath Closure (Item 10)

The Sub-Committee received a report outlining concerns about a public footpath at the head of Staplehurst, Wooden Hill linking it with the Home Farm Estate to the north. The Sub-Committee received an additional plan marking out the network of pedestrian paths in the Staplehurst, Trevelyan, Tawfield, Turnberry areas in Great Hollands, together with items 19-36 of the incidents list and correspondence from Easthampstead Park Secondary School and Wooden Hill Primary and Nursery School.

The Borough Solicitor informed the Sub-Committee about the legal powers available to the Borough Council to effect this closure. Closure under the Highways Act would be difficult to achieve as the issues of public safety and detriment to amenities were not considered grounds for the use of highways powers. Other powers existing under Town and Country Planning Legislation however some of these were exercised by the Secretary of State rather than the Borough Council. It was noted that the alternative route would add up to 600 metres to a typical journey on foot, depending on the precise start and end points. Investigations of the proposals were only at a preliminary stage, it was considered that it would cost a few thousand pounds to process the Order and £5,000 to £10,000 more for the works to the path, plus the costs of moving any utilities that may run under the path.

A proposal to provide a "missing link" footway cycleway on the west side of Ringmead was considered.

The Sub-Committee considered the issues and following is a summary of the principal points raised:

- Residents' quality of life: A member survey of over 100 houses had come out 75% in favour of closure of the footpath, 2% "do not know" and 23% against.

- The Police view was that this was a major problem likely to continue and that quality of life in the vicinity of the path would be affected.
- The incidents list provided by a local resident had now extended to 70 items.
- The closure of the alley way could transfer the problems to other parts of the estate.
- Alternatives to closures such as the use of barriers or walls ought to be considered.
- From the list incidents, it did not appear that all the alleged problems were directly associated with use of the footpath.
- Closure of the footpath could be seen as the Council giving in the perpetrators of vandalism and other anti social behaviours.
- The path was used by large numbers of school children attending Easthampstead Park School and Wooden Hill Primary School.
- The Sub-Committee was very concerned about the information being presented to it and there may be case for negotiation at community level to resolve the problems.
- The problems had generally started with the closure of the Birch Hill site of Easthampstead Park School resulting in more secondary aged pupils using the alley way,

RESOLVED

- (i) that a further investigation is carried out to determine the views of the adjacent landowners to the footpath and the utilities and a report with detailed options be brought to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee for consideration; and
- (ii) that a 3 metre wide combined footway cycleway be constructed on the west side of Ringmead from Trevelyan to Wooden Hill subject to the provision of funds.

VICE CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR MRS H DOYLE IN THE CHAIR

97 Hanworth Roundabout, Great Hollands - PM Peak Observations (Item 11)

The Sub-Committee received a report which was first considered at its last meeting on the feasibility of full signalisation of the Hanworth roundabout in Bracknell.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the signal timings set out in table 1 contained in the Annexe to the report be introduced during the afternoon peak;
- (ii) the timings be monitored to ensure that there are no adverse effects on the overall performance of the roundabout;
- (iii) that two sets of "Keep Clear" markings be laid on the circulatory carriage way leading to the South Hill Road exit; and

- (iv) the entry lane markings from South Hill Road be renewed to assist traffic turning left into Hanworth Road.

98 **A329 Town Centre By Pass/B3408 London Road - 40mph Speed Limit (Item 13)**

The Sub-Committee received a report proposing additional speed limits for the London Road east of Bracknell and the Town Centre By Pass and the B3408 Wokingham Road/London Road, removing the national speed limit in these areas.

RESOLVED that a Traffic Regulation Order to be advertised to introduce a 40mph speed limit as soon on plans numbered TM600/9H/10 and 11 and any objections received be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

99 **Great Hollands - Egress Arrangements (Item 12)**

The Sub-Committee received a report, requested at its September 1997 meeting, on ways of improving access arrangements to and from the Great Hollands estate. One option was to allow traffic coming from Great Hollands to turn right from Ringmead southwards along the Crowthorne Road, with a bus gate to prevent ordinary traffic from coming from one section of Ringmead to the other.

Concern was expressed that that recommendation before the Sub-Committee was not in accordance with the findings of the consultant's report. It was noted the proposal had been part of an earlier report before the Consultant was asked to extend the investigation. There was doubt in some members' minds as to the benefits at the other egress points to Great Hollands from providing this measure. There were also concerns about the effect the proposals would have on safety at this junction. The consultant's report stated that there would probably be more accidents if the right turn were allowed.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Ringmead Crowthorne Road junction be altered to allow in addition vehicles to exit Ringmead Great Hollands in a southerly direction through a right turn onto Crowthorne Road and that a bus gate be installed in the eastern arm of the existing bus crossing in Ringmead Hanworth, subject to the availability of funds; and
- (ii) that travel awareness options be considered later after the publication of the Government's White Paper on Integrated Transport in the Spring.

COUNCILLOR FLOOD IN THE CHAIR

100 **Road Safety at Owlsmoor Primary School, Sandhurst (Item 14)**

The Sub-Committee received a report, requested at its December 1997 meeting regarding road safety on the approach roads to Owlsmoor Primary School following receipt of a petition. The Director of Planning and Transportation informed the Sub-Committee that items 1 and 2 from the consultant's report could be implemented

subject to a Traffic Regulation Order. Item 7, the pedestrian guard-rail was linked to item 6, the provision of a build out in Cambridge Road at a cost of £6,000.

It was noted that no speed surveys had been carried out in Cambridge Road for this item. However, the build out was certain to slow down south bound traffic. Consultation had only taken place with the Headteacher of Owlsmoor Primary School. The petition previously received by the Sub-Committee on traffic in Church Road would be dealt with at a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED that the measures 1, 2 and 6, 7 listed in paragraph 13 of Annexe 1 to the report be implemented and a draft Traffic Regulation Order be published concerning the waiting restrictions at the junction of Cambridge Road and Church Road subject to the provision of funds, with the details delegated to the Director of Planning and Transportation, following consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee and the local ward member.

101 **Road Safety in Sandy Lane, Bracknell. (Item 15)**

The Sub-Committee received a report, requested at its meeting in December 1997, on road safety in Sandy Lane, Bracknell. It was noted that a site visit had been made to the school. Additional information was given concerning the suitability of a small street lighting scheme at the eastern end of Sandy Lane which would improve safety at the junctions.

RESOLVED that a scheme of five street lights be approved for the junctions of Sandy Lane and Holly Spring Lane with Warfield Road, to be funded from the current year's revenue budget and subject to the future provision of funds, the measures outlined in Paragraph 9 of the Annexe be approved, including in addition and consideration to a guard rail on the footpath access to the school.

102 **Waterloo Road and Church Street, Crowthorne - Road Safety. (Item 16)**

The Sub-Committee received a report requested at its meeting in December 1997 on the feasibility of providing traffic calming measures in Waterloo Road, Crowthorne.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the police be asked to increase the level of enforcement of the existing speed limit;
- (ii) that consideration be given to the measures outlined in paragraph 18 of Annexe 1 subject to the provision of future funds and that speed cushions be given special consideration;
- (iii) the views of Crowthorne Parish Council be sought on the measures outlined in paragraph 18 subject to the provision of funds and that these be brought to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

103 **Bracknell Forest Borough Council (Disabled Parking Spaces Order) 1997. (Item 17)**

The Sub-Committee received a report outlining objections to the Order prepared to extend the number of designated parking bays in Bracknell Forest Borough which had been advertised in September 1997. The Sub-Committee noted the objections received and the Officer comments.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Bracknell Forest Borough Council (Disabled Parking Spaces Order) 1997 be made as advertised;
- (ii) that no public inquiry be held concerning the provision of the disabled spaces and;
- (iii) that the objectors be notified of this decision.

104 **Beehive Road and Turnpike Road, Binfield. (Item 18)**

The Sub-Committee received a report updating it on the proposed installation of a bus gate at the western end of Turnpike Road and the closure of the southern end of Beehive Road. It was noted that meetings had been taken place with the interested parties but that progress had been slow. It was also noted that there may be a difficulty with siting the bus gate further east of its original location along Turnpike Road as there may be insufficient room to install it.

In order for the Borough Solicitor to provide detailed legal advice about the situation, it was

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the remainder of this agenda item (Item 18) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraph 12 of Schedule 12A to that Act, information relating to any advice received in connection with any legal proceedings by or against the Authority.

The Borough Solicitor informed the Sub-Committee that an issue remained about a claim of a private right of way along Turnpike Road. If the bus gate were installed at this stage, it was likely to lead to a lengthy and costly litigation. It was inadvisable to proceed with the installation of the bus gate at this location until the right of way had been relinquished. The claimant had indicated that he was not relinquishing it at this stage.

RESOLVED that the previously agreed closure of Beehive Road to through traffic be endorsed and that progress be made with due haste with the installation of a bus gate in Turnpike Road in a position to guarantee access to the Farleywood Centre.

105 **Highways Works Progress Report. (Item 19)**

The Sub-Committee received a report from the Borough Engineer detailing the current position in respect of report and works commissioned by the former Area Highways Section or the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

106 **Church Street and Church Road West - Prohibition of Driving TRO - Advertisement responses. (Item 20)**

The Sub-Committee received a report, circulated separately to the main agenda, which the Chairman agreed to accept as a matter of urgency on road safety grounds. Councillor Wade declared his interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting for its duration. It was noted that at its June 1997 meeting the Sub-Committee had approved proposals for the closure of Church Street and Church Road west to through traffic except for cycles and pedestrians. The report set out the objections received and the Officer comments.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the advertised Order be made as outlined in the report and that the objectors be informed accordingly; and
- (ii) that the renaming of the streets be delegated to the Director of Planning & Transportation in consultation with Ward Members and Crowthorne Parish Council.

107 **Bracknell Forest Borough Council Albert Road, Crowthorne - Prohibition of Driving Order 1998. (Item 21)**

The Sub-Committee received a report circulated separately from the main agenda outlining objections received to the draft Order for the closure of Albert Road, Crowthorne to through traffic. The Chairman agreed to accept this late item as a matter of urgency on road safety grounds.

The report detailed the objections received from residents and business together with Officer comments.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the advertised Order be confirmed as advertised; and
- (ii) the objectors be notified of the decision and that the renaming of the streets be delegated to the Director of Planning & Transportation in consultation with Ward Members and Crowthorne Parish Council.

108 **Requests for Service. (Item 22)**

The Sub-Committee received a report setting out current requests made by members of the public and others for highways works. It was noted that some items had been dealt with under delegated powers and were reported for information.

RESOLVED that Item Nos. 127 and 149 be dealt with as part of the Northern Parishes Traffic and Safety Study and that all other requests for service be dealt with as recommended in the report.

109 **Update on Significant Roadworks. (Item 23)**

The Sub-Committee received circulated separately to the main agenda, a report outlining progress and timings on significant roadworks within the Borough.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 11.40pm.

CHAIRMAN