**Minutes of the Traffic & Transport Committee Meeting held on**

**1th January 2024 at Saddleworth Civic Hall at 5.30pm**

Present: Cllr B Beeley, Cllr P Gaul, Cllr M Powell, Cllr A Marland,

Geoff Bayley (Delph Community Association),

1944. Apologies: Paul Sykes (SACG), Paul Clegg (Dobcross Village Community), Jennifer Greenwood, Jayne Gibson (Dobcross Road Safety Group), Claire Grainger (Denshaw).

**Absent:** Cllr K Dawson, Cllr H Bishop

1945. Declarations of interest: None declared

1946. Minutes of last meeting 9th November 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed at the meeting by the Chairman

**1947. Matters Arising**

Mr Bayley asked what progress had been made on arranging a site meeting between Traffic & Transport Councillors and the Delph Community Association. It was decided this would be arranged by Cllr Beeley and Mr Bayley.

Cllr Beeley read out the communication received from Phil Hutchinson, Chief Superintendent of Oldham, in response to her letter over concerns raised regarding off roading vehicles. After some discussion it was agreed that if residents were able to gather any information to be able to identify these people, they could share it with the Parish Council who would then forward it to the police.

**1948. Public Questions – in person**

Geoff Bayley shared a concern regarding the junction of Chapel Rd and Oldham Rd, Following a change to the junction, there is now a Give Way sign and a STOP sign. The old sign needs removing as it is causing confusion.

**Highways please can this be looked at?**

A long stay car park sign on Oldham Road opposite the junction with Chapel Road Uppermill currently points between the cottages and the railway line It is very confusing. Should it point down Chapel Road ?

**Please can Highways attend and amend this?**

**1949. Public Questions – submitted remotely**

Mr Clegg had circulated an email prior to the meeting in regard to a proposed improved drop off point for those attending Saddleworth School. As he wasn’t able to attend the meeting it was agreed to defer to the next meeting when he will be able to talk through the proposal.

**1950. Follow on/update on new issues raised at the last meeting**

* Poor sight lines at the junction adjacent to Delph Library, particularly for traffic turning left from Grains Road into King Street, and also traffic turning right from Grains Road or Stoneswood Road into Millgate. Highways refuse to consider these problems as there have not been enough reported accidents! (In the days of WRCC there were two traffic mirrors).

Danger to pedestrians crossing King Street or Millgate to access the library, due to narrow footpaths & poor sight lines.

Sight lines have recently been made worse by the enclosure of the library entrance with plywood sheets. (Due to awaiting building repairs).

**Please can Highways update?**

* The garden wall outside the library entrance has frequently been demolished by passing vehicles.

A member of DCA has a proposal which could minimise such damage, *which is to replace the present stone wall with pre cast curved concrete sections.  This type of concrete edging is often used on large traffic islands. The purpose is to enable a wheel of a large vehicle to slide back onto the road.*

**Please can Highways update?**

* In 2019, Parish & Borough Councillors were invited to a committee room at the Civic Centre in Oldham for a ‘presentation’ for a proposed “LORRY WATCH” scheme, as a result of HGVs ignoring weight limit signs in Delph (and other parts of the Borough).

After the presentation, a representative from Highways announced that a Lorry Watch scheme could not yet be implemented in Delph because the 7.5 ton weight limit signs were obsolete and therefore not enforceable.

The reply to my question of how long would it take to update the signs was “There is no money”).

The meeting was held on 8th January 2019.

**Is this still to be implemented? Highways please update.**

* The 20 mph scheme in DELPH village has been well received by most residents.

However, there does not appear to have been any attempt to enforce the 20mph limit.

Some signs are incorrectly positioned or absent. Two roads have been omitted from the scheme. There are no 20mph roundels. The scheme appears to be badly designed or implemented.

**Highways response - There will be a bid in next years highways capital programme to make the Delph 20mph scheme permanent. Including traffic calming features.**

**Please can you advise traffic calming features. SPC hope the signage will be made permanent.**

* Parts of Stoneswood Road & Thurston Clough Road have trees and other vegetation obstructing the roadway (Possibly growing on the road surface).

**Passed on to the highway's inspectors, will update once inspected.**

**Thank you, we look forward to their response.**

* Road safety concern in Dobcross, Sugar Lane opposite the Navigation. The dry stone wall is completely overgrown with vegetation extending well into the road, so cars are pulling out into the middle of the road to avoid damaging their cars. It is a blind bend, there is a single pathway and it is making it very dangerous for pedestrians.

**SPC again request Highways to inspect this and take action where possible.**

* **C**oncern about the Tame Water Bridge at Dobcross. This issue has been raised before, lots of investigative work has been carried out by Highways engineers but nothing has been done yet to make it safer. It is too narrow for vehicles to pass and extremely dangerous for pedestrians, so many near misses! It was a suggested an option would be to make it a give way and also barrier off the pathway. Jayne is going to email Ward Councillor Pam Byrne with this, as well as the issue being included in these minutes.

**SPC are aware that schemes were discussed and trialled during Covid, but because of the safety issues of the children we request OMBC look at this as a matter of urgency.**

**We have look at various options at this location and there is no simple answer. Both signalising the junctions and putting give/take system in place have been considered, however the road layout/geometery doesn’t lend itself to either option. The Traffic Team will look at options for improving signing and lining on the approaches to the bridge when funding becomes available in the next financial year.**

**Can we suggest:-**

**1, a separate footpath/footbridge (as has been done at Delph Bridge). Is there any accessible land to do this?**

**Or 2, can there be a double width pathway on the school side of the bridge instead of 2 single ones?**

**Disabled access will need to be considered.**

* Vehicle Installation signage report- tranches noted with those present agreeing to monitor progress, and think of ideas for additional sites. Queries concerning several sites -Oldham Rd, Lydgate, facing which way? Huddersfield Rd/Field Rd – is this in Diggle? Ripponden Rd approaching Ship Lane – which direction and exactly where? Oldham Rd Grasscroft, exactly where? Wall Hill Rd, where exactly?

**SPC request an update ASAP**

**Andy Marsh will send a separate update on VAS scheme**

**Thank you we await this update.**

* Lower Turf Lane- Concerns about decision to be made one way going up to Huddersfield Road. Comments from consultation and those present suggested one way going down might be preferable. Also plans to create a footpath in place of one of the lanes.

Concerns were expressed about the increased traffic on Heywood Lane.

A mini consultation was undertaken in September 2023, asking for comments from over 100 properties. Around 15 comments were received where 2/3rds opposed the proposed one way. Highways are reviewing the feedback and looking at further options.

**Please keep us updated. Cllr Marland will request further information on progress made so far.**

* Carr Lane, Uppermill – advised this is not on current programme of works -we will monitor issues.

**The project Manager has been updating all stakeholders on the progress of the scheme. We have finalised the new budgets for the scheme, and we currently have provisions in place to resurface the works kerb to kerb along the full extents if required.**

**Thankyou, can we please be given a timescale for when this work will be done?**

* Friezland Lane – some vegetation cleared already, we will continue to monitor.

Cllr Bishop advised that heavy flooding at the bottom of Friezland Lane recently. Highways were called out and promptly cleared the grids. But there are concerns about a pipe from Syke’s land -water torrenting out from there straight onto the road causing more flooding.

**SPC ask is this legal for land owners to allow water to be drained off in this manner, who is responsible for any enforcement?**

**The flooding in question occurred during Storm Babet. Highways Operations did an outstanding job on that particular day trying to keep everything working during exceptionally heavy rainfall. I am unaware of a pipe discharging onto the highway at this location. I shall investigate. With regards to the legality of allowing water to flow from higher elevation land onto lower elevation land (even if that lower land is adopted public highway), this is perfectly legal as long as the water has not been artificially channelled. However, if the allegation about a piped outfall is correct, then this would be an offence under the Highways Act. In such circumstances, informal agreements to rectify the situation would be sought. If those informal approaches fail then technically, legal notice could be served by the Highway Authority. [Steve Bird, LLFA].**

**Thank you, please keep us updated.**

* Problems with school children crossing near roundabout on Wool Rd, Dobcross- update is still required.

**The location doesn’t fit the criteria for a formalised crossing, however with some localised carriageway widening a 2m wide pedestrian island may be possible. BId for funding to be included in next year’s capital programme.**

**The PV2 calculation is used to ascertain the suitability of a location for a formal crossing. How ever we are investigating various options for improving pedestrian safety at this location.**

**Thank you, please keep us updated.**

* Petition to reduce speed between Delph and Denshaw- past Slackotes.

**Clarification needed on progress.**

**We also need to know position of this proposed formal crossing.**

**Bid to be included in next years capital programme to include reduced speed limit, improved signing/lining and improvements to visibility in Slackcote dip. Bid also to include hard standing and access to bus stop. - STET**

**Please keep us informed of progress**

* Flooding issue on Roebuck Lane- The site is still flooding, there is a need to pursue a camera to investigate the site, as has been previously agreed, we will monitor.

**Update to Follow**

**SPC request this is treated as an urgent priority and await the update.**

* Stamford Road/Huddersfield Road junction changes- Agreed to monitor the impact.

**Cllr Bishop requests that the double yellow lines on Stamford Rd as you exit onto Huddersfield Rd are not long enough. If these were extended it would greatly improve visibility (cars currently park right up to the top and restrict visibility)**

**Forwarded to the Traffic Team to look at the location.**

**Thank you, we await their update.**

* **Bottom of Church Rd, Uppermill**

Can the team please look into the implications of this road being made one way right up to where it meets New Street? Car park would then only be accessible from High Street.

**Please can Highways update us on this? Cllr Beeley has sent this information to Alister Storey twice and is still awaiting a response.**

**This will be looked at by the traffic team when funding becomes available in the new financial year.**

**Thankyou, please keep us updated.**

* Oaklands Rd junction with Oldham Rd – improve safety.

**Cllr Bishop following this up**.

**1951. Community Issues**

Cllr Marland advised the meeting that rumble strips had been fitted by Tameside Council on Mossley Road, Grotton.

**Cllr Beeley explained that at the junction of Denhill Drive and Carrhouse Rd, it is difficult to see oncoming traffic due to parked cars. Double yellow lines have been requested previously.**

**Highways, please can you inspect and report on this?**

**Next meeting: Thursday 7th March 2024 at 5.30pm.**