

T&W Rural Transport Working Group

Minutes of the meeting held 16th November 2022, 7pm at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall

In attendance: Mr D Edwards (Chair), Mr C Furnival (Secretary) and 9 other members of the public.

03/2022 Welcome

The Chairman thanked everyone for giving up their free time to attend this meeting which will mark a year since the formation of this working group.

Apologies received from Cllr J Seymour (Ward Member for Wrockwardine), Cllr L Hughes (Ercall Magna Parish Council) and 5 other members of the public.

04/2022 Actions from the last meeting

The following updates were provided to the meeting as listed in the actions taken from the minutes of the last meeting:

No	Action	Owner
A.1	Review the legal definition for loss of amenity	D.E & C.F
<p>UPDATES: The Chairman reported that following his research he has been able to identify that loss of amenity is applied to the planning process for the actual physical area being developed, not the route into the site.</p> <p>The loss of amenity is a broad concept and is not formally defined in legislation or procedural guidance.</p> <p>In planning terms it is often used to refer to the quality or character of an area and elements that contribute to the overall enjoyment of an area.</p> <p>P.A says someone should go and speak with Citizens Advice, he also feels that a meeting needs to be asked for with T&W Council to address this.</p> <p>J.F noted that she doesn't hear the noise to the level that is being expressed by one individual and S.M feels the gentleman is challenging a convoluted and individually costly thing for local residents to do. After much deliberation the Chairman put it to the group, and it was agreed to close this item until further notice.</p>		
A.2	Visibility splay at Isombridge Lane to be assessed	TWC
<p>UPDATES: Currently being investigated through enforcement.</p> <p>J.B's hedge has been cut along the B5063.</p> <p>R.H reported that footpath as you approach Isombridge Lane needs addressing in terms of the surface, D.E will come out to look and report via the Clerk.</p>		

A.3	Communicate with local formers and advise of late-night work and noise pollution of tractors	RPC
UPDATES: Clerk of the parish council has been contacting local farmers to discuss dialogue, these conversations will continue as ongoing. It was agreed to close this matter until further notice.		
A.4	Request that a speed limit reduction scheme is reviewed and rolled out across the parish of Rodington.	RPC
UPDATES: Closed as being addressed through the accepted Road Safety Scheme.		
A.5	Write to TWC to request information on their standards of applying the national guidance on speed limits in rural areas	DE & CF
UPDATES: Currently being reviewed by Service Delivery Manager for Strategic Transport and Highway Network Management.		
A.6	Structural engineer to conduct inspection with vibration assessment.	TWC
UPDATES: A general inspection has been secured during this financial year. If they see any concerns raised, then they will request a vibration test and dive inspection.		

05/2022 Other updates relating to Road Safety

Chair reported that Rodington PC and High Ercall PC's have both met with Simmonds Transport recently and the company have offered a great deal of information about how they communicate with their drivers around respecting local roads safety. The boss of Simmonds Transport has communicated these meetings to his staff and drivers and raised additional comments and concerns from the parish councils also, this is evidenced through the drivers communication bulletins available.

It was confirmed that most tucks are new with air springs to reduce noise.

Research with transporters shows they drop the level of unladen loads to reduce wear on vehicles.

Simmonds Transport have offered residents the ability to be in the truck with a supervising driver to better understand the navigation around rural communities that drivers have to take.

At this meeting Cllr Edwards raised residents' concerns particularly on the B5063 and Simmonds have agreed to brief all their drivers on these concerns.

Chair noted that the first set of data downloaded from SID's on the B5063 on 15.11.22 and the data does show that there is an issue in the area, particularly with drivers slowing down adequately near Millers Row.

06/2022 Road Safety Scheme – TWC

The Chair noted that Rodington Parish Council have received confirmation that they will be working with Telford & Wrekin Council to develop a Road Safety Scheme (RSS), which is developed with the local community to address road safety concerns and implement suitable mitigations.

Whilst there is no current timetable on when this parish council will start the process, largely due to a shortage of staff in highways and other scheme's already underway in the borough,

the Chair asked the Secretary to describe the process in steps having been part of two RSS's in this borough recently.

The Secretary explained that the step-by-step process broadly follows as such:

1. Allocation of engineer to develop scheme
2. Initial design based on known feedback and RCD and RUD sets of data
3. Informal consultation lead by parish council
4. Draft designs shared with parish council who can consult further with residents
5. Parish council approves they are happy with final draft design
6. Formal consultation lead by Telford & Wrekin Council
7. Implementation of scheme

The likely timeline from the point of receiving an allocated officer's time is around 18-24 months, based on similar schemes.

To assist the speeding of this scheme the parish council will receive the minutes of these meetings in order to form a baseline of what is likely to be requested by residents, such as 20mph limit through Longdon, horse signs in Sugden and Somerwood and Isombridge, potential traffic lights on Longdon Bridge, potential chicane on B5063, speed reductions on Tern Lane, B5063 and Sugden Lane, give way signs at bridge, footpath on Longdon Bridge. Taking the 30 limit back to Red House Barnes, to name a few.

06/2022 Any other business

The Chair noted that the parish council are currently looking at speed indication devices on Somerwood and Sugden Lane through PPC funding.

Residents reported a damaged sign on bend by Sugden Lane as you turn left off B5063.

The Chair and Secretary noted that officer relationships have improved with the appointment of a new Senior Highways Engineer and this has been picked up by a number of residents.

07/2022 Date of the next meeting

8th February 2022, 7pm at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall

Contact information:

Group Chairman

Mr D Edwards

cllr.edwards.rpc@gmail.com / 07756 698911

Group Secretary

Mr C Furnival

rodingtonpc@gmail.com / 07948 324 085