

Rural Transport Working Group

Minutes of the meeting held 7pm on 31st August 2022 at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall

In attendance: Mr D Edwards (Chair), Mr C Furnival (Secretary), Cllrs Crump and Fletcher (Rodington PC), Cllr L Hughes (Ercall Magna Parish Council), Cllr Seymour (Ward Member for Wrockwardine) and 19 other members of the public.

01/2022 Welcome

David Edwards introduced himself as Chair of this working group and a local parish councillor.

The latest report of the working group shall be emailed to everyone who has provided their email address and shall be available on Rodington Parish Council's (known as RPC hereafter) website.

02/2022 Actions from the last meeting

The Chairman (D.E) gave updates on actions that have happened since the last meeting;

HGV routing:

Rodington and Ercall Magna Parish Council's held a meeting with the Greenhouse Group in July to discuss the concerns of residents of HGV's and taxi movements through their respective parishes. Their vehicle routing is controlled to some degree by the original planning conditions, and it has been stressed that the vehicle movements at the time of the original planning application were indicative at the time and not concrete.

Greenhouse is now using minibuses so that taxi uses are reduced going through Longdon upon Tern and other areas. Two minibuses collecting from Shrewsbury and Wellington between 12 and 19:00 on an hourly basis 1 to reduce costs and also to reduce unnecessary journeys.

Greenhouse has been asked to inform their HGV drivers to go 20mph through Longdon upon Tern village. Drivers have also been issued with new instruction manuals to advise them of safe and slow driving through villages in this area.

If residents note anything dangerous, they can contact D.E who is the liaison contact with Greenhouse who will raise these concerns. If residents contact D.E with the reg, date, time and nature of complaint of the vehicle then he can make an informed report with details as it would be difficult to make a complaint without such detail.

We are still awaiting date of meeting with Simmons Transport to open a dialog with them.

P.A felt that there is a civil loss of amenity which has been created by Telford & Wrekin Council (known as TWC hereafter) by granting planning permission for the Greenhouse site initially and they (TWC) have created this issue and there is a real civil issue which could be challenged legally. D.E notes that the increase in HGV's went through a due process which was subject to public consultation and approval by an elected committee of peers.

P.A suggested that such a challenge could be done through individual residents or through the parish council.

J.F noted that any such challenge would be most appropriate through the parish council where the definition of loss of amenity can be found and actioned by a local authority as opposed to a group of individuals. **Action A.1**

L.H noted that if legal grounds for loss of amenity were found then Ercall Magna Parish Council should be approached for support.

A.F noted that there is a road closure coming soon along Cotwall Road, the diversion will take traffic through to Shawbirch, further details are on RPC's website and social media.

D.E noted that the width of the pavement past Longdon upon Tern Village Hall is now being addressed by TWC.

C.B noted that last November the chairman of RPC said someone from TWC Highways would come to a RPC meeting and this does not appear to have happened. D.E says that actions are being addressed directly with officers and a meeting is not necessarily required as the concerns have been taken to highways. It was recognised by the group secretary that residents can be kept more updated on actions via email and he will ensure this happens. Updates are also posted on social media, websites and notices on noticeboards.

Speed:

SID's have been ordered and posts are being installed along the B5063, one will be located as you approach the 40mph sign before Millers Row, and another one shall be erected as you enter the parish of Rodington on Cotwall Road.

The location of these SID's have been selected on assessment by the Highways Authority and can be moved to other locations once other locations in the parish have been approved.

RPC have asked West Mercia Police if they can arrange a community speed watch but at present we cannot set up a group in this area as it's an operational area for the police speed watch service.

A request has been made to move the give-way sign on Longdon bridge to come back about 2m to allow drivers to see this better.

The visibility splay where Isombridge Lane meets the B5063 needs to be assessed. **Action A.2**

Tractor drivers working late are driving without consideration for noise of the vehicles, **Action A.3**

Wrockwardine Parish received section 106 money through the Allscott development to fund a speed reduction to 20mph. If a scheme were to be considered for Rodington the funding would be a question as there are no large scale developments in this parish.

Following a discussion of preferred approach D.E said RPC will put the request into TWC to see what can be achieved to change speed limits in this area and source a route for funding these works. These routes would encompass the whole parish including Tern Lane and Sugden Lane to name a few. **A.4**

It was also agreed that Highways would be asked why they do not follow the nation guidance on reducing speed limits on rural roads, what are the local bylaws. **Action A.5**

D.E noted that speed limits can be changed, they are being done in other areas in this borough. But it has a long process (shortest time 24 months as there is lots of consultation) and ultimately these changes have to be funded, it's not cheap, costing another parish council in rural Telford & Wrekin around £15,000.00 which had to be funded through the precept.

Further concerns were raised with regards to the assessments of Longdon bridge, the last one taking place in 2019. **Action A.6**

Members agreed that any approaches to TWC need to include documented information about public interest in this subject going forward and timescales would be requested on any works they are doing in the area.

Actions agreed from this meeting

No	Action	Owner
A.1	Review the legal definition for loss of amenity	D.E & C.F
A.2	Visibility splay at Isombridge Lane to be assessed	TWC
A.3	Communicate with local formers and advise of late-night work and noise pollution of tractors	RPC
A.4	Request that a speed limit reduction scheme is reviewed and rolled out across the parish of Rodington.	RPC
A.5	Write to TWC to request information on their standards of applying the national guidance on speed limits in rural areas	DE & CF
A.6	Structural engineer to conduct inspection with vibration assessment.	TWC

Next meeting date: 16th November 2022, 7pm at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall

Contact information:

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