

Minutes of a meeting of the Transport Working Group held at Longdon-Upon-Tern Village Hall on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 7pm.

Present Cllr Sue Hodgskin, and 5 residents from Longdon-Upon-Tern. No one from Rodington in attendance.

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Sue McGavin and five Longdon-Upon-Tern residents.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and were agreed.

Matters Arising

i). A WhatsApp group had been set up for members of the TWG.

ii). The need for evidence had been discussed at the last meeting. SH had started an 'incident file' for any matters relating to traffic problems in the parish and particularly in Longdon. All contributions welcome but it was important to include as many details as possible e.g. time, date, place, type of vehicle and registration no if possible. If there was dashcam footage, this could be forwarded to the police. So far there were three incidents on the file including an incident that happened yesterday on the bridge in Longdon-Upon-Tern. Dash cam footage of this had been sent to the police.

Update on SIDs

SH had written to the Parish Clerk expressing the TWG wish to collect SIDs data. A reply had been received. The clerk was currently collating all the relevant information. There had been an update at the last Parish Council Meeting. It was reported that Rodington would be getting two SIDs devices and the company installing them was offering training. This would also be open to Longdon residents. The clerk had also confirmed that the parish council had a device that could be used for downloading the data.

Action - SH to check how soon training could be organised.

Update on 'White Gates'

Cllr McGavin had spoken to Town Councillor Thomas (town councillor) about applying for white gates at either end of Longdon (Rodington already has them) from the Community Pride Fund. An application to be made (will be considered in April). The group discussed installing the gates if the application was approved. It was felt that even though there might be a long wait for the council to carry out the work it was probably too dangerous for residents to do, given the traffic conditions in Longdon.

Action – Application to be made to the fund for white gates.

Update on visit to Police Mobile Unit

SH had visited the mobile unit on 28th September 2024. She had spoken to two PCSO's who work in the parish. They acknowledged the issues in Longdon-Upon-Tern and the parish generally and understood residents' concerns. They accepted that enforcement is a problem (drivers always slow down when they see a speed check as well as flashing warnings to oncoming vehicles!) SH asked if a representative could come to the TWG meeting and had followed up the request with an email.

Enforcement had also been raised at the RPC meeting on 2.10.24 attended by PCSO Collumbell. He had advised no one would be able to attend the TWG meeting. The Safer Neighbourhood Team had carried out a speed check in Longdon on 1st October at 4.20pm. The highest speed recorded was 32mph, the lowest 27mph. PCSO Collumbell accepted that his presence was probably the reason for the readings! He felt SIDs were a good reminder to drivers but wasn't sure the Longdon ones were in the best place. He felt they should be moved around for maximum benefit.

The meeting discussed the potential use for SIDs data, the best location for devices and whether any additional units were needed.

Action - SH to contact the Police again and invite a representative to the next meeting to offer advice on how to make the best use of SIDs. SH to find out (via the Parish Clerk) how a SIDs device could be moved and what the cost of a new unit would be.

Formation of Action Plan

The TWG was invited to prioritise the ideas that been put forward at the previous meeting and form the basis of an action plan. The overwhelming consensus was that data and evidence gathering was crucial to any campaign to address traffic issues. The council and police would only consider hard evidence, and it was vital to collect as much as possible. If anyone was able to take pictures or video clips, this could be passed on to the authorities. Getting the SIDs up and running again was very important. It was agreed the group needed to raise awareness of the need to gather data. Regular contributions to local publications were one way to reach residents. Frequency of meetings was discussed, and it was agreed quarterly would be the most appropriate. With reference to the transporters traveling through the village, SH had accessed Greenhouse's 2015 planning application for vehicle storage facilities. She was trying to establish if any restrictions had been placed on the number of vehicles allowed through Longdon.

Action – HF agreed to further investigate the planning aspect of permitted volume of transporter traffic and report back.

SH asked to write to the Road Safety Team at Telford & Wrekin Council. A representative to be invited to a TWG meeting to advise how best to tackle safety issues. The Highways Department to be written to, to ask when the bridge in Longdon-Upon-Tern was next due to be surveyed (at the RPC meeting in July it had been suggested 'a few months').

SH to write a piece for the Parish Magazine as well as Village Voice.

SH to contact Highways Department to clarify speed limit on Tern Lane (unrestricted sign and 30mph sign at the same junction).

Rural Bus Services

The TWG were very concerned about the lack of bus services in the parish and the way services appeared to have been cut without any consultation. However, it was noted that on several occasions buses had been seen in different parts of the parish with no passengers on board. Whilst acknowledging this, the TWG want to explore the issue further and investigate how much withdrawal of services is affecting local communities.

Action – RPC to write to bus companies asking for more information about their future plans and expressing residents' concerns.

SH – to include an invitation to comment on bus services in community publications.

Any Other Business

None

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7pm at Longdon-Upon-Tern Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.