

**Minutes of the Traffic & Transport Committee Meeting held on
1st December 2022 held at Saddleworth Civic Hall at 6.00pm**

Present : Cllr. M. Scholes (Chairman)
Cllr. B. Beeley
Cllr H. Bishop

Community Members: Paul Clegg (Dobcross Village Community)

1898 Apologies received: Cllr. Kevin Dawson, Claire Grainger, Jayne Gibson (Dobcross Road Safety Group), Paul & Joan Sykes (SACG), Trevor Baxter (GGRA), OMBC Highways Team.

1899 Declarations of Interest: None

1900 Minutes of the last meeting:

The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman

1901 Matters arising not on the agenda : None

1902 Follow on/update on issues raised at the last meeting

An email update has been received from Nigel Moulden, OMBC Highways, reported below:

A costing for the installation of electronic signage at Dovestone / Clarence Hotel Roundabout relating to Dovestone Car Park. *Approximately 8-15k dependant on text and location, electric feed etc.*

There are still concerns about emergency access to Hey Top and the sailing club. Requesting an update from United Utilities to come and give an update on the progress since their presentation to full Council in 2020. *We have been trying but not successful to date for a UU contact.*

There was some discussion around this, Bradbury Lane is a public road so it is actually Highways responsibility rather than United Utilities.

Cllr Beeley advised the meeting that she had previously requested that Saddleworth Parish Council be represented at future Dovestones Group meetings but this had not happened.

It was agreed that the committee would request this item be added to the Full Council meeting agenda in January and would invite United Utilities and Highways to discuss and update.

An update of the proposed review / revision of speed limits in Saddleworth.

An email update was received from Alister Storey:

The Saddleworth Villages 20 mph speed limits that were introduced during the pandemic and were done so on the grounds of road safety particularly in areas with narrow footway.

Before and after count data shows that there has been a drop in both average speeds and 85thile speeds since the restrictions have been in place. It is Greater Manchester Polices policy that 20mph speed limits should be self-enforcing by means of physical measures i.e; traffic calming. It is proposed to carry out further set of Traffic Counts in February to be able to compare the recorded data now that traffic levels have more or less returned to pre-pandemic levels. A consultation will be held once the data has been examined regarding making the speed limits permanent and how they will be enforced. If it established that favourable outcome is to make the 20 limits permanent, we will need to make a bid for capital funding to install physical measures if that is the agreed way forward. Obviously the schemes would be fairly large and required a considerable funding which is not guaranteed considering the number of other schemes put forward and the limited funding that's available.

Councillors request that Saddleworth Parish Council and the residents of Saddleworth will be involved in this consultation process.

An update on the installation of Vehicle Activated Signage in Saddleworth.

Tender acceptance report complete, this is now with Procurement to award, this award will be completed this side of Christmas, there will be a 10 day standing still, once awarded Oldham can then programme this year's VAS sign programme according to our own street lighting and the contractors availability. In this first tranche we are expecting approximately 10 VAS installations.

Information on the proposed new cycle routes in Saddleworth

Ashbrook crossing is part of the ATF2 Business case which has been submitted, we are awaiting approval, expected delivery in the new Year, 1 x Parallel zebra crossing, this will help future proof the route.

The most dangerous is crossing at the junction of Oldham Road / Bridge Street on the old railway bridge. *We are still optioneering, there is no guarantee of funding (ATF4) is Ashbrook road crossing being paid for by Bee Network? No, Part of ATF2*

Work at the Royal George Junction is to start *Mid-January 2023 due to resources availability.*

Lower Turf Lane junction of A62 – poor visibility to the left opposite Dawsons Field

Topographical Survey is now complete, over the coming weeks one of our highway engineers will be looking at this to see what if anything can be done.

Ongoing problem of flooding on Oldham Road, Springhead, Grotton, near the Grotton Co-Op be investigated with a camera survey of the drains and gulleys, rather than just clearing the debris? Could OMBC respond to this? *This is now with the drainage team to assess; we are still awaiting a full report.*

It was also pointed out that on Higher Turf Lane – grass has grown over the tarmac and the rain gully isn't visible. It needs clearing in time before wetter weather. Could this be actioned please? *This is a problem all over on lanes and due to budget constraints and resources any ditching is only carried out on a risk-based approach.*

Carr Lane, Uppermill, needs resurfacing and action taken over parking and speeding. Friezland Lane, Greenfield is narrowed by overgrown vegetation near Robert Scott's and needs clearing (not sure private or public). Problems for school children crossing near roundabout to walk to Dobcross as there is no crossing near the roundabout. Some pupils don't use crossing near the school as they reckon it is too far away. *We will take the comments above away and update appropriately.*

Petition to reduce speed limit from 60mph to 40mph on the road between Delph and Denshaw has been submitted to Borough some time ago but heard nothing. *We are aware of the petition with regards the change of speed limit and are looking into this along with many more throughout the borough. We will update appropriately once further investigations have been carried out.*

Complaint from a resident on Roebuck Lane that since the camber of the road was altered the water is running off the lane onto his property. Resident approached local councillor and a site visit was made by Jason Dennison. It was agreed that a camera investigation would be done and some rubbish removed. This has not happened. *Jason is now back in work and will re-visit this.*

The patcher has been filling in potholes on Lark Hill Lane, Dobcross (thank you) but it has filled in potholes on the dirt track with tarmac. Is this appropriate? *As long as it reduces the risk and removes the defects sufficiently, it would normally be like for like but I assume this was done whilst on site to save another visit.*

Garden wall knocked down on Ladcastle Road and barrier round it forcing people into the road. What is the reason that it has not been repaired? *Structures team looking in to who is responsible and if it is the councils then a costing and funding may need to be made available.*

Has any progress been made with plans to alter the junction of Stamford Road and Huddersfield Road after the fatal accident? *Full signalisation of the junction is no longer a viable option after independent modelling by TFGM was carried out, we still feel that there are several options that will have an impact to making this junction safer in the future and we are currently exploring these options.*

Why did Highways object to Cooper Street, Springhead becoming 20mph? There are 2 schools and a nursery on its length and many of the residents are in favour of the reduction? *Passed this on to traffic to investigate further, will update at next meeting.*

1903 Public questions – submitted remotely

JG - Can OMBC provide an update on the plans to make the footpath on the narrow bridge on Delph New Road (near to the junction with Ladcastle) safer, please?

An email has been received from Cllr Byrne regarding the issue that TfGM has withdrawn the subsidy to run the X84 bus service. There is no direct bus to Manchester now for Saddleworth residents. Cllr Scholes advised that Ward Councillors Hulme and Sykes had not been notified. **It was agreed that Saddleworth Parish Council would write to TfGM insisting they reinstate this vital commuter route.**

1904 Public questions – in person

None received

1905 Community issues

Further discussions around the bus service and poor transport links for Saddleworth residents.

Cllr Bishop advised buses very unreliable and don't turn up at scheduled times, the Rambler bus was originally well utilised connecting all the villages but now terminates at Ashton. This is vital for rural areas and can be subsidised by the busier routes. This concern will also be included in the letter the Parish Council will be writing to TfGM.

Cllr Bishop advised that Electricity North West had damaged the Lover's Lane garden area by dumping rubble on it while doing work in the area. The pile of rubble had subsequently been removed but they had also removed all the plants that were there.

Cllr Bishop requested sleeping policemen for Lover's Lane – it's en route to the school; no pavement and still a 30mph limit.

Cllr Bishop also expressed concern there is still no crossing for children travelling from Dobcross to Saddleworth School. Come February the new school will have been open for 12 months and it was agreed there would be a survey conducted.

PC also advised that since the school opened Dobcross was being used as a cut through and it is very dangerous for pedestrians as there are no pavements.

It was agreed to ask Highways when they would be starting the survey and to consult SPC and residents

1906 Date of Next meeting: Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 6.00pm.