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

**9th November 2023 at Saddleworth Civic Hall at 6.00pm**

Present

Cllr B Beeley, Cllr H Bishop, Paul Sykes (SACG), Paul Clegg (Dobcross Village Community), Jane Gibson (Dobcross Road Safety Group), Geoff Bayley (Delph Community Association), Jayne Gibson, Paul Clegg,

1933. Apologies

Cllr P Gaul, Cllr K Dawson, Cllr A Marland, Cllr M Powell, Joan Sykes (SACG), Claire Grainger (Denshaw).

As the meeting wasn’t quorate, only recommendations could be made.

1934. Declarations of interest: None declared

1935. Minutes of last meeting 7th September 2023

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

**1936. Matters Arising**

These were discussed under point 1939.

**1937. Public Questions – in person**

Geoff Bayley from Delph Community Association came to the meeting to share his concerns regarding the issues being experienced in Delph:-

The DCA have concerns, some long standing, regarding the Highways of Delph, listed below:

**1** 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).

**2** 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.*

**3** 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.

**SPC request to know that the Lorry Watch Scheme is still to be implemented. And when will these obsolete signs be replaced?**

**4** 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.

**SPC request if any improvements that can be made to this scheme?**

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

**SPC request Highways inspect this?**

**6** There appears to be an increase in the use on the public roads, of un registered off road motor cycles, ridden by ‘probably’ under age youths, often without crash helmet, and sometimes carrying a pillion passenger. Most commonly at weekends or school holidays. Also occasional use of apparently unregistered quad bikes ridden by adults. Even quad bikes used by farmers require a rear number plate.

It was agreed the off roading vehicles concern was a problem across Saddleworth and the whole borough, and that Councillor Beeley and the Clerk would draft a letter to Phil Hutchinson, the new Chief Superintendent of Oldham.

These concerns were discussed and it was agreed that a site visit would be arranged between Councillors on the Traffic & Transport Committee and the Delph Community Association. Cllr Bishop suggested getting a Ward Councillor involved. Jane suggested that all the Community Groups get together and there was some discussion around this.

**1938. Public Questions – submitted remotely**

Paul Clegg raised an issue regarding road safety 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 request Highways inspect this and take action where possible.**

Jayne Gibson raised concern 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.**

**1939. Follow on/update on new issues raised at the last meeting**

Highways had sent an update on the concerns raised at the last meeting: (highlighted in red).

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?

Update to follow

**SPC request an update ASAP**

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.

The junction is heavily constrained to be able to provide any improvement which satisfies existing design standards. A one-way proposal out of Lower Turf Lane, enables the visibility to be improved from existing 5m visibility to 23m visibility and allows existing properties to maintain turning toward Huddersfield Road or Cooper Street. It also provides a narrow footway where there isn’t one currently at the top end of Lower Turf Lane.

A one-way proposal in the opposite direction, IN to Lower Turf Lane would require that a turning head be provided wherever we stop traffic from entering the one way. There is no suitable space for this except at the junction of The Spinney. This is not suitable due to visibility and access issues, and unsuitable for large vehicles to physically turn around in. existing steep carriageway levels, acute angle of the junction, existing properties boundary levels have to be taken into account, and these constraints do not enable a new level junction to be proposed.

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.**

Flooding on Oldham Rd, Springhead, Grotton – we would appreciate a copy of the survey results – will monitor.

Still awaiting survey

**SPC ask when will this be available**

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

**SPC note draining work is now taking place – please can we be updated on progress, will the road be re surfaced**?

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?**

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.

**APC ask what are the criteria and why doesn’t it fit?**

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.

**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/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)**

**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.**

Oaklands Rd junction with Oldham Rd – improve safety.

**Cllr Bishop following this up**.

**1940. Rail & Bus Strategy for Saddleworth (any updates)**

No updates apart from the good news that ticket offices are staying open across the country following the consultation. It has been announced that access for all at Greenfield Station is proposed for between 3-5 years subject to budget.

**1941. Slackcote Bus Stop**

Already referred to Highways by Cllr Marland and ha been covered in point 1939.

**1942. OMBC report road safety concerns portal (email received from Jayne Gibson)**

Clerk to share Highway’s response to Committee.

**1943. Community Issues**

Paul Sykes asked about the progress on rebuilding Scouthead & Austerlands bus shelter. The Clerk advised a builder had been instructed to carry out the work and they were planning on starting it early next week.

Cllr Bishop advised the meeting of the OMBC plans to remove many of the grit bins across Oldham as a whole, but would affect Saddleworth disproportionately due to the terrain. It was noted that approx. 8 of the bins had been installed by the District Partnership some time ago and these must stay in place. Cllr Bishop has already raised her concerns and she sugggested the Community groups consult with their Borough Councillors; objections and concerns should be raised with Cllr Chris Goodwin.

Cllr Beeley shared Planning documents received regarding the proposal to divert footpath 119 (Woods Lane/Delph New Road) and it was discussed. She invited the Community Associations to comment on the proposal. The Clerk was requested to forward the electronic copies to the group.

**Next meeting: Thursday 11th January 2024 at 6pm.**