

## Charlbury Town Council

### Minutes of the TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 at 8pm in the Green Room, Memorial Hall, Charlbury

**Present: Cllrs:** Gareth Epps (in the chair), Frances Mortimer, James Styring, Liz Reason, **Town Clerk:** Lisa Wilkinson, , 1 member of public

**1. Apologies for Absence:** none were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** none were received.

**3. Public time:** explanation of Speedwatch and traffic calming measures to member of public present  
The TC will discuss with OCC about a possible change of location of the SID on the Slade.

Bus timetable changes have been amended to include morning school journeys, thanks to FM's query.

**4. To consider purchase of additional speed indicator device. To consider funding for this.**

Requests for traffic calming on Park Street have been received as there is currently very little. An indicative quote of £4000-£5000 for a SID has been received.

It was agreed to recommend the purchase of a SID to the Town Council subject to funding. This will be discussed with County Cllr Liz Leffman who has indicated that there may be funds available in the Councillor Priority Fund, which has just reopened.

Further quotes for a SID will be sought. Possible sale of tripod mounted SID device.

**5. To consider cost of zebra crossing**

£15,000 has been set aside in this year's TC budget. Following recent communications with OCC Highways, the cost to the TC for the zebra crossing was £18,000 (50% of the total cost) however, OCC has agreed to cover the extra £3,000 so the zebra crossing will be within budget. OCC will be reminded of incorporating the buildouts in the zebra crossing design.

**6. Continuing parking issues on Browns Lane**

There are continuing issues with parking on the new double yellow lines on Browns Lane, and also in the last marked out bay; buses are still becoming stuck.

The clerk has erected a notice stating that buses are getting stuck and asked the Bull to remind its contractors and customers not to park there.

Request will be made to OCC Highways for permission to install a heavy duty planter where the new double yellow lines have been implemented.

**7. 30mph SID on The Slade**

OCC is currently going through a procurement process to have all the relevant 30mph SIDs in the county changed. The ones on The Slade will be included in this. In the meantime, OCC has arranged for it to be turned off.

**8. 20mph speed signs on The Slade**

'20 is plenty' signs have been requested from OCC and will be erected at various locations around the town where it is deemed necessary. Police speed check signs to be requested.

**9. 30mph speed limit on Fawler Road**

OCC has been notified about this omission.

**10. Traffic calming on Ditchley Road and Marlborough Place**

Requests have been received for these. Unfortunately, there are no resources to implement any traffic calming on these roads and they don't fall into the County Council's Local Transport Plan priorities.

#### **11. Charlbury House access on Fawler Road**

To be discussed with planning committee.

James Styring to draft a letter to the footpaths officer about the new entrances across Oxfordshire Way and Fawler Road.

#### **12. Other items to note**

- A resident has volunteered to take on the role of Speedwatch co-ordinator. He has been put in touch with PC Lee Turnham from TVP to progress this.
- Request to move the new 20mph signs entering Charlbury on Woodstock Road (see correspondence no. 7 below).

It was agreed that the Committee will independently look at this area and if agreed will ask OCC if the sign can be moved.

#### **Correspondence:**

Correspondence received over the last month collated:

1. I wanted to ask about the process for having traffic slowing measures, eg speed bumps, added to one's area. We live at Marlborough Place in Charlbury and often have cars and vans coming very fast around the corner. I always find this concerning as I have small children. I would be grateful for any advice.

2. Just wondering if you could push for a traffic inset for Park Street just before preschool at the town council, as has been installed on the Enstone road.

Whilst strongly agreeing with the town 20mph idea and the painting of double yellow lines on a dangerous bend outside the old grammar school, it has had the effect of increasing the speed of traffic entering Park Street, which has very narrow pavements which frequently have small children and parents walking up and down very close to vehicles travelling at over the speed limit.

Hopefully in the meantime the town council could purchase one or two more of these flashing 20mph signs for vulnerable places around town, including the entry into Park St. The Enstone Road now has all singing traffic calming, the Woodstock Road and Spelsbury Road flashing speed signs, but Park Street nothing to date.

3. Hughes Close has no signage but states 'designated Home Zone' - rather a joke as cars often rush down faster than 30mph. Also, many cars, vans & lorries pull in to either turn round or park up to visit the Londis shop. Ideally a speed hump plus 20mph sign would solve the situation.

There is a small 20 mph sign on the left just past Dancers Hill, cars come up the hill too fast but this small sign is partly hidden by the beech hedge which before long will totally hide this sign as it did last year. Please can this sign be the larger version.

4. Dear Liz,

I am very pleased to see the implementation of the 20mph zone in Charlbury.

However, I wanted to let you know that I feel this is seldom being observed along the Woodstock Road,

where I live. Whilst spending the last 2 days gardening in my front garden, I can't fail but to notice that the speed limit is totally disregarded except for the odd car. When travelling down Sturt Road and rounding the Five Ways bend before heading out on the straight section of Woodstock Road, you would be under the impression, that as you are heading out of town, that section reverts to 30mph. There is nothing painted on the tarmac to say that it is still in the 20mph and the only reference to that, is a very small round 20mph sign fitted to a lamp post opposite my house, which you certainly can't make out from the Five Ways bend.

The only way drivers are going to be alerted to it (and personally the best way I am reminded of my speed) is to have the LED display sign, such as you have near the Enstone cross-roads, thanking you if you are under the speed limit or chastising you if you are not.

Perhaps the Charlbury traffic speed monitors could come and test my observations.

Today I spoke to my neighbour about it, and he expressed the same opinion as myself.

I would be interested to hear your comments

Response from Liz Leffman:

Hi Jenny

Good to hear from you and thank you for the information. I'm afraid there will always be drivers who choose to ignore speed limits. Unfortunately we don't often see police doing speed checks and the local Speedwatch team, which Jim Holah used to lead and which used to do such a good job has not been active for some time.

There is a speed warning sign coming into the town but from your email I think you are suggesting another which people will see on the way out. The town has a mobile speed sign, you may have seen it on various roads, so it may be possible to position that on Sturt Road/Woodstock Road. I'm not sure who manages that so I'm copying Lisa, our Town Clerk, to see if that might be done.

Thanks again for letting me know about this. We hope that as 20 becomes the norm, people will learn to go a bit slower.

Beat regards

Liz

5. Hello Lisa,

I hope you are well and sorry to fuss again, but following the introduction of the new 20mph speed limit through Charlbury, I just wanted to ask a few questions about signage and the speed indicator on The Slade.

1. Will the speed indicator be replaced and updated to match the new limits?
2. I don't feel there are enough 20mph signs on the left-hand side as you approach the hill on The Slade from the Enstone Rd direction. Could more be added and also bigger signs!?
3. Could a 'Police Speed Check Area' sign also be introduced?

Regards Mike Chambers

6. Dear Lisa,

I am glad to see the new 20mph speed limit is now in force across the town. I am trying very hard to adhere to it but after 30+ years of driving at 30mph along the Slade, I am finding it very easy to let my speed slip up over the new limit. I feel that many others do the same, either intentionally or through force of habit. Would it be possible to have notices along the main routes drawing attention to the change in the speed limit? I often see notices drawing attention to new road layouts, and I would have thought that a new speed limit deserved the same treatment. It would be a very visible reminder to us along the main routes through the town.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the new traffic calming island that has been put in on the Enstone Road. As an allotment holder I frequently cross the road nearby and I feel much safer now that traffic into the town approaches more slowly. At the presentation last week about the proposed new development off the Woodstock Road, it occurred to me that a similar island at the entrance to Charlbury along the Woodstock Road would be very beneficial. It would mark as a reminder to drivers that they are entering a town and would check the speed of incoming traffic, reminding them that they are now in a built-up area and no longer on the open road.

7. We have recently been in contact with Geoff Barrell at Oxfordshire County Council to express our concerns about the new 20mph signs which have been erected outside our property on Woodstock Road just near to the Stonesfield Lane entrance.

Whilst we are in favour of the 20mph zone being introduced throughout Charlbury, we are unhappy with the way these signs have been erected and the positioning chosen.

The signs have been erected very close to a bend, and sighted on one side with the overgrown verge and are not at all visible as you come down the road into Charlbury from Woodstock. The section of Woodstock Road up the hill from ours has no pedestrian walkway, and having traffic reduced to 20mph further up the hill would make the road safer for all road users.

Through our communication with Geoff, and a couple of others from Oxfordshire County Council it has transpired that the signs should have been erected further up the road, but due to the overgrowth they decided it wasn't possible to sight them in the originally planned location. Instead of finding a totally clear area, they instead decided to sight them in what we consider to be a dangerous position, and as they are not visible to a driver they are in effect useless.

My partner in her communication has detailed the numerous contraventions these signs have with The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016, The Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 1 and Chapter 3 - copies of these communications can be provided should you wish to see them.

Currently the County Council are not interested in our complaints, however we are just seeking the road safety of our street and town. Traffic entering Charlbury down Woodstock Road often does so at excessive speeds, well in excess of 30mph, let alone the new 20mph that has been introduced.

Your views on this matter would be appreciated, and potentially something for the traffic committee to discuss at the next meeting?

Meeting closed: 9.30

Signed .....

Date .....