

BEECH ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING 1.21 HELD AT 12:00 PM ON 29 MARCH 2021

1. **Attendees:**
Charles Cockburn (CC)
Malcolm Ward-Close (MWC)
Ian Gibson (IG)
Graham Webb (GW)
2. **Apologies for absence:** None
3. **Approve minutes of the previous meeting:** the minutes for Meeting 9.20 held on October 12th, 2020 were approved unanimously. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
4. **Declaration of Interest:** (in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils Model Code of Conduct adopted July 2018) Councilors and Working Group members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.
No interests were declarable.
5. **New member:** CC welcomed Graham Webb as a new member of the Working Group.
6. **Resignation of Secretary to the Working Group:** CC confirmed that Nick Ward had decided to resign for the Working Group. Charles spoke for the whole group in thanking Nick for all his hard work over the last year and wishing him well for the future. MWC volunteered as secretary to the group and this was agreed.
7. **Update on progress of actions proposed by the BRSWG report to the Parish Council:** The Parish Council accepted our report at their meeting on 8th February and agreed that BRSWG should move forward with an application for a preliminary safety audit of our preferred scheme by HCC. The two actions arising from the meeting were a) IG to prepare and submit the information required for a preliminary safety audit and b) MWC to produce a supplement to the report on the subject of ANPR speed cameras and vehicle active displays (VADs).
 - a. IG reported that preparation of the safety audit information was proceeding and anticipated that it would be ready to send to HCC in 1-2 weeks' time. IG commented that in view of the high level of interest from Beech residents he suggested that a presentation of the recommended scheme to the whole village should be arranged as soon as possible following approval in principle from HHC. In discussion it was agreed that this would be primarily an information event intended to explain the merits of the recommended scheme and the road map for achieving it (see attached Gantt Chart).
 - b. A report on ANPR speed cameras and VADs was produced by MWC and submitted to Beech Parish Council on the 7th of March 2021. (see attached report).

8. **Vehicular access to woodland west of Bushy Leaze car park.** GW reported on discussions that had taken place in Beech the week before related to possible vehicular access to the privately owned woodland west of the car park. GW is in communication with the residents of a nearby house, other interested parties and the landowner, in his capacity as Chair of Beech Parish council. The only involvement of this working group is related to the fact that our proposed off-road pathway would pass near to the proposed vehicular access point. GW has taken an ACTION to report back to the working group after a forthcoming visit by Hampshire Highways.
9. **Off road footpaths:** GW has produced a summary detailing land ownership, construction methods and potential maintenance obligations related to our proposed off-road pathways (see attached report).
10. **Other actions that can be taken while awaiting completion of submission to HCC/HH.** In discussion it was noted that preliminary work on the off-road pathway through the private part of Bushy Leaze wood could go ahead before any decisions are made on the other parts of the Recommended Scheme because it does not depend on permissions from Hampshire Highways. IG noted that Ian Janes at Hampshire Highways had indicated that they would be willing to support any future discussions with Forestry England about the short section of footway that would need to cross their land immediately west of the car-park. Campaigning for a lower speed limit should continue separately with 20's Plenty for Us and through discussions with Hampshire Police (ACTION CC).
11. **Speed cameras.** MWC summarised the conclusions of our recent report into ANPR cameras and VADs, which found that, given the relatively small number of driver warning letters issued by the police in previous SpeedWatch campaigns, the addition of ANPR is unlikely to provide any advantage compared to simpler handheld or fixed cameras. Also, as noted many times in our main report, better enforcement of the 30 mph speed limit will not necessarily make any difference to the experience of pedestrians walking in the road, where 30 mph is already too high for some parts of Medstead Road and Kings Hill, especially when passing pedestrians. It is noted that speed cameras may have a more useful role to play if the speed limit were reduced to 20 mph. (see attached report).
12. **AOB.**
13. **Summary of ACTIONS**
 - IG to - complete submission to HH for preliminary safe audit (approval in concept).
 - GW - report back on issue of vehicular access to private woodland and on any activity to clear the new footway.
 - CC – continue interactions with 20's Plenty for Us and with Hampshire Police and Hampshire PCC in speed limit enforcement etc.
14. **Date of Next Meeting** Tuesday 27^h April 10:00-12:00 (remote meeting)