

## **BEECH ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING 22.04 HELD ON 30 MARCH 2022**

#### **1) Attendees:**

- a) Charles Cockburn (CC)
- b) Ian Gibson (IG)
- c) Graham Webb (GW)
- d) Malcolm Ward-Close (MWC)

#### **2) Apologies for absence:** None

#### **3) Approve minutes of the previous meeting:** Minutes 22.03, 18 Feb 2022 were approved.

#### **4) Declaration of interest:** (in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils Model Code of Conduct adopted July 2018) Councillors 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) Footpaths Project**

- a) Application to EHDC Strategic CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Fund

Discussions are continuing with Ian Janes and others at HCC and Cllr. Mark Kemp-Gee concerning HCC agreement to be official partners with BPC on the CIL application. This is crucial to our application and if it is not forthcoming before the deadline in mid-May our application will have to be deferred until next year's round. It was agreed that GW would e-mail Cllr. Kemp-Gee and Ian Janes setting out the urgent need for an agreement with HCC to partner us in the application and that it will be made clear on the application that HCC agreeing to partner with BPC does not imply that the project has received full financial, technical or strategic approval by HCC and that the normal planning and approvals process will still apply.

- b) On-road Footways

Current information from Ian Janes is that the Highway Maintenance group at HCC have expressed strong reservations about the future maintenance costs of any new road schemes and that they will not normally approve any new kerbs or the use of any coloured road surfacing. In discussion, it was agreed that our minimum fall-back position for the on-road pathways would be the renewal of the existing roadside white line, a

single white line on the outside edge of the footway and "walking man" pedestrian logos at suitable intervals. We would also hope to discuss with HCC other supporting features such as signage, marked pedestrian crossing points and the use of stand-outs and deflections (real or virtual i.e. painted) at critical points.

c) Off-Road Pathways

GW has made contact with Ben Brook-Martin at HCC Strategic Road Team and we are now waiting for a proposal from him for a feasibility study of our off-road pathways scheme. BPC is expected to fund that feasibility study. It was agreed that GW seek clarification on the terms of reference and statement of work for the feasibility study.

Meanwhile we will continue to lobby HCC for an onsite meeting with the Ian Janes and the key members of the Highways Department to discuss the design and construction options for our on-road and off-road pathway proposals.

d) Overlook issues relating to the upper section of the off-road pathway

GW has had productive discussions with the householders in the affected area and the owner of the woodland. Outline agreement has been reached for temporary screening combined with the planning of evergreen bushes and trees to form a permanent and inobtrusive solution.

**6) 20 is plenty**

CC has written to 40 parishes across East Hampshire district with a copy of the '20's plenty for us' draft motion which calls for the establishment of 20mph limits where we live, work and play. At this point we have had 22 responses all of which have either passed our motion or are broadly supportive of it, except for one, Shalden. CC will be chasing the remaining non-responders.

A select committee has been established by HCC to review its 20mph policy following a similar review conducted in Oxfordshire. CC's efforts have been conducted in concert with 20s plenty for us who have been encouraging Parishes from across the County to write to Cllr Rob Humby, responsible for the Transport portfolio, requesting 20mph in their community. These requests and observations have been forwarded to the Chair of the Committee, Cllr Dereck Mellor.

Beech has been among those Parishes which has made contact and has offered to submit evidence to the review committee. It is uniquely well positioned to do this due to the data gathered both from the SID camera and from the newly installed average speed cameras. GW also explained that Beech PC had offered the parish as a pilot.

The significance of the establishment of the review should not be underestimated, as a 20mph limit in Beech would go some way to helping villagers feel safer when walking along the road and could act as the gateway to the completion of our project.

**Date of next meeting:** TBD

Malcolm Ward-Close 31 March 2022