

BEECH ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING 22.07 HELD ON 15th AUGUST 2022

1) Attendees:

Charles Cockburn (CC)
Graham Webb (GW)
Malcolm Ward-Close (MWC)

Apologies for absence: Ian Gibson (IG)

2) Approve minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes 22.06, 21 June 2022 were approved.

3) 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.

4) Application for CIL grant funding EHDC (report by GW)

A grant of £14k has been approved for installation of sections of on-road footways as detailed in the application. This a significant outcome for Beech, as it confirms that EHDC considers that our village footway proposals meet the criteria for funding from the CIL budget and bodes well for an anticipated application for a larger bid for funds next spring for off-road footways.

We are currently waiting for Ian Janes (HCC Highways Dept.) to complete detailed design plans for the on-road footway scheme in the Village Centre and Kings Hill, work which he has agreed to complete over the summer on a no-cost basis. Realistically, it is likely to be another two months before this work can be completed.

5) HCC feasibility study for off-road footways

Approval will be sought from BPC for the £12.5k cost, this being the reduced figure negotiated with HCC. If BPC approves the funding, the order will be placed with HCC. This study will include outline plans and estimated costs and will form a basis for the off-road scheme to move forward. Depending on the cost estimates, this may necessitate prioritisation of the different parts of the scheme and further discussions with HCC.

ACTION GW: If approved by BPC, ask HCC to amend and reissue their proposal document for the study.

6) Off-road footpath section between Bushy Leaze entrance and privately owned woodland.

At meeting on 2 August 2022 CC and GW discussed our proposals to create a new off-road footpath on the south side of Medstead Road with nearby residents who had expressed concern that the footway would overlook their properties and cause a loss of privacy. At the latest meeting the residents suggested that an alternative on-road footway would be more acceptable to them and pointed out that that this would have the advantage of being available to more users and in all seasons and weather conditions, as opposed to

the off-road woodland path that may be difficult for some. An on road footway would also provide drivers with a further reminder that they share the road with pedestrians.

BRSWG believe that the residents have made some valid points and has agreed to pursue the installation of an on-road footway in this section of road. This will have to be approved by HCC and there is no guarantee of success.

When it was set up by Beech Parish Council BRSWG's terms of reference included, amongst other things, the requirement to "devise an ideal road safety scheme (traffic calming measures and/or roadside footways), or one or more options, **for the full length of Medstead Road and Kings Hill**". Therefore, to ensure the best chance of still achieving that goal, BRSWG intend to pursue both the on-road and the off-road options for this section. Where practicable, the least intrusive route for nearby residents will be chosen for the new woodland footway and (subject to landowner approval, i.e. Hampshire Highways and Forestry England) other measures will be used to minimise or eliminate the view of nearby houses.

One additional benefit of having an on-road footway is that it will reduce, to some degree, the amount of foot traffic using the off-road footway and it is also probable that the woodland route will be less popular in the winter, when natural screening is at its lowest density.

7) Increasing the membership of BRSWG

BRSWG had agreed previously that keeping the membership small had worked well over the previous 12-18 months and it was felt a maximum of six, with a mix of different skills, was ideal.

It was agreed at this meeting that Ian Dumelow would be invited to join and, assuming he is still willing, included in the circulation for these minutes.

8) Speeding enforcement

PS Rob Jones has confirmed that there has been no police speeding enforcement in Beech for some considerable time and consequently a meeting has been arranged with Sector Inspector Tony Botten and Divisional Commander, Chief Inspector Habs Rahman to raise the issue of the Auto Speedwatch cameras.

9) HCC consultation on 20 mph limits

ACTION CC: Place a message on Nextdoor reminding Beech residents to submit their responses by 00:30am on Monday 12 September 2022.

10) Another near miss in Medstead Road

A report on Nextdoor of a near miss between a car and pedestrian in Medstead Road has been brought to our attention. It has been noted that the HCC reporting page, that we have been directed to previously, is not specifically intended for road incidents and it is not evident how this information is logged or whether it is being followed up.

It was agreed that the possibility of instigating our own incident logging system would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. ACTION ALL: think about options, bring suggestions to next meeting

11) Painted On-Road footways and pedestrian logos.

CC presented photographs of another 'virtual' footway installation in Millbrook, Cornwall which is like other schemes we know of in Surrey and Dorset. In this case, a narrow village street has painted virtual footpaths on both sides of the road, a coloured surface with pedestrian logos, a solid white line edging and double yellow lines on both inside edges. In other words it has been created to mimic the appearance of a normal pedestrian pavement. It is not known what the legal status of these footways is but more information might be useful in our discussions with HCC.

ACTION MWC: make enquires about legal status of on road painted footways, the use of a pedestrian logos and the rules concerning pedestrian pavements and the mechanism for designating a footway as a pedestrian pavement.

ACTION CC: provide photos to GW to pass on to Ian Janes for comment.

12) Actions/timings agreed at meeting of 21 June 2022 – Email exchange between Mark Kemp-Gee and CC regarding funding of cycling and walking infrastructure.

Following an alert from Adrian Berendt, Southern Region campaigner for 20's plenty for Us, it was revealed that in the bids for money from central Government's Active Travel Fund, the whole of Hampshire had won only £700,000 pounds, enough to build 0.7 miles of cycle track, equivalent to 37p per head of population, compared with Slough which has won funding equivalent to £37 per head. It was suggested that HCC had been unambitious in its bidding.

From the point of view of BRSWG this outcome is alarming because innovative footway schemes designed to encourage active travel (such as ours) could be paid for out of the active travel fund. It was agreed that CC should contact our county councillor, Mark Kemp-Gee, to raise this issue with him.

MK-G responded, saying that the Levelling-Up agenda may be responsible for the apparent inequality regarding the amount of money dispensed to Hampshire and that, having delivered the footways using active travel money, further expenditure would be required for maintenance and that would fall under HCC responsibilities. Already, they are struggling to meet existing maintenance commitments. However, he was willing to pick up the issue with officers.

Date of next meeting

10:00 am Monday 5th September 2022, venue TBD.

Malcolm Ward-Close

17/8/22