

BEECH ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING No. 22.10, 14th November 2022, 10:00-12:00

1) Attendees:

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

2) Apologies for absence: Ian Dumelow (ID)

3) Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes 22.09, 14th October 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) Actions from last meeting

Action GW: Detailed designs for On-Road footways. Maintain contact with Ian Janes. Monitor and report. Ongoing, see section 8.

Action GW: HCC Off-Road Footways feasibility study. Monitor and report. Ongoing, see section 10.

Action MWC: Produce policy statement for proposed incident reporting system. Ongoing, see section 11.

6) Update on Auto Speedwatch Cameras and follow-up to meeting with senior police officers from Hampshire Constabulary

East Hampshire District Commander, Chief Inspector Habib Rahman, has confirmed police intention to participate in a proposed three month trial of the AutoSpeedWatch speed camera system in Beech, which is intended to demonstrate its compatibility Community Speedwatch. Police participation is, however, subject to CI Rahman securing internal funding.

In February 2021 BRSWG reviewed the AutoSpeedWatch camera and the report is available on the BPC website:

<https://www.beechpc.com/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/March-minutes-Technology-Report-Feb-21-Ver3.0.pdf>

It was found that the system had been evaluated by other Parish councils, who concluded that it performed satisfactorily, but with the following limitations 1) it only works during daylight hours, 2) it records traffic travelling in one direction only, 3) although it comes with APNR, the manufacturer explained that they were hoping to upgrade it later as its current performance was poor and 4) the camera is not designed to work as part of an average speed check system. However, earlier this year, Beech Parish Council carried out a demonstration of how data from two AutoSpeedWatch cameras could use to determine a vehicle's average speed over a measured distance.

Action CC: ongoing.

7) Update HCC 20 mph consultation by the Task and Finish Group

Efforts to convey our strong support for the introduction of 20 mph limits on rural roads have continued and this has included facilitating a dialogue between the Task and Finish Group and the campaign group 20-is-Plenty Enough, who have provided the Task and Finish group with irrefutable evidence for the reduction of accidents associated with lowering the speed limit to 20 mm.

Action CC: ongoing.

8) Update on liaison with Ian Janes of Hampshire Highways regarding on-road footways (GW)

Ian Janes has informed us that he carried out his detailed design site visit in the last week of October. He aims to provide us with his detailed proposals by the end of December, workload permitting.

It was confirmed that, when Ian Janes' proposals have been received, we will pursue with him the possible extension of on-road footways from the Bushy Leaze entrance up to the Kings Hill bend, i.e. in parallel to the existing and proposed woodland footpaths.

Action GW: ongoing.

9) Update on progress with HCC and Forestry England on proposed new off-road footways (GW)

As reported in the last BRSWG minutes, HCC have started work on the Feasibility Study of our proposed off-road footways. The draft report is expected in mid-December.

Contact has been made with FE regarding the proposed woodland path on the edge of Bushy Leaze Wood opposite 180 Medstead Road and about the FE/HCC boundary on the verge further down Medstead Road. The FE land surveyor (Sean Marsh) has advised that he is unlikely to engage on these issues until the New Year.

Action GW: ongoing.

10) Update on arrangements to introduce screening through part of privately owned woodland

The contractors engaged to construct the temporary screening fence are behind with their overall work programme, and a construction date is still to be set. Planting of the laurel whips by Beech volunteers is scheduled for the 17th and 18th of November and at that time the working party are intending to extend the existing path by about 10 metres to finish at the boundary with the FE land.

Action GW: ongoing.

11) Proposed Beech Parish Council Road Incident Reporting System

It has been established that there is already a similar on-line system on the Village Hall website for reporting issues associated with hiring the Village Hall and associated amenities. It is hoped that this can be copied for the proposed road incident system. A suggestion from Cllr. Ransley for BPC to fund the development of a smartphone app for this purpose was discussed. It was decided that, initially at least, the associated time and cost could not be justified and BRSWG will not be recommending that the PC pursue this.

Action MWC: Produce Draft Document for a web based reporting system, in time for the BPC meeting on 21st November.

12) Finances, funding applications and scheduling

On-road footways: £14,000 secured from this year's Strategic CIL application – it is planned that this will cover most of the cost of the on-road footways currently being designed by Ian Janes. It is hoped that

design work can be finalised early in the new year, followed by installation as soon as HCC's work programme permits.

Off-road footways: approx. £30K available from BPC reserves. The estimated cost will not be known until HCC complete the feasibility study. We intend to apply for further EHDC Strategic CIL funds in next years' round, with up to £30k of the BPC reserve providing the minimum 20% matching funding required by EHDC (e.g. £30k BPC matching funding could give a £150k maximum budget). GW has determined that in the main CIL round next year councils are able to bid for funding from the total pooled Strategic CIL budget for the district. After making a strong case last year based on improving access to our beautiful woodlands and countryside amenities for the residents of the new housing developments on the western side of Alton, we are optimistic of gaining support for the next phase of the footpaths project. The deadline for the draft CIL application is expected to be in mid-March, with the ability to fine tune the application up to mid-May. We may also apply for National Lottery 'Awards for All' funding (£10k) when we have better estimates of costs and available funds.

13) Next meeting: Monday 9th January 2023, Barton, 72A Medstead Road, 10:00 am.

Malcolm Ward-Close, 15 Nov 2022