

Kimpton Parish Council
Highways and Parking Working Party Meeting
Wednesday 7 November 2018
Parish Room: Kimpton Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Lewis Hawke, Cllr Neil Burns, Cllr Alex Firth and Ted Frith.

MINUTES

1. Apologies

County Cllr Richard Thake, Jackie Worboys and Matt Henderson all sent their apologies.

2. Background and Introductions

Those members present provided a brief introduction to themselves and their motivation for joining the Working Party.

The Working Party discussed the rationale for setting up the Working Party itself being that traffic matters were always at the top of residents' concerns.

3. General Discussion and Terms of Reference

It was noted that the main purpose of the meeting was to agree the Working Party's formal Terms of Reference.

The Working Party first discussed the issues of traffic and parking generally.

It was noted that the traffic problems of which the Working Party were aware particularly affected the area in Kimpton between the Eastern boundary of the village at Hitchin Road to Lloyd Way and the area around the Claggy Road Industrial Estate.

The traffic problems arose from the flow and speed of the traffic and the size of commercial vehicles on the High Street.

This led to:

- pedestrian safety issues;
- accidents;
- vehicle damage; and
- damage to other property.

Various traffic calming measures were discussed, including:

- implementing a one-way system in Kimpton Village;
- creating a 20mph zone;
- installing more bollards to prevent cars driving on the pavements;
- creating a zebra crossing by the school;
- installing “sleeping policemen”;
- enforcing the existing size and weight restrictions;
- changing the flow and priorities of the High Street, e.g. via roundabouts.

It was noted that it had been difficult historically to achieve any improvements in the traffic situation (the Working Party reviewed a map which had been used by the Parish Council 20 years previously to make similar suggestions as to how to address these same traffic issues) and that this Working Party would try to concentrate on what might realistically be achieved. With that in mind, the Working Party agreed that it would invite the relevant members of the District and County Councils to discuss the above types of traffic calming measures so it could understand what might be realistic proposals to try to implement before concentrating on fleshing out the detail of any particular proposal.

Parking issues within Kimpton village were then discussed. The members of the Working Party’s experience of parking was that it was not a significant issue but perhaps more of a convenience issue. It was noted that the Parish Council’s car park at Parkfield was not utilised anywhere near to capacity and that clearer signage pointing people to that car park and improvements in its security (lighting, for example) should be looked at as being potential cost effective solutions to improve car parking at the East of the village. Further research needed to be undertaken in relation to the issues of car parking around the Claggy Road Industrial Estate area.

Following discussions and a review of the Terms of Reference of other Working Parties, it was agreed that this Working Party would have two simple Terms of Reference:

- (i) To endeavour to improve traffic and pedestrian safety in the Parish: and
- (ii) To monitor and, where necessary, endeavour to improve car parking within the Parish.

It was agreed that the Working Party was more concerned about the traffic and pedestrian safety issues than parking and would prioritise its time and resources accordingly.

It was further agreed that the Working Party should put proposals to the residents of the Parish before taking any initiative past the proposal stage. The scope of that would depend on what was being proposed and would be considered at the time.

4. Miscellaneous

a. Cycle Path to Harpenden

It was noted that the Parish Council had voted to support the project in principle and would endeavour to find some money in the 2019 budget to financially support it.

b. NHDC Highways Liaison Meeting Commencing

It was also noted that there was a NHDC Highways Liaison Meeting Commencing at 7.00pm on Tuesday 27 November 2018 at The Council Chamber, The District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City. Unfortunately, no members of the Working Party were able to attend this time although it was noted that these meetings were an excellent

opportunity to meet members of other Parish Councils and a chance to discuss their challenges and what they had successfully implemented.

c. Cadence of the Working Party's meetings

It was agreed that meetings of the Working Party should be ad-hoc rather than have a regular cadence with the timing of the next meeting being agreed at each meeting. It was consequently further agreed that the next meeting of the Working Party should be in January at which meeting those members of the Working Party not able to attend this meeting could provide their comments on the above. Cllr Firth would circulate proposed dates nearer the time.

5. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.