

# FOSSE DIVISION COMMUNITY FORUM

Minutes of meeting on: Thursday 10 March at Pailton Village Hall

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1.	<p><b><u>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Phillip Morris-Jones welcomed everyone to the Forum and introduced Councillors, speakers, SNT and officers.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Leigh Hunt</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Minutes of Previous Community Forum</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Morris-Jones highlighted some key points from the September meeting.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Safer Neighbourhoods</u></b></p> <p><b>Update from Safer Neighbourhood Team</b></p> <p><b>PC Stuart Baker</b> gave an update on the progress with the SNT priorities identified at the last meeting and other action and activity undertaken in the last three months. A copy of the presentation can be found on the Rugby Area Partnership Team website: <a href="http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fosseforum">www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fosseforum</a>.</p> <p>In response to questions raised <b>PC Baker</b> confirmed that speed checks had been undertaken in Pailton but not in the last quarter due to other priorities. There are not suitable sites on the Bulkington Road and Rugby Road where checks can be carried out – the SNT have to adhere to health and safety regulations when finding a site, including a safe place where drivers can pull in. The SNT are investigating whether the speed van can be used instead. There is a layby on the Lutterworth Road but the SNT need a clear line of site of vehicles to avoid the perception that they are ‘hiding’ from drivers. <b>PC Baker</b> also confirmed that more hours of daylight allow for monitoring of speeds at peak times.</p> <p>The SNT take a proactive approach to inconsiderate parking but are also flexible as, taking the letter of the law, would mean that no vehicles would be able to park around the War Memorial in Pailton.</p> <p>The SNT will check if there is a suitable location on Montilo Lane where speed checks can be undertaken.</p> <p>A request for a solid white line instead of a broken one through Pailton will be followed up by <b>Cllr Morris-Jones</b>.</p> <p>Priorities for the next three months:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Speed checks in Pailton</li><li>2. Speed checks in Wolvey</li><li>3. Speed checks in Shilton</li></ol> <div><p><b>Action:</b></p><p><b>Cllr Morris-Jones to ascertain whether the broken white line in Pailton can be replaced with a solid white line</b></p><p><b>SNT to check Montilo Lane for suitable locations for speed checks</b></p></div>

#### 4. Impact of HGVs on local roads

**Adrian Hart** and **Jo Archer** attended the Forum to talk about use of local roads by HGVs from a Warwickshire County Council (WCC) perspective. In light of the potential for an increase in traffic due to the proposed development at Magna Park Harborough District Council and Highways England had also been invited to the meeting but had declined. **Rob Back**, Head of Planning, Rugby Borough Council (RBC), was also in attendance.

**Adrian** began by giving a brief history of the B4027, i.e. it used to be an A class road (A427) but was downgraded in 1992 when Magna Park was first given planning permission. As an A road and a key route between Lutterworth and Coventry it was probably identified as being suitable for HGVs.

WCC has produced an advisory lorry route map which shows which routes they consider are appropriate for HGVs, including trunk and motorways. The B4027 which passes through Pailton and Stretton under Fosse before joining the (B4455 (Fosse Way) is not shown on the map. However, reliance on sat navs means that drivers may continue to use it. As the name of the map implies it is advisory only and any highway can be used by vehicles. WCC expects therefore that B class roads would carry some HGV traffic. The map will have to be revised in the next few years to take account of new developments and all routes currently shown on it will be reviewed.

WCC have also produced lorry monitoring forms for residents and communities to record use of local roads by HGVs. If inappropriate use is reported then WCC will speak to the operators. The owners and drivers of vehicles do bear some responsibility as 'good neighbours' and should be avoiding routes that are not suitable.

Councillors and officers from WCC and RBC are members of the A5 Transport Partnership which was formed to develop a strategy for the stretch of A5 between Gailey (Staffordshire) and Weedon (Northamptonshire). The purpose of the Partnership is for agencies and organisations to work together to ensure the A5 is fit for purpose and that potential improvements are identified and implemented. It is putting pressure on Highways England and Government (through local MPs) for improvements to be implemented.

**Jo** noted that WCC are a statutory consultee for planning applications especially those that affect highways. This means that Harborough District Council will have to consult WCC on the Magna Park proposals. She confirmed that the lorry routing map does not show routes that are preferred by WCC and they will therefore try to change it in consultation with Harborough District Council and the developers at Magna Park to try to ensure that HGVs use the A5 and A426.

**Jo** explained that WCC responded to the first Magna Park planning application (15/00919/FUL) and requested that, in addition to the conditions proposed by Leicestershire County Council, an Operational HGV Routing Agreement be submitted and approved by all three Highway Authorities prior to occupation in order to update the existing agreement for Magna Park. Unfortunately Harborough District Council advised at the Planning Committee meeting that they did not consider this request to be 'CIL' compliant, and therefore did not include the request.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge that is used by Authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support development. However, in order to make a charge, there are three tests that have to be met and these are that the obligation is a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms b) directly related to the development c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. **Rob Back** advised that Planning Authorities will not make any charges that they do not consider meet the three tests.

#### **Responses to questions**

**Cllr Morris-Jones** noted that voluntary constraint is not the answer and that technology should be used to compel drivers to use suitable roads, e.g. through the monitoring of sat nav

data showing which roads drivers are using. He also referred to a letter received from the Transport Minister who stated that it is up to drivers to choose a route and that mandatory use of technology is not an option and therefore will not be implemented by Government. **Cllr Morris-Jones** is putting pressure on Mark Pawsey MP to raise the problems being experienced by local residents which include damage to properties.

**Jo** said that modelling of vehicle numbers produced by Leicestershire County Council is an issue that will be looked at in more detail by WCC and challenged by them. In response to a statement about an increase in traffic through Pailton between 2006 and 2015 **Adrian** said that WCC is keen to address the issue of HGVs on local roads and not the overall increase in traffic.

**Adrian** will check why information sent to WCC Traffic and Road Safety, including pictures of inappropriate use of roads by HGVs, has not been used by them. He also confirmed that the public cannot attend A5 Transport Partnership meetings but this decision was made for logistical reasons as opposed to deliberately exclude them. He suggested that a request could be sent to the Chair asking if a small number of local people could attend. In addition, as **Cllr Morris-Jones** is a member of the Partnership, he could speak on behalf of residents.

It was noted that WCC can only take action if there is something that they can enforce such as a weight limit. Following a question about the downgrading of a road **Adrian** confirmed he would check the criteria for this. Budget constraints are an issue for both WCC and the Police; Traffic and Road Safety do not have a budget for introducing weight limit traffic regulation orders and the Police would not support them as they do not have the resources to undertake enforcement.

It was noted that there has been an increase in traffic through Shilton and that houses are being damaged there too. Part of the problem is vehicles being driven by owner drivers as opposed to large commercial hauliers.

**Cllr Gillias** asked for wider support to address the problem, noting that at a previous meeting to consider a planning application, only one resident was present. **Rob** supported this message by saying that planning committees can be swayed by large numbers of the public attending and expressing their views.

All parish councils were encouraged to write to Harborough District Council to express their views. **Rob** encouraged people to submit a petition to them; details of how to do this should be available on their website: <http://www.harborough.gov.uk/>. Any petitions submitted have to be read out at planning committee. **Rob** also said that the response to the application that was submitted to Harborough District Council should be on the HDC website. It was also noted that e-mailing the Chief Executive Officer of relevant organisations can be very effective.

**Adrian** advised that social media is a powerful tool that can be used to get messages across and **Cllr Morris-Jones** said that people should put pressure on their MPs.

**Cllr Morris-Jones** and **Cllr Gillias** expressed appreciation that officers from WCC and RBC had attended the meeting to give a presentation and answer questions.

#### **Actions:**

**Adrian to check why monitoring information sent to WCC has not been acted on**

**Adrian to send contact details of the A5 Transport Planning Group Chair to Louise Boffey:** Cllr Mike Hall, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council - [mike.hall@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](mailto:mike.hall@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk)

**Adrian to check criteria for downgrading a road to a C class**

**Jo to check modelling of vehicle numbers**

5.	<b><u>Items for discussion at the next meeting</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding and flood management</li> </ul>
6.	<b><u>Future Meetings</u></b> Date of next meeting to be confirmed

