

Notes from the Quarterly meeting with Highways England on 12 May 2017.

Present: - Emma Bazeley (HE), Steve Hellier (HE), Andy Kirby (Balfour Beatty), Cllr Murray, Cllr Elliot, Cllr Campion and Cllr Carey.

In Attendance: - The Clerk

1. Air Quality / Low Emissions Zone.

- a) What, in Highways England's view, is the impact of the government's Clear Air Zone Framework (published 5 May 2017) on air quality issues in Chideock?
 - HE is working on an AQ Strategy for publication after the General Election. Emma will send this when it is available.
 - There are 2 areas in the SW which this could affect – Tideford and Chideock.
- b) HE to outline what plans they have in place to reduce the current illegal emission levels in Chideock down to legal levels and how HE will work with WDDC and DEFRA to achieve this.
 - This will be covered by the HE AQ Strategy.
- c) Result of meeting with Oliver Letwin re Low Emission Zone.
 - No meeting has been held – there will be single meeting with all interested parties in Dorchester after the General Election.
- d) Has the application for Air Quality Designated Funding for a feasibility study into potential air quality improvement measures been made?
 - National investigations are complete. It is hoped that locally designated funds will now be released so that bids can be made to pursue this.
 - Emma has not seen any report on the national study – she will chase this.
 - It is not possible to give anytime scale at this stage.
- e) Is there any doubt that illegal emissions levels in Chideock can only be reduced by lowering traffic volumes?
 - In theory, yes but only if volumes of all types of traffic are reduced as HGV traffic is only a small proportion of the total traffic.
 - The Clear Air Zone Framework should eventually “solve” the problem.
 - Super catalytic convertors – if CPC wished to pursue encouraging hauliers to install these it will have to be done via Oliver Letwin. Cllr Murray asked if there is any way to tap into the information collected by the Road Haulier associations via the blue ANPR cameras to target individual hauliers for this purpose.
- f) Update on the requested formal clear statement from HE setting out the causes of the air pollution (speed? acceleration?) and potential solutions.
 - This might be included in the HE AQ Strategy document
- g) Update on brake dust considerations.
 - There would have to be a study carried out to determine the situation before anything could be done.

2. Speed / Traffic Volumes.

- a) Update on the recent speed study.
 - Possible changes to the current speed limit between Chideock and Morecombelake have been identified.
 - There is an HE meeting next week – Emma to keep CPC informed.
- b) Update on the Route Analysis from data collected via Bluetooth.
 - Emma is chasing this.
- c) What can be done to re-route HVGs, especially 5 and 6 axle and what can be done about container lorries using the A35 through Chideock?
 - Very little can be done as it is a trunk road. The A303 improvements may have an effect.

- DCC is carrying out an Origin / Destination study at the Monkey Jump and Stinsford roundabouts in Dorchester.
- d) Does the PFI BDFO contract (which lasts until 2026) in anyway prevent the chance of reducing the numbers of vehicles using the A35?
- Andy Kirby said that this is not an issue – in fact the damage caused by HGVs outweighs the income generated.
- e) Can HE help to push DCC regarding diversion signs at the Monkey Jump roundabout to divert traffic onto the A37 as promised in the DCC Local Transport Plan 2006 - 11
- Chapter 8 “Economic Development” Page 136, heading “Freight Strategy Proposals” states “Review direction signing between Dorchester and Honiton by 2007 to promote the diversion of longer distance from the A35 to the A37 / A303.
3. Safety Issues.
- a) Update on the A35 Route Based Safety Study.
- The Phase 1 report should help HIM to understand what can be done
- b) Did the Feasibility Study looking at community severance and pedestrian safety for Morecombelake, Chideock and Winterbourne Abbas start on time on 1st April?
- Planning is in progress with Connect and the study should be underway in June.
 - No work to analysing results can be done until further money is obtained by HE – the next funding round is in November.
 - It is likely to take 3 years before there are any tangible results.
- c) Update on Bullens Lane (BW20) exit onto A35 - visibility splay improvements to improve safety. Is there any possibility of funding?
- There is no chance of funding.
 - Emma to check that this matter is included in the Safety Study remit.
 - HE has no obligation re visibility splays unless there have been accidents.
 - Sal explained that the Chideock Society hopes to be able to do something about the area to make it easier to maintain.
 - Andy said that if stones from the wall fall into the road then Connect will remove them but will not repair the wall.
 - Any works adjacent to the Highway can only be carried out during a road closure of with traffic management.
4. Any other business.
- a) Update on Maps showing locations of utility covers - addition of house names as requested.
- Emma had brought printed copies with her- the additional information is minimal but better than nothing!
- b) Update on possibility of All Weather Path to north of A35.
- Emma has passed this to David Groves for consideration.
 - Is the funding promised for a southern route still available?
- c) A35 Resurfacing in Chideock.
- Andy reported that this has been cancelled due to lack of money.
 - Patching will be done, but he has no idea when.
 - When the A35 is closed at Raymonds Hill for the current works (30 May for 4 nights) BT are coming to repair covers in Chideock
 - Drainage issues identified by last year’s survey need to be addressed before any resurfacing in the future.
 - Resurfacing will take place before the road surface is unroadworthy.

Date of Next Meeting: - Friday 18 August 2017.

Sal Robinson, Clerk, 18 May 2017