

## Notes from the Quarterly meeting with Highways England on 2 February 2017.

Present: - Emma Bazeley (HE), Steve Hellier (HE), Cllr Geraghty, Cllr Murray, Cllr Elliot, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Campion and Cllr Carey.

In Attendance: - The Clerk

### 1. Low Emissions Zone.

- A meeting in London with Oliver Letwin is being arranged – Andy Bean, Andy Roberts, Julian Strong and Emma Bazeley to attend for HE. This meeting will talk about Air Quality in general. Highways England are still actively chasing this meeting date. *Oliver Letwin has contacted me regarding this meeting and we have agreed to attend. A date is to be proposed by his office.*
- Emma Bazeley has viewed the presentation prepared by Andy Bean on air quality and potential solutions. This is in preparation for the meeting with Oliver Letwin.
- The requested formal clear statement from HE setting out the causes of the air pollution (speed? acceleration?) and potential solutions is in preparation. *Ongoing item*
- The costs of a LEZ to hauliers may not be a deterrent – this needs investigation by Highways England. *Andy Roberts has also asked Andy Bean to apply for Air Quality Designated Funding for a feasibility study into potential air quality improvement measures – has there been any movement on this? We seem to have missed it at the meeting?? Ongoing item*
- There is uncertainty among councillors as to how a LEZ works and HE is also unsure. The Clerk said she will try to come up with an “Idiot’s Guide to a LEZ”.
- Question - why is there any doubt that HGVs and diesel cars cause poor Air Quality. HE answer - there may be other considerations e.g. valley, hills. Funding is needed for a study. Funding comes in cycles. Cost of a study could be £40,000 - £45,000. There is only a finite amount of funding available to HE for all roads and motorways have priority. If a study is carried out it may find that there is no justification for a LEZ.
- Chideock Parish Council is considering legal action through the European Union while the UK is still a member. *Noted*
- The Route Analysis is in progress – data collected via Bluetooth is being fed in to the model. Hopefully results of this will be available early 2017, before Easter.
- Councillors confirmed that they would be happy with analysis of HGV and LGV traffic only, AM and PM peaks together with the daytime Inter-peak on a dotted map based representation. Emma said this could be ready in about 2 weeks. Councillors said that they might want more detailed information in a year or so. *Data has been requested*
- Question - when was the last time the Annual Count was carried out? Emma is having problems identifying a contact at the Department for Transport as this is their data and not a Highways England Traffic count. It was suggested that Oliver Letwin might be able to help.
- Speed Survey – the draft report is complete. A lowering from the current National Speed Limit between the top and Chideock Hill and Morecombelake recommended. *Is anything proposed for Fulvens Bend and Tizzards Knapp? I assume that a bid for funding for changes will be made? Any idea of timescale?? I have spoken with staff previously involved on the DBFO*

### 2. Safety Issues.

- Phase 1 of the data analysis from the A35 Route Based Safety Study is in progress and possible improvements are being identified. There does not appear to be a correlation between vehicle speed and safety.
- The funding bid for a Feasibility Study looking at community severance and pedestrian safety for Morecombelake, Chideock and Winterbourne Abbas has been successful (£35,000) and work will start on 1 April 2017. This study will include the number and location of traffic light controlled pedestrian crossings.

- Emma is still chasing Andy Kirby re clearing vegetation at Bullens Lane exit on to A35. [He has promised to undertake this clearance](#)
  - Land owners in the Quarr Cross area are being contacted to cut back vegetation overhanging the A35. The work would be done in September. Councillors asked if the box hedging which is obscuring the cross-road sign westbound could be cleared before the start of the holiday season. [I have asked Connect](#)
3. Off-Road HGV Testing Station west of Chideock.
- No further input from HE – CPC to keep HE informed of any progress made with DVSA.
4. Questions on data conflicts and reliability and sources of data  
No further information.
5. Any other business.
- Maps showing location of utility covers – in progress. Emma will e-mail soft copies of the maps and post hard copies to the Clerk. Soft copies received and printed at A2. However, they are not too useful as there are no reference points. Emma to get some house names added and will send hard copies to the Clerk. [I have requested the changes](#)
  - Painting of Chideock Bridge railings - this has been added to the work programme by Connect.
  - A35 resurfacing delayed in September 2017. Connect will be doing the drainage element of this work in the Spring of 2017. A “quiet” road surface will not be laid as it does not wear well and does not significantly reduce road noise.
  - Brake dust. There is a lot of what is possibly brake dust or particulate matter especially in the centre of the village. Can the PM pollution levels be measured? [I have asked Professional and Technical Solutions and this can be raised at the meeting with WDDC](#)
  - Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group review of for the future of health care in Dorset. The estimated travel times to Bournemouth / Poole hospitals appear to be unrealistic. The A35 has an impact on these changes which has not been recognised by the CCG.
  - Chideock Parish Council hopes to initiate a study of some sort to look at health impacts of the air quality issues in Chideock
  - A35 Bypass Group has asked if a representative can attend these Quarterly meetings. Emma said that she did not consider expanding the number of attendees would be beneficial and suggests that questions from the group, or indeed from any resident, should be channelled via the Clerk.
  - There was some discussion regarding the revival of the Millennium plan for a footpath on the NORTH of the A35, instead of on the south side as it is unlikely that it will be built. Emma said she is trying to find historic information on that proposal. [I have asked Connect to consider if funding is still available.](#)

Date of Next Meeting: - Friday 12 May 2017.

Sal Robinson, Clerk

10 February 2017