

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Transport & Access Focus Group - Meeting No.8, Thursday, July 4th, 2019, 6.00 pm

1. **Present:** Kate Gordon (KG) (Chair), Cllr Judy Anscombe (JA), Cllr Ed Colman (EC), Cllr Les Scott (LS), Stan Sole (SS), James Dean (JD) (Secretary) Judy introduced Philip Bray (PB) as a new member of the Group.
2. **Notes of 7th meeting, 30th April – Agreed.**

Summary of Key Points - Matters for consideration / decision by STC:

- **The Town Council are asked to support the principle of a North South Relief Road and to press for a full Feasibility Study to be undertaken;**
- **The Town Council are asked to support further investigations into the introduction of a HGV ban in Station Street (except for access) and a separate scheme for a longer distance advisory routing arrangement for HGV's to encourage them to avoid Swaffham;**
- **BDC to be requested to supply the DEFRA response to the AQAP, to provide on-going pollution data and to be advised of the next steps.**

Meeting Notes:

3. **STC Liaison Meeting with NCC Highways** – meetings on 7th May and 4th June noted. The July meeting (just held) discussed merging the meeting with the future TAEC. TAFG members expressed reservations about this as it was important for the new TAEC (which would be dealing with more strategic issues) that NCC representations were at a more senior level. Main points arising were:
 - *Beech Close parking:* NCC estimate to introduce double yellow lines on the east side of Beech Close was £5,000. Main costs were processing the changes to the Traffic Orders, dealing with objections etc. A meeting is to be held on 18th July with representatives of the Icen Partnership, the Campingland Surgery, The White Cross Road school and local residents to discuss the issue further including possible financial contributions from the public, **(JD)**
 - *Church Walk Lighting:* RB to chase for costing quote of additional electrical work.
 - *Car parking meters:* These are now being installed – aim is to be operational by 1st August 2019.

The next (last?) local Highways meeting is to be held on the 6th August 2019.

4. STC update – Committee Structure with new TAEC and Terms of Reference. Comments have been made on the draft T o R and we await the final version.
5. **The NCC WSP Report (“Swaffham Network Improvement Strategy”):** EC mentioned that at the recent meeting with Tom McCabe (NCC highways) the NCC summary including the WSP report (currently a draft) was scheduled to go to a NCC Cabinet meeting “later in the

year”, probably October. **KG & JD** to prepare final version of our comments to be inserted in the NCC report. These will include a request for a full **Feasibility Study of the relief road** to be included. Perhaps costs for this could be shared with the three Authorities concerned. Tom advised that he felt the best chance to fund the construction costs of a relief road was through **developer contributions** but perhaps in addition a feasibility study could look at whether there was a **commercial case for a relief road to provide local job opportunities**. **Ian Parkes was to look into this with Breckland officers re the Local Plan**. There is now a Economic Development Group at BDC (Cassie Ruffell). **LS** felt Liz Truss should be involved in all this and undertook to approach her.

6. With regard to HGV diversions, Tom said any **mandatory diversions** would need to be on roads suitable for the displaced traffic. In the case of the proposed ban in Station Street, the diversion route was on to a former “A” road, Lynn Street / Lynn Road which used to be the main route through the town east – west. Other **advisory diversions** over a wider area as proposed which would not require any traffic orders, but would need to be subject of discussions with other authorities such as Brandon, Mundford and Suffolk County Council. (**JD / SS**). Ed said that Nick Tupper was taking over from Tom McCabe.
7. **AQAP**. There was considerable concern at the meeting about the lack of **information from BDC** on this matter, especially the reactions from DEFRA. **Ed** offered (with other Breckland councillors) to circulate the **DEFRA response** and to try and sort out the **portable pollution measuring equipment problems** so we can have meaningful data at a range of sites. There was an urgent need to update the pollution data. It was also decided to pursue “**greening measures**” in the town centre to help reduce pollution. (**JD / SS**)
8. **Historic Town Centre** issues (ongoing) Following the meeting with Robert Campbell and Cassie Ruffell from BDC, it was decided to pursue historic England and the Heritage Lottery fund regarding funding for initiatives to make the centre of Swaffham more attractive and to conserve existing historic buildings. (**LS / JD**).
9. **TAFG (or successor)** to draw up short, medium and long-term measures as strategic objectives. (**JD, KG & JA** to draft initial document)
10. **Undergrounding of electrical cables Lynn Street**. Discussions with UK Power Networks to establish costs to continue. (**JD**)
11. **AOB**. TAFG members were concerned about representation from NCC at future meetings. **Ed** felt it was not unreasonable to ask **Ian Parkes or another senior officer to attend every quarter**, say. **EC** would be present when possible. **EC** also offered to **chase up a response from NCC officers** re the proposal to provide two - way access to Theatre Street car park.

TAFG members are reminded that there is a need to bring forward one or more projects for the **Parish Partnership Scheme NCC / STC**, the criteria for which having been already circulated.

12. Next meeting: probably, Tuesday 3rd September, 4 pm as the new TAEC.