

Public Meeting Regarding B4449 and Cycle Path 21/01/2019 -

Report

Over 100 residents attended the Public Meeting on the 21st January. The meeting was to discuss two items, a potential cycle/pedestrian route between Stanton Harcourt / Sutton and Eynsham, and the issues caused by the nature and volume of traffic on the B4449. Councillor Yvonne Constance Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Member Responsible for Environment including Highways and Odele Parsons Senior Transport Planner for OCC attended to outline their proposal and field questions. David Wallom chaired the meeting on behalf of our villages. In attendance were also your Parish Council members.

Odele Parsons presented, on behalf of OCC, three potential cycle routes to Eynsham, Route (a) via South Leigh, (b) Sutton / B4449 with a new cycle/foot path and (c) Steady's lane along the bridleway to the Pinkhill, Hill roundabout in Eynsham. There was an audience vote which voted overwhelmingly for route (b), the shortest route. The aim would be to upgrade a footpath to a bridleway and create a 3 metres wide pathway alongside part of the B4449 that could be safely used by both pedestrians and cyclists. Member of the audience volunteered to join a village liaison group to work with the council to move this forward. It was recognised there is still a long way to go before the path comes to life, footpaths to turn into bridleways, landlord consent to be obtained and not least monies to be raise. But this was a positive start to the process. Councillor Charles Mathew offered the whole of his 2019 Councillor's special projects fund of £15,000 to start the ball rolling.

The B4449 issues were discussed at some length including vehicle noise (particularly HGV's), vibration, road maintenance, poor drainage and poor pedestrian safety. Councillor Yvonne Constance started by explaining that the Sutton By-pass is no longer in the council's strategic plan due to cost and budget restrictions, but the route is still reserved in case the situation changes. But she felt there were initiatives that had been proposed by the audience that could and should be progress by your Parish Council and she would support these initiatives. These were

- 1) A prohibition on HGV's turning right out of Blackditch onto the B4449 aimed at reducing HGV traffic through Sutton;
- 2) The implementation of a 20 mph speed restriction on the B4449 through Sutton;
- 3) Lobby the council to make the B4449 a road and drainage maintenance priority
- 4) install a safe crossing place, which aims at ensuring that the children can cross the road safely to and from their school bus.

It was recognised that further work is still required, particularly by the Parish Council, to ensure that the momentum is maintained on these issues and these improvements are delivered. Councillor Charles Mathew asked all residents to write/email him via the Parish Clerk to request B4449 maintenance as this provides strong evidence of villager concerns that will help him to ensure that is given the priority it deserves by the County Council.

Copies of the photographs, vehicles statistics etc. that were on display at the event are attached below along with a copy of the Council's presentation.