

Update for The Transport and Environment Committee on Monday 20 April 2020

Background – The Transport and Environment (T&E) Committee meeting planned for 20 April 2020 was cancelled due to the current Covid -19 crisis. Future committee meetings might also be affected by continuing restrictions on movement and central government advice to ‘stay at home’. Berkhamsted Town Council now has the capability to arrange and hold ‘virtual meetings’ using the ‘Zoom’ functionality. It is intended that virtual meetings will only take place with the agreement of the respective Chair of the committee and that the items to discuss, have progressed since the last meeting. We are in most cases, reliant on external bodies (DBC, HCC and contractors) to progress most items we discuss. These organisations are of course dealing with the same restrictions as ourselves. This is invariably delaying progress in several matters.

The following is an update of items discussed at the last T&E committee meeting on the 17 February 2020:

Extract from Minutes	Update	Next Steps
<p>TE88/18, (also TE 69/19 & TE 57/19) – work on traffic lights at junction to convert to “Puffin” installation. As advised in A Freeman’s 22 January 2020 e-mail to the Town Clerk further funding has become available. So, following subsequent consultation within the Town Council and the MSCP project team it has been agreed that a more comprehensive upgrade of all the signals equipment (posts, signals, controllers, push buttons etc) will therefore take place.</p> <p>The upgrade is limited to the signal’s hardware and controller so will be an aesthetic improvement and obviously all hardware being replaced will provide a considerably longer lifespan as well as improving reliability which can always be an issue as equipment ages. It will not produce a sea change in the junction operation but the originally smaller scope upgrade was not going to deliver that either.</p>	<p>No change to current situation – the most recent indication was that work could be completed in May/June. This was before the current Covid-19 crisis.</p>	<p>Realistically, this work will not be planned until Covid -19 restrictions are lifted. Town Clerk (designate) has approached DBC Multi-Story Car Park Project manager to understand the impact the Car Park and Lower Kings Road mini roundabout will have on traffic phasing at the junction. The 2 projects are probably mutually dependant? No response has been received to date. Town Clerk (Designate)</p>
<p>TE91/19 Flooding around Victoria School – At short notice the Town Clerk applied for and was granted £1,000 P3 funding (Parish Paths Partnership) to carry out work at the rear of Victoria School. This work will be undertaken via DBC.</p>	<p>It has not been possible to progress further due to Lockdown. Further funding may be required, probably from DBC (Victoria School is an LA School)</p>	<p>Agree timescale and full extent of additional work once Headteacher is back. This might need to be post wet weather. Town Clerk</p>

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<p>accommodate the buses. It was up to the school to manage the arrival of buses and make use of the Hall Park waiting facility. Cllr Conian would take this up with Berkhamsted School when the opportunity presented itself.</p>		
<p>TE 09/20 Parking Forum MSCP Update – The Parking Forum would be meeting on 18 February. In the meantime, the Project Manager had advised that Storm Denis had delayed the energising of the site. Huber plan to leave site at the end of February. Cllr W Conian and Cllr S Cloughton had raised some concerns with the Project Manager about the location of pedestrian crossings, particularly the inconvenience for pedestrians who wanted to cross the site on the west side of Lower Kings Road. An additional crossing was needed at this point. They were of the view that internal walkways were too narrow which could lead to pedestrian safety problems. Sight lines and turning space, especially for large delivery trucks, were also problematic. These matters would be raised at the Parking Forum the next evening. It was noted that the installation of the mini roundabout was a condition of the planning permission and the car park could not be commissioned before this work was completed.</p>	<p>A request has been made to the MSCP Project Manager for an update</p>	<p>Chase the MSCP Project Manager for a response. Even though staff are probably working remotely, they are proving difficult to contact. Town Clerk (Designate)</p>
<p>TE 10/20 Gulley Clearance Policy- Berkhamsted Town Council 19/HCS/859</p>	<p>A meeting has not yet been possible with HCC, due to lockdown.</p>	<p>Contact HCC Assistant Asset Manager - Drainage, to arrange on site meeting when possible. Even though it may be easier to clean the gullies with less traffic on the roads. Staff and teams are also affected by sickness and self-isolation. Town Clerk (designate)</p>

Extract from Minutes

Update

Next Steps

TE 11/20 Kings Road/Kingshill Way/Shootersway junction safety concerns regarding the right turn from Kings Road into Shootersway

Whilst acknowledging that the lights are a great improvement, the Committee **discussed** concerns regarding the above which have been raised intermittently by members of the public since the lights were installed in 2017. The key issue is that when waiting to turn right a green light can be visible indicating that it is safe to turn, when in fact the traffic coming from the A41/Chesham Road has priority.

Cllr Reay had already reported that there have been no reportable personal injury collisions (PICs) at this junction in the last three years. In fact, none have been recorded along Shootersway to the junction with Denny's Lane, all the way down Kings Road to the High Street and Kingshill Way to the A41 junction. In the five-year record there are three collisions in Kings Road, the nearest 206m from the junction with Shootersway and Kingshill Way the rest on the route to the High Street. In the five-year record there were also no PICs from Kingshill Way to the A41 junction, and in Shootersway. This data comes from the Police, who only report collisions involving personal injury.

In the view of the signals and highways engineers, there are sufficient visible signal heads to indicate when drivers have right of way and STOP lines to wait at when signals show red, together with road markings to guide motorists where to position themselves when turning right. However, in view of the concerns raised, the signals team have been asked to comment. When their response is received Cllr Reay will let the Town Council know.

Nothing further to report

Await comments from HCC signals team

Extract from Minutes

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TE 14/20 Climate Change Steering Group and Working Groups

The committee **received, considered and approved** as appropriate any notes of recent meetings of the CCSG and Working Groups:

The climate event referred to below (TE 17/20) had been discussed together with an update on the group's forward plan. Additionally, ATM update forward actions

Climate Emergency Steering Group: Meeting scheduled for 10 February 2020 (circulated on 11 February);

Cllr Conian advised that the group had reviewed actions and priorities. They had discussed the climate event to be discussed under item TE 17/20 below. In addition, arrangements for the Town Meeting had been discussed and it had been agreed that Working Group chairs/members should prepare displays and have members present to explain their work and engage with residents.

Action: All working group chairs to produce materials and supply to Town Clerk in good time

Energy Working Group: Meeting scheduled for 10 February 2020 subsequently postponed. Details had been received regarding group members' liaison with local schools regarding energy assessment and potential use of solar panels. The 10 February meeting has been rescheduled for 3 March 2020.

Habitats Working Group: 14 January 2020 meeting.

Travel Working Group: 2 October 2019 meeting. (Next meeting is scheduled for 24 February 2020.)

Nothing Further to report, meetings did not take place due to lockdown

Post lockdown, revisit working group meeting dates and scope.

Extract from Minutes	Update	Next Steps
<p>Reminder about GDPR responsibilities associated with running working groups</p> <p>Community Bus Project Update (WC).</p> <p>Cllr Conian reported that detailed information was awaited from CAD prior to more detailed work being undertaken regarding the trial. Such information was required to inform the Town Clerk’s work on seeking quotes from other providers which would then be considered by Full Council. Cllr P White was of the view that authorisation was not in place to run the trial and he asked that the bus group’s Terms of Reference be written up. He also advised that he had spoken to another bus company. The Town Clerk referred to a list of meetings where the matter had been discussed and advised that following the setting of the budget, seeking information in advance of presenting quotations, seemed a sensible way forward and in accordance with Financial Regulations. There was further discussion. On a separate matter, Cllr Conian was able to advise Cllr Corry that the issue of accommodating bus passes had been resolved should a community service operate the route.</p> <p>Cllr Stevens stated that the key issue was to plan the trial. Cllr Conian stated that she would seek advice from HCC about the status of operators of commercial bus services together with other options and report back. She would also be convening a further meeting of the Bus Working Group</p>	<p>Nothing further to report</p>	<p>Agree scope of project and possible operating model. Town Clerk/ Cllr Conian/Working Group.</p>
<p>TE 15/20 Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean 30 March – 13 April 2020</p>	<p>‘Spring Clean’ curtailed because of restrictions. Berkhamsted Litter pickers 25 March event cancelled. Transition Town Berkhamsted did however, complete a clean on the 1 March, before full restrictions were implemented.</p>	<p>This was part of a national event.</p>