



MINUTES

Transport & Environment Committee
Monday 31st October 2022 at 7.30 pm
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted

PRESENT: Cllrs N Taylor (Chair), A Foster, G. Stevens, P Fisher
Member of the public in attendance: Mr Martin Spence.

OPENING MATTERS AND GOVERNANCE REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

TE 62/22 To receive and approve Apologies for Absence
Councillor S Cloughton, A Hardinge

TE 63/22 Declarations of Interest

- i. To **receive** declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.
None
- ii. To **receive** written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.
None
- iii. To **grant** any requests for dispensation as appropriate.
None

TE 64/22 To receive and approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 25th July 2022 (previously circulated).

The minutes were approved as circulated and signed by the chairman as a true record.

Previous Minutes Actions

Reference	Action	Complete	Outstanding - Responsibility
TE 46/22	Proposed HCC highway spends for Berkhamsted. Cllrs were asked to forward any further requests for Highway spend to Cllr N Taylor. Action - Cllrs	Yes	
TE 47/22	Visit Sawbridgeworth Town Council and report back to the Bus Scrutiny Committee with the next steps.	No	Town Clerk

TE 65/22 Public Participation

To suspend Standing Orders to invite any Members of Public present to speak.
Mr Spence attended to observe and had no questions.

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

TE 66/22 Berkhamsted Castle Trust

To **receive** an update report on any issues relating to Berkhamsted Castle Trust.
No update received.

TE 67/22 Hertfordshire County Council - Councillor N Taylor

1. To **receive updates** on:
 - a. Requests for Highway spending across Berkhamsted.
 - b. 20 mph Zones in Berkhamsted.
 - c. Installation of Speed Indicator Device on London Road.

Councillor Taylor reported on the above matters in the following order:

1c. The second of 2 speed indicator devices is installed on London Road in 40mph zone. Cllr Taylor not sure it's in right place as not very visible, but this will be kept under review. Views will be sought, could be more effective if moved closer to the town. After discussion committee members preferred a location closer to the entrance of the town along the straight road, so that drivers know they must slow down, before the bend, nearer to Gardenfield Land junction.

1b. Herts CC ready to move forward with the central 20mph zones. Shootersway not included because current average speed too high. Kings Road presents similar problem and cannot be done without traffic calming. Cllr Taylor's view is that traffic needs to be slowed down throughout the town. Some roads were marginal for acceptance, e.g. Shrublands Road was 'marginal area' and these would need additional traffic calming measures on those roads. Cllr Taylor would pursue what he could in terms of speed reduction measures. He was pleased with progress to date. Next step would be consultation by affected residents, then a further consultation throughout wider area.

Cllr Taylor wished to formally record that the proposal has been received and councillors agreed this unanimously. Cllr Stevens added that the access of Queens Road to Shrublands request for additional yellow lines to improve sight lines at the end of the road and it was very difficult to pull out of Queens Road. Any images of problem parked cars are very useful to make the point and evidence for Highways.

Cllr Taylor commented that pictures were always required by Highways when requesting yellow lines and speed limits. Shootersway is an area where something is needed but the detail of what this may be is not yet clear.

1a. Councillor Taylor advised the meeting that he has a budget each year split between capital items such as hardware and operational. He awaits firm estimates of cost of the 20mph. Works can include resurfacing roads or footpaths – roads should be covered from central budget. Committee members were asked to offer ideas for projects as soon as possible. He would like spending on town infrastructure asap. 20mph remains the priority.

Cllr Taylor had produced a list of roads and locations where there were problems to be included in the scope. The list was based on feedback from residents and his own observation. He asked colleagues to feedback any comments or other sites for inclusion either at the meeting, or by email to him by Friday 11th November. He asked that comments be addressed to his email addresses at both Berkhamsted Town Council and Hertfordshire County Council (nigel.taylor@hertfordshire.gov.uk). His list included the following streets:

Shootersway
Cross Oak Road, Charles Street, Shrublands Road junction
Swing Gate Lane (bottom)
Gravel Path
White Hill
Station Road

Road with solely traffic problems: High Street traffic light junction with Kings Road.

2. **To discuss the HCC Scope of Traffic Study:**

Initial input for inclusion in HCC suggested traffic study scope:

- a. Impact of more house building on the Berkhamsted's traffic & roads.
- b. Alternatives to car and lorry as transport.
- c. Existing initiatives.
- d. Existing traffic problem locations.

Cllr Foster expressed concern about traffic along Shootersway, Butts Meadow and Chesham Road with others across Hilltop and traffic coming off the bypass at 60mph and it needs special attention. Cllr Stevens stated that he had asked for the 30mph limit to be pushed outwards. Youth TC had stated they would like a crossing at Chesham Road/Hilltop. At peak periods there were a lot of young people trying to cross the roads. Cllr Fisher felt it would be safer to make the whole area 30mh to avoid the speeding up and slowing down effect. There is a problem with a crossing close to a corner. Crossing suggested so that students coming from main part of town would have proper crossing in Swingate Lane. Cllr Foster advised that this was in Local Plan

TRANSPORT

TE 68/22 Berkhamsted Bus Service Consultancy

The Clerk reported that a provisional meeting date had been arranged for 7th November to review the project and projected costs.

Cllr Stevens advised that one milestone agreed was that additional information be provided to the 'scrutiny committee' with proposals to see whether councillors are minded to take it further, with the implications of doing so and deciding what sort of working party would be required if it decided to move the project forward. The scrutiny committee is not intended a decision-making body, this is for full council.

TE 69/22 Castle Street Bus Congestion

Cllr Foster advised that residents of Castle Street report nothing has happened, and they are trying to arrange another meeting with residents and Richard Thompson and have invited Cllr Foster. Meeting arranged for 17th November. Cllr Foster will meet Mr Thompson beforehand. The school could put out a sign on the pavement telling people to turn off their engines and look at the feasibility of dropping off at Kings campus not Castle Street. Buses are still outside the school and there was a long-term plan to create a coach park at Greenfield Road which was not practical, in her view.

Cllr Foster will also speak to Mr Thompson about 6th form parking – perhaps the school could impose some sort of parking restrictions. Ongoing monitoring will be undertaken.

ENVIRONMENT

TE 70/22 Affinity Water River Bulbourne projects

To report planned update from Affinity Water and CARP delayed until later in the year. Delayed until December by Affinity on CARP they are waiting for a proposal for the consultancy still in process of undertaking tenders. Cllr Stevens reported asking Northchurch PC and Dacorum to offer a share in the costs, but no response has been received. **Action:** Send reminder to them both – Town Clerk.

TE 71/22 Berkhamsted Energy Feasibility Study (RCEF)

To receive an update on the progress of the Berkhamsted Energy Feasibility Study. Progress has been made. A number of sites have been identified to move forward. Ashlyns School is very keen. Some responses are awaited.

TE72/22 Thermal Imaging Camera

The first surveys will be undertaken shortly by a group of volunteers and professional thermographer who will be training the volunteers. It is hoped that the first group on the waiting list will be completed shortly, and volunteers will then be able to undertake remaining surveys. The pilot will report in detail with recommendations to move the use of the camera forwards.

TE 73/22 Project Tracker Report

To receive the latest Project Tracker Report which was agreed as circulated. It was suggested that the project list be split into two sections, those with, and those without sponsors. The list to be taken to budget workshop.

Recommendations – for consideration by committee and then to full council.

Cllr Stevens questioned the **BTC carbon footprint external audit** as something left over from climate emergency. He had found carbon emissions data to Ward level.
Recommended project for deletion.

Bus Cllr Stevens proposed a decision deferred pending outcome of scrutiny committee and further research.
Recommended for continuation.

Entrance to Berkhamsted visitor Experience.
Recommended for deletion.

Public open spaces - planting and bio-diversity enhancement Wild Communities

Cllr Taylor believes core part has been done by contractors and residents who could be encouraged to enhance.

[Sponsor (Cllr Conian) to advise possible next steps to Council].

CARP Cllr Stevens is sponsor. Ongoing.

Energy project

Project complete with fully funded report.

[Next steps Cllr de Hoest to advise Council].

CAB event planning – complete.

AIR QUALITY enhanced testing Cllr Stevens confirmed data would be captured on mobile and it is then downloaded. A quick and simple solution to find out if there was an air quality problem should be undertaken using inexpensive software and mobile phone. This approach was endorsed. It was decided to move forward with purchase of monitor. Cllr Taylor agreed this would provide evidence of any problem going forward.

Project Officer had spoken to company in Chesham who can provide consultancy to carry out monitoring and reporting of air quality in the town.

New youth amenity budget agreed for qualitative research, which must be capable of inclusion in a future Neighbourhood Plan and include all resident children including those at schools outside the town as far as possible. Expert advice needed once results are in.

Place Strategy Moving forward.

Cost of living meeting with local stakeholders needed - Cllr Stevens has prepared a list of local organisations for a joint meeting with DENS – they have funding to support a local manager to allocate to an initiative. Cllr Taylor has £10,000 budget for local initiatives and has not had any applications to date which could augment.

It was resolved that the project list recommendations be presented to full council to agree what is going ahead and those dropping off. Cllrs Stevens, Foster and Nigel will work on slimming down the list for review.

Coronation The clerk reported that some councillors had volunteered for the working group. Next full council meeting formally set up working group to set up and get it moving forward.

Date of next meeting Monday 20th February 2023

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

