**B4224 Combined Parish Meeting: 16th December 2020**

**Notes**

**Present:**

**Fownhope Parish Council:** Cllrs Kevin Braybrook (Chair), Stuart Eames, Ed White and Tim Campbell (HWG) and Helen Tinson (Clerk)

**Hampton Bishop Parish Council:** Cllr Mark Frankland

**Dormington and Mordiford** **Parish Council:** Cllr David Lloyd

**How Caple, Sollershope and Yatton Group Parish Council:** Cllr Elizabeth Glover

**Brockhampton Parish Council:** Linda Yapp (Clerk)

**Upton Bishop Parish Council:** Cllr Brian Spencer

**Linton Parish Council:** Cllr Paul Crumpton

**Herefordshire Council:** Ward Cllr John Hardwick, Cllr John Harrington and Clive Hall

**Barton under Needwood Parish Council:** Cllr Sue van Daesdonk

**Apologies:** – Lynda Wilcox, Hampton Bishop PC; Cllr Christina Harris, Holme Lacy PC; Cllr Derek Hughes, D&M PC; Ian Connolly, Safer Roads Partnership; Ward Cllr Barry Durkin.

Kevin Braybrook opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. The agenda item to approve the notes from the last meeting was brought forward. No amendments were proposed and the notes were approved.

Mark Frankland (HBPC) noted some difficulties uploading large data files to send to Clive Hall as agreed at the last meeting but hoped to resolve the issues and send the files shortly.

Clive Hall (CH) reported he has read the Upton Bishop document and has some ideas how best to take it forward. He is awaiting availability from Cllrs Durkin and Lester to talk through the document and has had contact with Cllr Spencer (UBPC).

**Safer Roads:**

Cllr Sue van Daesdonk of Barton under Needwood Parish Council gave a presentation on their 5-year traffic calming project, the ‘Better, Safer Barton Scheme’ which has seen excellent results. Please refer to the attached Powerpoint document for the full presentation, but to summarise:

Barton is a large historic village in a conservation area in East Staffordshire. Situated close to the A38 and A50 it is used as a link road to the M6 and M1 and has had considerable issues with HGV vehicles (particularly overnight), and a high volume of traffic (approximately 500 vehicles per hour) during the day. A Community Group was formed and worked with the Parish Council to secure buy in from the County Council to complete a traffic calming scheme totalling an estimated £860k, funded primarily from Section 106 monies, Parish Council reserves and raised funds. Their WWI memorial is in the centre of the village and the power of the 2018 World War I Centenary celebrations were considered crucial to the success in getting residents on board.

The scheme is ongoing but the measures so far installed have proven extremely successful in calming traffic, primarily in reduction of speed rather than reduction in volume. The main message was to keep going and not give up and to consult constantly throughout the parish.

CH noted good contacts with colleagues at Staffordshire Council and offered to make contact to understand the project from the council’s perspective. The need to understand exactly what we are trying to achieve and what might change driver’s behaviour was reiterated. There was discussion about raised platforms and their success in Barton, along with street lighting, other road narrowing possibilities and the success of the community speed watch team in Barton. It was noted that a councillor records the company of each HGV travelling through the village during CSW sessions and follows up with a letter asking them to consider an alternative route. Cllr van Daersdonk offered to put us in contact with the councillor who heads the CSW team.

Cllr Kevin Braybrook thanked Cllr van Daersdonk for her excellent presentation and she left the meeting.

**Draft Memorandum of Understanding:**

Feedback on the current status of parish approval of the amended draft Memorandum of Understanding noted that the document had been approved by Fownhope PC, had been discussed by Hampton Bishop PC prior to CH amendments, and is awaiting discussion at January meetings for all other PC’s. Some tidying of the document was proposed but it was agreed that we proceed with the document as it is until it has been discussed by all parishes and then tidied as required.

There was general agreement that the document proposes a spirit of collaboration. Cllr Harrington (JH) confirmed that the document has been looked at to ensure HC can commit to everything proposed. JH further confirmed it is helpful when parishes pool resources and that he is keen to work together under these circumstances.

CH was asked to provide some clarity, or links to relevant legislation, on street lighting requirements for pedestrian crossings and agreed to prepare a document giving the key points for each consideration.

In terms of moving forward, it was agreed that there are two main areas of focus:

1. Individual parish requirements
2. An overarching theme to reduce traffic on the B4224 as a whole

It was proposed that a smaller group is created to meet with JH and CH to discuss in detail the series of measures required to achieve the reduction of traffic on the B4224 as a whole, and agree the options that would be both feasible and achievable. The outcome of any meeting will be brought forward to the larger group for discussion and agreement. JH agreed it would be useful to have a smaller group to meet more regularly, as well as periodic larger meetings to ensure everyone is informed and represented. It was noted that parish representation needed to find a balance with type of parish and location, ie parishes with a village centre (such as Fownhope) and those more spread out (such as How Caple). It was therefore proposed that a smaller group of 3-4 parish representatives meet with JH and CH early in January and to feedback to the larger group at a meeting in February. Parishes who wished to participate in the smaller group meetings were asked to contact Helen Tinson, Fownhope Clerk (HT) by Friday 8th January 2021.

**Any Other Business:**

Cllr Ed White gave an update on the EVOLIS SID summarising the effect that leaving the EU without a deal may have on both the cost and delivery time for the EVOLIS. He has looked into other UK made devices but noted they are considerably more expensive.

Cllr Brian Spencer noted that some sample Google routes from Gloucester to Hereford already show the B4224 as the slowest route and asked whether we actually do know who is using the B4224, ie visitors from out of county or more local traffic, and whether this information would change our proposed action. JH offered to look into whether HC could instigate a series of destination surveys which would enable us to understand where the traffic is coming from and determine the problem we need to tackle.

**Actions:**

All: Parishes who wished to participate in the smaller group meetings to contact Helen Tinson, Fownhope Clerk (HT) by Friday 8th January 2021.

All: To take draft MoU to next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Harrington: To look into a series of destination surveys.

Cllr Harrington: To propose a date in early January for a meeting with the smaller group.

Clive Hall: To contact colleagues at Staffordshire Council for feedback on Barton under Needwood scheme.

Clive Hall: To prepare a document providing clarity on street lighting requirements for pedestrian crossings, or references to legislation.

Mark Frankland: To send SID data files to Clive Hall.

The date of the next meeting was suggested as Wednesday 17th February 2021, 7pm, via Zoom.

Agenda Items for the next meeting:

* Update on SIDs

There was no further business and the meeting was closed.