

BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group held on Tuesday, 17 December 2019 at 10.15 am at Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow

PRESENT:

Mr W McEwan (Chair)

Mr F Cassidy (Vice-Chair)	Mr B Shirley
Mr D Gawne	Mr D Pidduck
Mr KR Hamilton	

Also in Attendance:-

Mr M Barry	-	Interim Assistant Director - Regeneration and Built Environment - Barrow Borough Council
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mr S Kemp	-	Assistant Traffic Management Technician
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager
Mrs V Upton	-	Traffic Management - Team Leader

Mr W McPhail, representative from Stagecoach and Sergeant D Proctor and PC K Renyard representatives from Cumbria Police Authority attended the meeting for items 3 and 4 respectively (minutes 21 and 22 refer).

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms T Ingham, Mr M Worth and Mr R Worthington.

20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Group held on 15 October 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

Members received an update on the concerns raised regarding cycling in the pedestrianised area of Barrow Town Centre. Sergeant David Proctor explained that cyclists would be given an initial warning before enforcement took place.

The local Member for Risedale thanked Barrow Local Committee for agreeing to the siting Speed Indication Devices in the Greengate Street area.

The local Member for Roosecote confirmed that Roose Primary School had been approached regarding traffic congestion close to Roose Primary School on North Row. It was explained that whilst it was acknowledged that utilising the area of land at the front of the School could alleviate some of the problems concerns had been raised regarding funding as this would be the responsibility of the School.

The Local Area Highways Network Manager confirmed that the suggested one-way system on Quarry Brow, Barrow was still in abeyance.

21 UPDATE FROM STAGECOACH

Members received a verbal update from a Stagecoach representative.

The Sub-Group's attention was drawn to the reduction in passenger patronage which was down 3% on the previous year highlighting there had been no reduction or changes in services that may have attributed to this.

A discussion took place regarding the problems incurred by the Service due to the roadworks on the A590, highlighting the current issues on Dalton Gate, Ulverston which affected the reliability of the X6/6 Service.

During the course of discussion officers highlighted changes to the infrastructure at Crossmoor due to housing developments either side of the carriageway and asked if Stagecoach anticipated including the new junction on their route. Stagecoach confirmed this would be considered on completion of the works emphasising they would be as proactive as possible.

The Sub-Group's attention was then drawn to a number of problems incurred due to parking issues at Dalton Lane, Bank Corner, Tudor Square, County Square, Alfred Barrow Medical Centre, Sike Meadow, Ormsgill Hotel and Moor Tarn Lane. It was agreed officers would investigate the matters further.

A discussion took place regarding the replacement of bus shelters and it was confirmed that the County Council did not provide them. Members were informed that a company called 'Clearview' also owned a number of the bus shelters in the area. During the course of discussion unlit shelters were highlighted as a safety concern.

The Sub-Group was informed that Stagecoach was still not in a position to confirm when the minibus fleet would be changed, highlighting this had been agreed as a priority. Members were informed that although the current fleet was over 14 years old they were being refurbished on a rolling programme, therefore, it was felt they were still suitable vehicles.

Members highlighted their concerns regarding the buses currently used in the Barrow area emphasising it was felt they were not fit for purpose due to the number of times they broke down. The Sub-Group drew attention to the assurances which had previously been made regarding the area receiving buses from Kendal

highlighting this had not come to fruition. It was explained that two double deckers had been received from Kendal and but were not in use. Members were informed that a Business Case had to be put forward for new buses and that taking into consideration the current decline in patronage this would not prove favourable for them. All members of the Sub-Group agreed to support any campaigns for new buses in the area.

The local Member for Dalton North, whilst acknowledging the reason for the removal of the X7 Service was due to the loss of the School Transport Contract, raised his concerns regarding the lack of communication with the public regarding this matter.

In conclusion, the Chair, on behalf of the Local Committee, congratulated Cumbria and North Lancashire (CNL) as being the top bus operating company of the year within Stagecoach, with Barrow depot being the top operational depot. Members also welcomed that CNL had also recently won God for the Top Shire Bus Operator of the Year at the UK Bus National Awards Ceremony and the Silver Award as being the Top UK Bus Operator of the Year.

22 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

Members received an update from Cumbria Police Authority representatives.

The Sub-Group was informed of the anti-social behaviour on West Shore Caravan Park caused by vehicles on the car park and suggestions to stop this were welcomed from members. Suggestions were made to place a fence around the perimeter of the land and placing a barrier at the entrance of the car park. It was explained that the land was owned by Barrow Borough Council and the Interim Assistant Director - Regeneration and Built Environment, Barrow Borough Council agreed to investigate this matter further and report back.

Members attention was drawn to problems incurred due to parked Uber Taxis on Crellin Street. Members raised several concerns regarding companies from outside the area providing a taxi service in Barrow. It was agreed the Chair would bring this matter to the attention of Barrow Borough Council who were the Licensing Authority for further investigation.

The Sub-Group was informed that the County Council's Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) were receiving abuse but were unable to collect evidence due to their Policy regarding the use of bodycams. The Police recommended that consideration of permanent use of bodycams for CEOs should be considered in future.

The local Member for Dalton North highlighted an accident which had happened outside Askam Village School and asked Cumbria Police Authority if a safe parking campaign could be organised as a priority. The Sub-Group was informed that a campaign was already scheduled for the beginning of the next school term which would involve the mini police.

The local Member for Dalton North raised his concerns regarding the speed of vehicles on Lotts Road to Askam Village School and suggested that a weight and width restriction be considered on this part of the highway.

Members were informed of a number of accidents due to the inclement weather. Officers explained that roads were gritted in accordance with the winter maintenance programme. The Sub-Group was informed that a complete review of the Authority's Winter Service was being undertaken and it was confirmed that Stagecoach would be involved in the discussions.

23 NELSON STREET, DALTON-IN-FURNESS

Members agreed that this item be deferred to a future meeting to allow a site visit to take place.

RESOLVED, that the item be deferred to a future meeting of the Highways Advisory Sub-Group to allow a site visit to take place.

24 BARROW CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER VARIATION NO 40

The Sub-Group considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the responses to the statutory consultation and advertising of the Traffic Regulation Order, The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) (Order 2001) Variation Order (No. 40) 20>< (referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report) (“the Order”) which proposed speed restrictions for Biggar Bank Road, Barrow-in-Furness.

The local Member for Walney South asked that his thanks and appreciation be conveyed to officers for the work they had undertaken on this matter. During the course of discussion it was agreed that officers would forward the local Member details regarding the siting of a bus shelter in the area.

RECOMMENDED, that having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (detailed at paragraph 7.2 of the report) The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) (Order 2001) Variation Order (No. 40) 20><, be brought into operation as advertised.

25 BARROW WORKS PROGRAMME 2019/20

The Sub-Group received the Barrow Works Programme for 2019/20. Members were informed that the majority of the scheduled works were complete and it was anticipated the budget would balance.

Members congratulated the weed spraying which had been undertaken Empire Ground Care. A concern was raised regarding the dead vegetation which remained on Duke Street following the spraying. It was explained that the Authority did not remove this but it was agreed ZEST would be contacted in the new year with a view to them removing this.

A discussion took place regarding carriageway markings and it was anticipated all the works would be completed provided there was no inclement weather.

The local Member for Risedale referred to the resurfacing scheme at Raglan Court and congratulated the partnership work which had been undertaken with Barrow Borough Council.

26 BARROW LOCAL COMMITTEE PROVISIONAL DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21

Members considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which sought approval of the Provisional Devolved Highways Capital Programme 2020/21 including prioritised lists of schemes, which would form the basis of the Local Committee’s Devolved Highways Capital Programme for 2020/21 and provided a core programme for future years subject to annual review. The Sub-Group noted that the indicative allocation for 2020/21 was £1,177,000.

The local Member for Roosecote raised concerns regarding footway surface dressing on Holbeck Road/Yarlside Road. The Local Area Highways Network Manager agreed to assess this if it was not on the existing programme of works.

A query was raised regarding the proposed drainage scheme on Thorny Nook Lane taking into account the lack of use of the area in question. Whilst officers acknowledged this they highlighted the problems regarding flooding in this area.

A member raised a concern regarding the traffic light timings on Abbey Road/Holker Street/Rawlinson Street and the Local Area Highways Network Officer agreed to request that they be optimised.

RECOMMENDED, that the provisional Devolved Highways Capital Programme for 2020/21 (detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report), subject to final determination following the approval of the 2020/21 Council budget early in 2020 be approved.

27 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Sub-Group was informed that European Regional Development Funding had been received to be channelled specifically towards low-carbon economy projects. It was explained that one scheme being investigated was the introduction of electric vehicle charging points in the town centre. Members agreed that the Barrow Highways Sub-Group should consider the location of points at their next meeting.

28 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Sub-Group would be held on Friday 14 February 2020 at 10.15 am at the Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness.

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm