

BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group held on Friday, 14 February 2020 at 10.15 am at Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow

PRESENT:

Mr W McEwan (Chair)

Mrs A Burns
Mr D Gawne
Mr KR Hamilton

Mr MH Worth
Mr D Pidduck
Mr R Worthington

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mr M Hodgkiss	-	Scheduled Bus Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager

- (1) Mr N Walls and Mr R Clark, representatives from United Utilities, attended the meeting for item 3 – Update from United Utilities (minute 31 refers).
- (2) Sergeant D Proctor, accompanied by two work experience young people, attended the meeting for item 4 – Update from Cumbria Police Authority (minute 32 refers).
- (3) Mr W McPhail, representative from Stagecoach, attended the meeting for item 5 – Bus Services and Infrastructure in Barrow-in-Furness (minute 33 refers).

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr F Cassidy.

30 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Group held on 17 December 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

Further to minute 22 – Update from Cumbria Police Authority members were informed that no response had been received from Barrow Borough Council regarding anti-social behaviour on West Shore Caravan Park. It was agreed County Council officers would follow this matter up and report back to the Sub-Group.

31 UPDATE FROM UNITED UTILITIES

Members received a verbal update from Nick Walls and Russell Clark.

- (1) The Sub-Group was informed that flooding on Walney Promenade had been eliminated following the installation of a new drainage system.
- (2) Members received an update on the works which had been undertaken on the ten prioritised back streets in Barrow. It was explained that repairs to lateral sewers and some main sewer repairs had been completed in the Lincoln/Stafford Street areas and that resurfacing had been undertaken.
- (3) The Sub-Group was informed that there was a commitment to undertake CCTV surveillance to identify any defects. Members were informed that as there was no historic flooding problems in the area the challenge was to have a business case agreed to allow further works to be undertaken.

The local Member for Walney North congratulated United Utilities Clean Water Team for the work they had undertaken to minimise disruption and make water available during a recent incident. The Sub-Group was also informed that following works undertaken on Walney there had been no flooding on the Promenade during the last seven months.

During the course of discussion members were informed that bespoke manhole covers which automatically released had been installed on the Promenade and these had been sourced by a local business in Barrow.

The local Member for Hindpool drew attention to a dip in the road at Hartington/Wordsworth Street and raised concerns that this could possibly be a collapsed sewer. The United Utilities representatives agreed to investigate this matter further.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, thanked the United Utilities representatives for the work which had been undertaken in the Barrow area.

32 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

Sergeant David Proctor gave an update on the concerns raised regarding cycling in the pedestrianised area of Barrow Town Centre. He informed the Sub-Group that there was no lawful execution to stop cycling but suggested that the installation of signs in the area may deter cyclists and give the Police authority to prosecute.

Whilst members appreciated the positive effects of cycling they raised their concerns regarding the problems incurred by cyclists in pedestrianised areas and agreed to raise this matter further at a future Partnership meeting.

The Sub-Group received a positive update regarding illegally parked Uber Cars. Members were informed that good joint working between the Police and the Authority's Parking Enforcement Officers had enabled a number of Parking Enforcement Notices (PCNs) to be issued.

Sergeant Proctor raised concerns regarding police cars exiting from Andrews Way onto the busy A590. During the course of discussion members highlighted the proposed new housing estate in the area and emphasised the additional problems this would have on the traffic in the area. The Local Highways Network Manager informed members that work was being undertaken to extend the existing gyratory system which could possibly solve the issues but highlighted this would be subject to additional Government funding.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Proctor for his attendance and invited him to future meetings.

33 BUS SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN BARROW-IN-FURNESS

The Sub-Group considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which provided an update on bus service changes in Barrow and the provision of bus shelters in the area.

Members were informed that most bus services in Barrow were provided on a commercial basis by Stagecoach, with the exception of the service 5, and some evening and Sunday services. It was explained the Barrow town network had been stable for a number of years, with no changes to routes or timetables and dates of the most recent changes to the town bus services routes in Barrow were outlined.

The Sub-Group was informed that when any operator decided they wished to change their timetable or route they had to give a minimum of six weeks' notice to the Traffic Commissioners Office who held route registrations, highlighting there was no requirement to consult or right of objection to proposals. It was explained that as Highway Authority, the County Council had to be informed prior to a registration being submitted to allow it to consider replacement of any withdrawn journeys highlighting that the Authority had no current budget for this.

Members noted that once a registration was submitted, if there was a significant change to the service provided, details would normally be sent by the Scheduled Bus Services Officer to Parish Councils and local County Council elected members.

A discussion took place regarding the provision of bus shelters and members were informed that the County Council did not own bus shelters and they were normally provided and maintained by borough, district, town and parish councils. It was explained that in Barrow a number of shelters were owned and maintained by the Borough Council, but there were also a large number of shelters provided by advertising company 'ClearChannel' in return for approval to sell advertising space.

The Sub-Group was informed that the Borough Council was currently not funding new shelters but would consider taking responsibility of shelters if funded from elsewhere and agreed prior to installation but highlighted they still continued to maintain their existing shelters. Members noted that if there was a proposal for a new shelter this had to be referred to the Council's Bus Infrastructure Officer.

Members raised their concerns regarding the lack of bus shelters on both sides of Holker Street and the Scheduled Bus Services Officer agreed to investigate this matter further. During the course of discussion attention was drawn to the lack of road markings highlighting the bus stops on Holker Street and it was agreed the Local Area Highways Network Manager would investigate this.

A discussion took place regarding the age of the bus fleet in Barrow which was a commercial decision for the operators who ran the services. Members asked about the future use of electric buses and were informed this would not happen in the county in the near future due to the cost implications.

The Sub-Group had previously raised their concerns regarding the age of the fleet in the Barrow area and were informed that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Local Committee would be meeting the Managing Director of Stagecoach the following week to discuss this matter further.

RECOMMENDED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) members contact either the Scheduled Bus Services Officer or Bus Infrastructure Officer for any further specific information.

34 SANDY GAP LANE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS - VARIATION ORDER NO 41 PROPOSALS

The Sub-Group considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which sought a recommendation to agree to proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement of a proposed Prohibition of Motor Vehicles restriction, to replace an existing One-Way traffic restriction on Sandy Gap Lane, Walney.

During the course of discussion a concern was raised regarding accessibility for fishermen and members were informed they would have access if they had a right to.

RECOMMENDED, that Barrow Local Committee agree to proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement of a variation to The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) Order 2001, (“Variation Order No. 41”) in respect of the restriction (as set out in Appendices 1a and 1b of the report), having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (more specifically referred to in paragraph 7.2 of the report).

35 NELSON STREET, DALTON-IN-FURNESS

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Sub-Group.

36 BARROW WORKS PROGRAMME 2019/20

The Sub-Group received the Barrow Works Programme for 2019/20.

The local Member for Walney North thanked the Local Area Highways Network Manager for the improvement works undertaken on Jubilee Bridge. He drew attention to the two lanes which filtered into one and asked whether a ‘filter in turn’ sign could be erected at this point. It was agreed this suggestion would be investigated further.

Members held a discussion regarding the traffic signals located close to Tesco and the congestion they caused for vehicles turning to Walney. A request was made for the timings to be adjusted and it was agreed this would be monitored and changed accordingly.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, thanked officers for the work undertaken on Jubilee Bridge.

37 LOCATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

The Local Area Highways Network Manager gave a verbal update on electric vehicle charging points and informed members funding for them would need to be available from European Regional Development Funding. It was explained that a number of factors would need to be taken into consideration, including on-street charging for facilities; a Programme Manager had been appointed for the County Council to drive this initiative forward.

It was agreed that a presentation on this matter would take place at the next meeting of the Sub-Group.

38 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) The Sub-Group was informed that in the short-term the current lighting would be made brighter and an additional column would be installed on Hibbert Road. It was explained that, subject to funding, an improved scheme was proposed.

The local Member for Hindpool conveyed her thanks and appreciation to officers for the initial short-term improvements.

- (2) Concerns were raised regarding traffic signal timings at a number of locations including turning right out of Cornwallis Street and the junction at Rawlinson/Holker Street. It was agreed to invite the Traffic Signals Team Leader to the next meeting of the Sub-Group to discuss these matters further.
- (3) The local Member for Roosecote raised concerns regarding the road surface on Cornwallis Street and it was agreed officers would investigate this further.
- (4) A request was made for the installation of barriers outside Tesco to stop people parking their cars illegally to go into the store. It was agreed this would be investigated.
- (5) The local Member for Hawcoat referred to a previous suggestion for the introduction of a one-way system at Walney Brow. It was explained this had been noted and put in abeyance for the time being, highlighting this would be investigated in the future.
- (6) The local Member for Hawcoat raised his concerns regarding potholes on Hollywood Park. It was explained that this was the responsibility of the landowner; the Chair of the Sub-Group agreed to raise this matter with Barrow Borough Council.
- (7) The local Member for Dalton South had raised concerns regarding the emergency closure of a short length of Manor Road, Barrow to vehicles due to the state of disrepair of Manor Road Bridge. Members were informed that this length of highway was not the responsibility of the Authority, therefore, discussions would need to be undertaken with the owner.

39 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Sub-Group would be held on Wednesday 1 April 2020 at 10.15 am at the Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm