

BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group held on Friday, 11 December 2020 at 10.15 am at Via TEAMS

PRESENT:

Mr W McEwan (Chair)

Mrs A Burns	Mr B Shirley
Mr F Cassidy (Vice-Chair)	Mr MH Worth
Mr D Gawne	Mr R Worthington
Mr KR Hamilton	

Also in Attendance:-

Ms S Cordon	-	Director of People and Places (Barrow Borough Council)
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager
Mrs V Upton	-	Traffic Management - Team Leader

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr S Nott.

65 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Group held on 13 October 2020 were confirmed as circulated.

66 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Working Group on 16 February 2021.

67 JAMES STREET, ASKAM - SURFACE WATER

The local Member for Dalton North asked officers for an update on an issue regarding excess surface water on James Street, Askam. The Local Area Highways Officer explained that officers had undertaken an inspection and although the gullies were working effectively it had been acknowledged there was an issue during heavy rainfall. It was, therefore, proposed to locate an additional gulley in the future and this scheme would be included in a future work programme.

It was agreed that the Local Area Highways Officer would confirm the situation in writing with the local Member.

During the course of discussion members suggested that the above and other similar issues in individual divisions should be raised directly with officers rather than being discussed at the Highways Sub-Group meeting. The Chair agreed to take into account the suggestion for future meetings.

68 PARKING ISSUES ON CHAPEL STREET, DALTON-IN-FURNESS

The local Member for Dalton North raised concerns regarding parking issues on the corner of Fell Croft and Chapel Street, Dalton. He informed the Sub-Group that a discussion had taken place regarding the possible introduction of residents' parking in the area and asked if this proposal could be investigated further.

The Traffic Management Team Leader highlighted potential issues which could arise throughout Dalton due to the implementation of residents' parking and it was agreed officers would investigate this matter through a parking demand and availability assessment before a consultation was considered. The local Member acknowledged the need to look at this in more detail whilst emphasising the need for a solution to the parking problems in the area.

69 SKELGATE, DALTON-IN-FURNESS - REVIEW OF EXISTING TRAFFIC CALMING

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave an update on the outcome of the assessment and review of the existing traffic calming feature on Skelgate in Dalton-in-Furness which was in response to concerns raised by the local Member following communication with local residents and discussion with the Town Council.

The Sub-Group was informed that the traffic data and concerns of residents were reported to the November 2020 CRASH meeting. It was explained that the data indicated that broadly drivers did comply with the 20mph speed limit on Skelgate, especially near to the existing traffic calming feature going up the hill near to where the speed limit entry point was. It was noted that further down nearer to Dalton Castle and Market Place the speeds were slightly higher, especially in a northwest bound direction heading out of Dalton. Members were informed that the numbers of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) indicated that around 7.9% of all traffic were

recorded as HGVs which was not exceptionally high, however, there was a 7.5 tonne weight limit in place, and it was considered that it should be lower in this instance.

Members were informed that at the CRASH meeting the data was considered by the Fire Service, Police and Highways representatives. It was explained the data showed that the traffic calming was currently helping to keep speeds low upon entering the 20mph zone and for drivers leaving. Officers explained that evidence regarding traffic induced vibration did not give any indication that there would be resultant damage to nearby buildings. The Sub-Group noted that the traffic calming on Skelgate had been in place for many years, therefore, it was not considered appropriate to remove the traffic calming as it was felt this may lead to increased speeds on Skelgate and Dalton as a whole.

The Sub-Group were asked to note that the conclusion of the assessment recommended that Cumbria highways officers work with the Police, where possible, to increase enforcement of the existing 7.5 tonne maximum gross weight limit and compliance with the 20mph speed limit.

The local Member for Dalton North felt it was not appropriate to remove the traffic calming as it appeared to be working but highlighted the issues regarding large vehicles using the stretch of road. He welcomed the engagement which had taken place regarding enforcement. During the course of discussion he asked for confirmation that this matter was not causing damage to residential buildings and officers confirmed that all evidence suggested this was not due to traffic vibration.

During the course of discussion the local Member for Walney North welcomed the enforcement of speed limits but raised his concerns that the Police did not enforce 20 mph limits. It was agreed that the Chair of the Sub-Group would write to the Chief Constable highlighting the concerns raised.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the assessment of the current traffic calming on Skelgate in Dalton-in-Furness and the outcome that the existing road hump should NOT be removed be noted.

70 SUMMARY OF THE CONDITION OF BACK STREETS AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES IN THE BARROW AREA

The Sub-Group considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the condition and prioritising of the maintenance of the back streets in the Borough of Barrow highlighting how they were currently assessed and treated.

Members welcomed the consultation which had taken place with United Utilities prior to any resurfacing work taking place on a back street which hopefully reduced the need to return and dig up the street in the near future. It was noted that discussions had also taken place with United Utilities regarding their future works programme which allowed the Authority to adjust their proposals as necessary thereby reducing the need to undertake abortive works and costs.

During the course of discussion members asked if maintenance could be carried out on a group of back streets. Officers explained that as far as possible work was scheduled in zones. The Director of People and Places, Barrow Borough Council suggested that if work was undertaken in zones the authorities could work together to undertake street cleaning, enforcement and education around waste as part of the Love Your Streets Campaign.

Members welcomed the data and it was agreed the information would be also be provided by division.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, thanked all involved in securing extra funding to assess and maintain the Back Streets. It was agreed that members could contact officers if they wished to hold a site visit of back streets in their Division.

The local Member for Roosecote asked whether Marine Terrace, North and South Roads were adopted and the Local Area Highways Network Manager agreed to look into this matter and respond direct.

RECOMMENDED, that the report be noted.

71 BARROW WORKS PROGRAMME 2020/21

Members welcomed the positive Barrow Works Programme for 2020/21.

The local Member for Walney South expressed his thanks and appreciation for the work undertaken on Bridge Road.

The Chair, on behalf of members, asked that the Highways Team be complimented on the additional work they had undertaken during the current pandemic.

72 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) A discussion took place regarding abandoned vehicles, noting that due to recent changes in legislation this was now the responsibility of both the County and District Councils. It was agreed that a joint meeting would take place between both authorities, including a representative from the County Council's Waste Services Team to discuss the matter further.
- (2) Members held a detailed discussion regarding the issues with trees in the Barrow area and their significant maintenance costs. Whilst the Sub-Group acknowledged their contribution to the green agenda highlighted the costs

incurred for maintenance and replanting. It was, therefore, agreed that the Authority would work in partnership with Barrow Borough Council to consider policies regarding future maintenance.

- (3) The local Member for Dalton North informed the Sub-Group that:-
- (a) representatives from Dalton Community Action Group were planning to drive around the area on 13 December to deliver presents;
 - (b) the 'Keep Clear' road markings on Duke Street, Askam were not visible in the dark and asked officers if they could be repainted;
 - (c) following motorists speeding near Ireleth St Peter's C of E Primary School Askam Ireleth Parish Council had arranged for the sign to be cleaned. It was agreed that the local Member would ask the Parish Council to contact the Local Highways Network Manager to discuss this matter further.
- (4) The local Member for Roosecote raised concerns regarding a number of abandoned boats and trailers on Rampside and along the Promenade. The local Member for Walney North informed the Sub-Group that he had tried on a number of occasions to have the boats removed. He explained he had written to the owner of the land in question, the Duchy of Lancaster, but had not received any response. It was agreed the local members for Roosecote, Walney North and Walney South would investigate the matter further.
- (5) The local Member for Ormsgill drew attention to a defect report which had been posted on the Authority's on-line reporting system from one of his constituents regarding Hindpool Road/Michaelson Road Access Ramp. Members noted that the road was a private road and not a public highway; the carriageway, footways and all supporting structures (including the retaining wall) were privately owned by BAE, therefore, Cumbria County Council did not have any responsibility or enforcement powers relating to the condition of the road. The Sub-Group were informed that the Local Highways Network Manager had contacted BAE who had agreed to investigate the matter further.
- (6) The Chair of the Local Committee, on behalf of members, congratulated officers for obtaining funding for Bridge Road from BAE and asked that their thanks and appreciation be conveyed to everyone involved.

73 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Sub-Group will be held on Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 10.15 am via Teams.

The meeting ended at 11.55 am