

**BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP**

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group held on Friday, 11 June 2021 at 10.15 am.

**PRESENT:**

Mr W McEwan (Chair)

Mrs A Burns

Mr F Cassidy (Vice-Chair)

Mr D Gawne

Mr MH Worth

Mr R Worthington

**Also in Attendance:-**

- |               |   |                                      |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Mr D Chalmers | - | Countywide Highways Network Manager  |
| Mr M Dooz     | - | Traffic Manager Team Leader (Barrow) |
| Mr S Giles    | - | Development Management Officer       |
| Mrs L Harker  | - | Senior Democratic Services Officer   |
| Mr D Haughian | - | Programme Lead                       |
| Ms T Ingham   | - | Area Manager - Barrow                |
| Mr K Tetchner | - | Local Area Highways Network Manager  |

(David Proctor, Cumbria Police Authority and Roger Exley, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service attended for minutes 3 and 4 respectively).

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S Cordon and Mr K Hamilton.

**2 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Group held on 9 April 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

**3 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY**

David Proctor highlighted concerns regarding illegal parking by Uber Eats drivers in the town centre, explaining that whilst their limited resources of PCSOs could deal with any criminal activity they were unable to undertake any issues relating to parking enforcement. It was agreed that officers would raise this matter with the Authority's Parking Team Leader and pass on officer contact details to David Proctor.

During the course of discussion concerns were raised regarding an increase in takeaway food outlets at Hollywood Park and the possible increase in traffic congestion in the area. The local Member for Walney North drew attention to an outstanding virtual meeting by members of Barrow Highways Sub-Group to Hollywood Park following receipt of an assessment which had been undertaken. The Local Highways Area Network Manager explained that the visit had been postponed due to the decrease in traffic during the pandemic; it was agreed this would be organised as soon as possible with an invitation being extended to David Proctor, Cumbria Police Authority and Roger Exley, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

#### **4 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Roger Exley, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service attended the meeting for this item of business. He explained that following issues raised at the last meeting of the Sub-Group regarding traffic congestion on the highway at the Household Waste Recycling in Barrow this had significantly improved.

Members were made aware of issues caused for emergency vehicles due to double parking on the highway, particularly in rural areas, and were informed that information was being circulated by Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service to highlight the need to park responsibly.

The local Member for Hindpool raised concerns regarding the number of vehicles parked due to lack of restrictions and the significant amount of litter in the service area at the rear of Cross Keys Public House/Debenhams store. The Sub-Group was informed there had been a number of fires in the area recently and emergency vehicles had found access to the site difficult due to the parked vehicles.

It was agreed that the Area Manager would arrange a site visit which would include a representative from the Authority's Traffic Team, Parking Enforcement Team, Roger Exley, Streetcare and elected members

#### **5 2021/22 FLOOD AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which presented an overview of flood and development management activities in the Barrow area.

The local Member for Hawcoat raised a concern regarding flooding in the Abbey Heights area. The Development Management Officer informed members that recent conversations had taken place with the Site Manager who had pledged to build a temporary measure to control the situation but explained that the land in question was privately owned and discussions were in progress with landowner.

The local Member drew attention to the recent flooding of properties on South Row due to problems on Stoney Dyke Lane. The Local Highways Area Network Manager confirmed that the Authority had initially made the area safe and United Utilities had now repaired the problem.

The local Member for Walney South raised his concerns regarding the continued flooding on Thorny Nook Lane and the lack of inclusion of this matter in the report. It was agreed that this matter would be included in the next report to the Sub-Group.

The local Member for Walney North raised his concerns about the lack of communication from officers at Barrow Borough Council regarding flooding at Cows Tarn Lane. It was agreed that the Chair of the Highways Sub-Group and the Development Manager Officer would speak to officers at Barrow Borough Council regarding this matter.

**RECOMMENDED,** that the following be noted:-

- (1) the details provided in appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report;
- (2) Thorny Nook Lane be included in a future report to the Sub-Group;
- (3) any significant comments, changes and/or amendments will be highlighted here in subsequent and future reports to the Sub-Group.

## **6 BARROW WORKS PROGRAMME 2021/22**

The Local Area Highways Network Manager presented the Barrow Works Programme 2021/22. It was agreed that members would be updated as necessary following any budget amendments made by a meeting of the County Council in June 2021.

The local Member for Hawcoat asked when the road markings and cats eyes would be reinstated on the coast road. The Local Area Highways Network Manager explained that all previous road markings would be reinstated and anticipated the lines would be re-painted in the following two weeks.

A discussion took place regarding the purchase of equipment by the Authority to repair potholes and members were informed this had been purchased but arrival of the machinery was still awaited. It was agreed the Local Area Highways Network Manager would keep members updated.

**RECOMMENDED,** that the Programme be noted.

## **7 LEVELLING UP FUND BID**

Members received a presentation from the Programme Manager, Capital Programme regarding the Levelling Up Fund (LUF).

The Sub-Group was informed that following the unsuccessful Future High Street Fund application in 2020 the application to the LUF had built on the projects identified in that Bid. It was explained this supported Barrow town centre as a strategic regeneration priority and focussed around a package of projects which included improving the Market Hall and The Forum Theatre as well as enhancing access to those cultural assets/attractions and connecting them to the rest of the town through better transport infrastructure and improvements to the public realm.

Members were informed that the management arrangements for the public realm and accessibility improvements scheme cost was circa £3m. It was explained it was proposed that Cumbria County Council would deliver the public realm and accessibility improvements on behalf of the Borough Council and would be responsible for any cost over-runs. The Sub-Group noted that the County Council would receive a 7.5% Project Management fee of direct construction costs to cover staff costs and would enter into a collaboration agreement with Barrow Borough Council.

The Sub-Group was informed of the next steps and noted that preparations were underway to submit the application. The Leader of the Council and Chair of the Local Committee would sign a letter supporting the Barrow LUF application.

The local Member for Hawcoat asked whether the stairs to the car park would remain and officers confirmed that, currently, it was anticipated they would stay to allow access to the rooftop car park. It was explained that an allowance had been included in the Bill for the inclusion of a lift but until a detailed design had been undertaken to consider what could be afforded this could not be guaranteed.

The Sub-Group drew attention to the waste land at Dalton Road and highlighted its offensive view. It was explained that Barrow Borough Council owned this piece of land which was not included in the Bid at present but acknowledged the importance of developing this in the long-term.

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other items of business on this occasion.

## **9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Sub-Group would be held on Tuesday 12 October 2021 at 10.15 am. Members agreed that venues for future meetings would be discussed regularly but for now they would be scheduled to be held remotely.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am