

BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group held on Friday, 9 April 2021 at 10.15 am.

PRESENT:

Mr W McEwan (Chair)

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

Also in Attendance:-

Mr C Broadbent	- Road Safety Co-ordinator
Mr D Coyle	- Manager of Flood & Development Management
Mr M Dooz	- Traffic Manager Team Leader (Barrow)
Mr A Dunn	- Capital Portfolio Manager – Capital Programmes
Mr R Exley	- Station Manager Service Delivery & Apprenticeships - Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service
Mr S Giles	- Development Management Officer
Mr M Hammond	- Highways Network Officer
Mrs L Harker	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	- Area Manager - Barrow
Mr K Melville	- Area Highways and Transport Manager
Mr S Parkinson	- Watch Manager - Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service
Mr K Tetchner	- Local Area Highways Network Manager

Mr W McPhail attended for agenda item 5 – Update from Stagecoach (minute 87 refers).

83 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Ms S Cordon.

84 MINUTES

With reference to Minute 80 – Barrow Works Programme 2020/21 (enforcement of 20 mph speed limits) the local Member for Walney North informed members that the Association of Chief Police Officers had produced a Policy on Speed Enforcement in 2015 which specifically mentioned speed enforcement within 20 mph zones:-

“To only enforce appropriately placed, signed and engineered 20mph limits if there are persistent or high-speed offenders, but advised against large scale or routine enforcement.”

In summary, 20 mph speed limits could be enforced but this would not be carried out routinely unless there were persistent issues by high-speed offenders. It was explained there were dedicated Casualty Reduction Officers within the Constabulary who could provide appropriate advice on this matter and details would be made available to members.

With reference to Minute 80 – Barrow Works Programme 2020/21 the Chair of the Local Committee thanked officers for the cycling repair stations. He then referred to the request for further information regarding the protocol for a zebra crossing and asked for those details as soon as possible.

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Group held on 16 February 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

85 SAFER SCHOOLS - SCHOOL STREETS INITIATIVE

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which introduced the School Streets initiative and was aimed at reducing traffic levels outside schools during the arrival and departure times.

The Sub-Group was informed that the Initiative was an idea pioneered by the Sustrans Charity which aimed to tackle the congestion, poor air quality and road safety concerns that many schools experienced during drop-off and pick-up times. It was explained that the extent of a ‘School Street’ was typically defined by signs and supported by cones, which had to be placed and removed each day, therefore, schools would be asked to arrange the placing of the temporary signs and cones.

Members were informed that not all areas were suitable for this Initiative and following correspondence with a number of other authorities who had implemented the Scheme it had been concluded that those schools with the minimum of roads serving it, together with local support and enthusiasm for the Scheme were the key to their success.

The Barrow Local Committee meeting held on 10 March 2021 had been made aware of the School Streets Initiative and requested that an explanatory paper be prepared following notification that Askam School had been informally approached by officers, although no commitment had been made, to pilot this Scheme.

Whilst the Sub-Group welcomed the Initiative they emphasised their concerns regarding the lack of any communication with members regarding this matter. Following a detailed discussion it was agreed that a separate informal meeting be convened as soon as possible with members, in advance of the next meeting of Barrow Local Committee, to discuss and agree the criteria to be used for this and recommend the schools which it was felt should be included in the initial pilot.

RECOMMENDED, that following an informal meeting with members Barrow Local Committee agree to proceed to informal consultation on the proposal to introduce a “School Street” in the Barrow area outside a specific school plus a reserve school, the effect of which will be to reduce traffic levels outside of the school during school arrival and departure times.

86 A595 GRIZEBECK - PROJECT UPDATE

The Sub-Group received a presentation from the Capital Portfolio Manager – Capital Programmes regarding the A595 Grizebeck Improvement.

Members were informed of the strategic priorities and scheme overview, issues and challenges, funding, scheme objectives, scheme development stages, routes presented at consultation, updates on progress, next steps and the key milestone.

The Sub-Group noted that the scheme objectives were to support economic growth, improve connectivity, improve journey time and safety for all road users and minimise traffic impacts on communities.

Members received an update on progress and were informed that the ecological surveys were ongoing, the topographical survey had started, the geotechnical investigation was about to be commissioned with further engagement planned with the community. It was explained that the preliminary design was being further developed with connectivity for walking and cycling being a key consideration and further dialogue was proposed with key landowners in the coming weeks. The Sub-Group noted that the improvement scheme coincided with a safety scheme in and around Grizebeck which detailed 50 mph speed limit through Dove Bank, solid white lines outside the school and 40 mph in Beanthwaite. It was proposed to develop the preliminary design further and work towards planning a submission in August 2021 with an anticipated Project end date (ensuring factors such as retention were taken into account) of August 2025.

The Sub-Group welcomed the Scheme and thanked officers.

87 UPDATE FROM STAGECOACH

Mr McPhail gave an update on the bus network and informed members that a full service had now resumed and unless there was a further lockdown due to the current pandemic there was no intention to make any changes in the near future.

A discussion then took place regarding TTROs and whilst Mr McPhail highlighted the positive communications which took place between Stagecoach and the County Council he raised his concerns regarding lack of consultation with other utility companies.

He highlighted a recent issue in Dalton where a road closure sign had appeared on the network for a short period of time without any engagement with the appropriate utility company. The Local Area Highways Network Manager informed members this had been an error by the company and that to date no decision had been agreed regarding the proposed scheme.

During the course of discussion it was confirmed that the ownership of any consultation was the responsibility of the statutory undertaker and not the County Council.

Mr McPhail then drew attention to a number of outstanding problems regarding traffic congestion at designated bus stops caused by illegally parked vehicles. It was agreed this information would be made available to the Traffic Manager Team Leader for Barrow who would investigate the matters further. During the course of discussion it was agreed that the matters should also be raised with the Parking Enforcement Team.

A concern was also raised regarding the Hollywood Park roundabout and access to the Park. The Sub-Group was informed that the Local Area Highways Network Manager was investigating this matter and would keep members informed.

88 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

This item was withdrawn from the meeting.

89 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Members received a verbal update from Roger Exley, Station Manager Service Delivery & Apprenticeships, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

Mr Exley echoed the concerns which had been raised regarding traffic congestion at Hollywood Roundabout and the problems encountered by emergency vehicles. The Local Area Highways Network Manager explained that proposals to alleviate the issues had been put forward to the landowner and a response was awaited. It was agreed that a meeting would be convened with members and officers to discuss this matter further.

During the course of discussion he also raised safety concerns around the Household Waste Recycling in Barrow due to the increasing number of vehicles using the facility. Members agreed with the issues raised and confirmed that officers were investigating a resolution to the problems.

A discussion took place regarding anti-social behaviour and it was confirmed there had been an increase in fires in the Barrow area during the pandemic. Members were informed that a number of issues were due to refuse bins being left on the highway. It was explained that the Service was part of 'Operation Furniture' which involved a number of partners working together to try and eliminate those issues.

The Sub-Group was informed that road awareness training would be resumed and an invitation would be extended to members.

The Station Manager welcomed the invite to the Sub-Group meeting and it was agreed this would be extended to future meetings.

90 2021/22 FLOOD AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT

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 which included current major or strategic planning applications, details of Section 106 contributions update, flooding investigations and the flood and development management planning application procedure.

The Sub-Group welcomed the Flood and Development Management Planning Application Procedure noting that the case officer would issue a response to the local planning authorities within 21 days of receipt of the consultation of an application and would send a response for major applications 24 hours in advance as notification to the local Member.

A discussion took place regarding Section 106 Agreements and officers confirmed that, in the main, there was a five years warranty for the receipt and spending of this funding. Members emphasised the importance of education contributions.

The Sub-Group welcomed the information which had been provided and continued attendance by the Flood and Development Management Team at future meetings.

RECOMMENDED, that the report be noted.

91 BARROW LOCAL COMMITTEE PROVISIONAL DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

The Sub-Group received a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which sought approval of the revised Devolved Highways Capital Programme 2021/22, including prioritised lists of schemes, which would form the basis of the Local Committee's Devolved Highways Capital Programme for 2021/22 and provide a core programme for future years subject to annual review. It was noted that the updated allocation for 2021/22 was £991,000 for the Non Principal Road Network (NPRN) and pothole funding £728,000.

Members were informed that in order to accommodate the revised figure and achieve all works detailed on the original provisional Programme it had been necessary to move a number of identified schemes into alternative pots of funding. It was explained that to this end the following schemes would be delivered and funded through the DfT pothole additional funding stream:-

- Surface Dressing totalling £91,000
- Carriageway Resurfacing totalling £85,000
- Footway Reconstruction Totalling £140,000
- Carriageway Patching Totalling £50,000
- Total £366,000

RECOMMENDED, that

- (1) Barrow Local Committee approve the revised Devolved Highways Non Principal Road Network Capital Programme for 2021/22 (as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report);
- (2) Barrow Local Committee consider inclusion of the schemes detailed above (outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report) within the Pothole Capital Funding for 2021/22.

92 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) Karl Melville, the Senior Manager - Highways Delivery updated members on potholes in the Barrow area. He outlined the new various techniques being considered by the Authority for implementation to address the issues which included the JCB Pothole Pro, Nu-phalt Thermal Road Repair and Velocity Patching, highlighting the significant savings which could be made.

The Sub-Group was informed that a procurement exercise had been undertaken with regards to obtaining a JCB Pothole Pro which would be funded centrally but available for use in all six areas of the county. Members noted that if this was approved the machinery could be available in Cumbria by late May.

A discussion took place regarding what was considered a reasonable length of time to repair a pothole. Members were informed there was a target of 10 working days from the initial report to make the fault safe. It was agreed that the results of a recent public survey regarding performance would be circulated to members.

During the course of discussion the Sub-Group was informed that a Highways Engagement Team had recently been established to collate consistent reports from the HIMS system. It was explained that in future it was intended to assign individual members of the Team to each local committee area and it was anticipated they would communicate with each Elected Member on a monthly basis.

- (2) The local Member for Hindpool raised concerns regarding safety outside schools in her Division and across the whole of the Barrow area highlighting that the health and safety of children was paramount. Members emphasised the need for further information regarding the protocol for a zebra crossing as soon as possible to enable the concerns to be investigated. It was agreed that the Traffic Management Team Leader, in consultation with members, would discuss this matter further.

93 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Sub-Group would be held on Friday 11 June 2021 at 10.15 am at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 12.35 pm