

**BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP**

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group held on Tuesday, 12 October 2021 at 10.15 am.

**PRESENT:**

Mr W McEwan (Chair)

Mrs A Burns

Mr F Cassidy (Vice-Chair)

Mr D Gawne

Mr KR Hamilton

Mr R Worthington

**Also in Attendance:-**

- |               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| Mr M Dooz     | - | Traffic Manager Team Leader (Barrow)     |
| Mr S Giles    | - | Flood and Development Management Officer |
| Ms K Hall     | - | Assistant Development Management Officer |
| Mrs L Harker  | - | Senior Democratic Services Officer       |
| Ms T Ingham   | - | Area Manager - Barrow                    |
| Mr K Tetchner | - | Local Area Highways Network Manager      |

Nick Walls and Russell Clark attended for agenda item 3 – Update from United Utilities (minute no 12 refers)

David Proctor attended for agenda item 4 – Update from Cumbria Constabulary (minute no 13 refers).

Roger Exley attended for agenda item 5 – Update from Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service (minute no 14 refers).

**10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Nott and Mr M Worth.

**11 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Group held on 11 June 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

## **12 UPDATE FROM UNITED UTILITIES**

Members received a verbal update from United Utilities (UU) representatives Nick Walls and Russell Clark.

The Sub-Group was informed that following concerns raised regarding a sink hole in Hartington Street both UU and the County Council had undertaken initial investigations. Officers explained that no problems were found and that UU would revisit the site in the next week to carry out further investigations; confirming that if there were damaged pipes they had the technology to make this structurally sound or could excavate and repair if necessary.

A discussion took place regarding the back streets and members were informed that following a previous spend in excess of £5m by UU they no longer held a budget to undertake a planning programme but would continue to carry out repairs as necessary.

The local Member for Risedale drew attention to a potential fault in the sewerage system across the Channel. Officers explained that they were awaiting receipt of a permit from Natural England and Marine Management Organisations to allow them to investigate the establishment of the root cause of the problem.

Members noted that this matter would be considered at a meeting of Barrow Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it was agreed that an invite should be extended to Doug Coyle, Cumbria County Council's Manager of Flood and Development Management together with representatives from UU.

The local Member for Roosecote raised a concern regarding flooding in the basement of properties on South Row, Barrow. Members were informed this had been investigated by both UU and the County Council who were both confident this was not flooding from highway water or the sewer. Officers advised that the owner should protect the property through tanking.

The local Member for Roosecote raised a concern regarding flooding on Page Bank Lane and Peasholme Lane, Barrow. It was agreed the Development Management Officer would investigate this matter further and report back direct.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, expressed their thanks and appreciation to UU for their positive partnership working with the Local Committee.

## **13 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY**

Members received an update from Cumbria Constabulary who welcomed partnership working, informing the Sub-Group that a meeting was taking place today with regards to the issues on Crellin Street.

The Sub-Group was informed of a number of concerns being reported regarding loud exhausts on vehicles and explained this would be investigated by the Road Policing Unit.

A discussion then took place regarding problems concerning e-scooters and members were informed that a driving licence, MOT and insurance were a requirement by law in order to use them. It was explained that Cumbria Constabulary proposed to carry out a social media campaign to alert the public to those requirements and members suggested that the County Council should also consider including this information on their website. During the course of discussion it was confirmed that the same rules did not apply to electric bikes as they were hybrid.

Members then discussed the law regarding the use of mobility scooters and, whilst acknowledging the concerns raised with regards to their use on the highway, confirmed that they were not covered by the same restrictions as e-scooters.

The local Member for Roosecote raised a concern regarding vehicles driving the wrong way along Yarlside Road, Barrow and it was agreed this would be raised at the next CRASH Group meeting.

A concern was raised regarding the proposed new drive-through takeaway at Hollywood Park. The Area Highways Network Manager informed the Sub-Group that following further correspondence the landlord was currently carrying out a site survey which would be shared with members when it became available.

The Chair, on behalf of members, thanked Cumbria Constabulary for their update.

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

Members received an update from Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service who echoed the concerns raised regarding traffic congestion at Hollywood Roundabout, highlighting the recent problems this had caused for emergency vehicles.

A discussion took place regarding Bonfire Night and the Station Manager confirmed that measures had been undertaken to promote safety. It was explained that communications had taken place with young people through the Hub and it was anticipated further engagement would take place in schools.

The local Member for Hindpool informed the Sub-Group that a Streetsafe event was scheduled to take place in Buccleugh Court and it was agreed that a Team from Cumbria Fire and Rescue would be in attendance.

The local Member for Hindpool asked for an update on the problems with regards to waste bins at the rear of Cavendish Street/Preston Street area. The Station Manager confirmed that operational business engagement had taken place and the issues had reduced.

The Sub-Group was informed that road awareness training had resumed and asked that members promote this to their constituents.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, thanked the Station Manager for his update.

## **15 2021/22 FLOOD AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Sub-Group considered 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 asked if attenuation plans had been agreed for the Abbey Heights development. The Flood and Development Management Officer confirmed they had been installed and were functioning.

The local Member for Walney South thanked officers for the work undertaken at Thorny Nook Lane and asked for an update with regards to completion. The Local Area Highways Network Manager agreed to look into this matter and report back direct.

The local Member for Risedale raised concerns regarding recent flooding at Park Drive. Officers acknowledged the concerns and explained that the gullies were unable to cope with the sudden heavy rainfall.

The local Member for Roosecote raised concerns regarding Peasholme Lane and it was agreed the Flood and Development Management Officer would investigate this matter and report back direct.

The local Member for Roosecote drew attention to the clearing of land on Leece Lane. The Flood and Development Management Officer confirmed this concern had also been raised by Barrow Borough Council officers and the Local Area Highways Network Manager would investigate the matter further.

The local Member for Hawcoat raised a concern regarding excess water on Hawcoat Lane due to the leaves in the gutters and asked if this could be swept. It was agreed that the Local Area Highways Network Manager would contact Barrow Borough Council with regards to a sweep being undertaken.

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

## **16 ROAD SAFETY AT SCHOOLS**

The Traffic Management Team Leader gave a brief update on road safety at schools, highlighting issues regarding congestion in the immediate vicinity of schools at the start and end of the school day.

Members noted that the aim of the Authority was to reduce the risk of collisions and to make the road feel safer in order to improve the attractiveness of walking and cycling to and from school.

The Sub-Group was informed that issues differed between schools, therefore, there was a need to assess and understand the unique problems before any improvements could be developed and agreed. It was explained that highway improvements would require funding, therefore, they would be assessed alongside other requests for highway improvements in future budgets.

The local Member for Risedale asked for an update on the signs to alert drivers to the one way system on School Street. The Traffic Management Team Leader agreed to investigate this matter and report back direct.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Local Committee informed members that due to Allerdale Local Committee not taking part in the Schools Streets Initiative Carlisle Local Committee had been given approval to introduce two Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders for the scheme. They emphasised their concerns that Barrow Local Committee had never been afforded that opportunity.

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

## **17 UPDATE ON LAND AT REAR OF CROSS KEYS PUBLIC HOUSE**

Further to the meeting of Barrow Highways Sub-Group held on 11 June 2021 where concerns had been raised regarding the number of vehicles parked in the area due to lack of restrictions the Traffic Management Team Leader informed members that this matter was being investigated and he would update members accordingly.

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

The Local Area Highways Network Manager gave a positive update on the Barrow Works Programme 2021/22.

The local Member for Roosecote asked for confirmation that Holbeck Park Avenue would be included on the gritting route for this year. The Local Area Highways Network Manager explained that this request had been made and he would investigate the matter further. During the course of discussion the potential lack of gritter drivers due to problems with HGV drivers was highlighted.

The Chair of the Local Committee raised his concerns regarding the classification of roads in the Barrow area and the effects this had on the receipt of funding. It was agreed that the Local Area Highways Network Manager would provide a report regarding reclassification of roads in the Barrow area for consideration at the next meeting of Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group.

## **19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair of the Local Committee drew attention to a concern which had been raised regarding poor visibility at the entrance to the Community Centre on Cows Tarn Lane and a request for a mirror to be erected. The Local Area Highways Network Manager explained that the Authority did not install mirrors but he would investigate the matter further.

## **20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Sub-Group would be held virtually on Friday 17 December 2021 at 10.15 am via Teams.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm