

BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group held on Tuesday, 14 February 2023 at 10.15 am at Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG

PRESENT:

Mr W McEwan (Chair)

Mr D Gawne

Mr KR Hamilton

Also in Attendance:-

Mr M Dooz	-	Traffic Management Team Leader (Barrow)
Mr M Hammond	-	Highways Network Engineer
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mr J Harte	-	Lead Officer - Flood and Development Management
Mr J Houghton	-	Traffic Manager
Mr W McPhail	-	Operations Manager, Stagecoach (Barrow)
Mr P Milburn	-	Fire & Rescue Service - Station Manager
Ms C Patterson	-	Project Lead
Ms H Sankey	-	Parking Team Leader - South
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager

37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Burns, Mr F Cassidy, Ms T Ingham, Mr S Nott, Mr M Worth and Mr R Worthington.

38 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Group held on 9 December 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

39 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

40 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The Sub-Group received a verbal update from Paul Milburn, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

Members were informed that issues with regards to arson and fire had improved which it was felt was partly due to interventions and the positive work undertaken by the community hub.

The Sub-Group was advised of the imminent safe and legal transfer on 1 April 2023 of Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service to the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner as part of the Local Government Re-organisation (LGR).

During the course of discussion members highlighted the challenges the Service was experiencing during LGR and raised their concerns regarding the recent HM Inspection that had taken place under those difficult circumstances.

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

RECOMMENDED, that the update be noted.

41 UPDATE FROM STAGECOACH

Members received a verbal update from the Operations Manager, Stagecoach.

The Sub-Committee was advised that new small buses were not planned for Barrow due to the difficulty in obtaining the vehicles required.

The Chair of the Sub-Group raised his concerns regarding the condition of the town buses and the lack of space on the vehicles for wheelchairs and prams.

The Operations Manager acknowledged the concerns raised and informed members that the double-decker vehicles would be replaced in the next couple of months with existing buses from the Kendal area but would not have any additional space for wheelchairs and prams.

A discussion took place regarding issues for buses due to illegal parking around the Barrow area and members were informed that whilst there were still concerns this had improved due to renewed lines and signs.

The Chair of the Sub-Group drew attention to a concern he had received from a constituent with regards to the lack of public transport being available to visit the Dock Museum. Members were advised that a review of the whole of the bus network was being undertaken and this would be taken into consideration.

The local Member for Roosecote raised his concerns regarding the lack of gritting on Holbeck Park Avenue and asked whether this had affected the bus service. Members were advised that there had been a need to suspend the service in the area on occasions due to the conditions of the road. The Local Area Highways Network Manager informed the Sub-Group that it was proposed to include Holbeck Park Avenue in the gritting route in future.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, congratulated Stagecoach in Barrow on their recent UK Bus Award and welcomed the update.

RECOMMENDED, that the update be noted.

(Mr K Hamilton left the meeting at this stage).

42 UPDATE FROM PARKING SERVICES

The Sub Group received a verbal update from the Parking Team Leader - South. Members were informed that enforcement was now taking place at the Furness General Hospital and Dalton-in-Furness.

Members were advised of the ongoing issues caused by food delivery drivers on Crellin Street and the pedestrianised area. The Sub-Group was informed that the Police would be alerted to the vehicles driving over the pedestrianised area.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, thanked the Parking Team Leader and asked that their appreciation be passed onto the Team for the work they undertook.

RECOMMENDED, that the update be noted.

43 2022/23 FLOOD AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Sub-Group considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which presented an overview of Flood and Development Management activities in the Barrow area noting the latest position regarding each application.

A discussion took place regarding the application at the Salthouse Mills Industrial Estate location and the Lead Officer – Flood and Development Management confirmed that internal consultation did take place with Stagecoach.

The local Member for Roosecote raised concerns regarding flooding on Stony Dyke Lane, the end of South Row and the area around West Row. It was agreed the Lead Officer – Flood and Development Management would investigate this matter and report back direct to the local Member.

The Chair of the Sub-Group emphasised the need to consider access for emergency vehicles when agreeing planning applications.

RECOMMENDED, that the report be noted.

44 BARROW ACTIVE TRAVEL

Members received a verbal update from the Project Lead regarding the new cycle lanes along Bridge Road and Michaelson Road which provided a clear separation between pedestrians and cyclists.

The Sub-Group was informed that a lessons learnt exercise had been undertaken on completion of the scheme with issues identified being taken into account for future projects.

Members were informed there was no provision for additional gritting of the lanes, however, practice in other areas would be taken into consideration.

The local Member for Roosecote drew attention to the large gap on Michaelson Road and the Sub-Group was advised this was a safe place to accommodate large vehicles visiting BAE.

The Fire and Rescue Service Station Manager asked if there were any plans to secure the Bridge to avoid the public being able to jump from it. The Local Area Highways Network Manager advised that signs had been installed but no other measures were currently anticipated.

The Sub-Group was advised that a Road Safety Audit was being undertaken today prior to a press release highlighting the opening of the scheme.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, thanked all officers involved in the scheme for the work they had undertaken.

RECOMMENDED, that the update be noted.

45 PRESTON STREET - PROPOSED NEW PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

Members received a Briefing Note from the Traffic Management Team Leader (Barrow) which provided an update on the plan to establish a new parking arrangement at Preston Street, Barrow-in-Furness.

The Sub-Group was advised that the initial request had been received from Mrs A Burns due to concerns raised regarding obstruction and the effects this could have on the emergency services. Members were informed it was proposed to replace the existing loading bays near the Cross Keys Hotel with no parking at any time restriction (double yellow lines) and to implement parking restriction from Monday to Saturday between 8am to 6pm (single yellow lines) on the north-west side of Preston Street, behind the shops that faced Dalton Street. Officers explained the new parking arrangement would allow improved parking regulation enforcement on Preston Street with an aim to reduce the occurrence of any parking obstructions.

Members were informed that the request would be incorporated into schemes for amendment to Traffic Regulation Orders for consideration by Westmorland and Furness Authority post vesting day on 1 April 2023.

RECOMMENDED, that the update be noted.

46 SPEEDING ON RAWLINSON STREET

The Traffic Management Team Leader informed members of a concern received from the local Member for Hindpool regarding speeding vehicles on Rawlinson Street. Members were advised that the matter would be discussed at the CRASH Group today and the outcome would be reported to the local Member direct.

47 BARROW WORKS PROGRAMME 2022/23

The Local Area Highways Network Manager provided an update on the Barrow Works Programme 2022/23.

Members were informed it was anticipated that all schemes would be delivered by the end of the current financial year.

The Sub-Group was advised that a successful procurement exercise had been undertaken for four weed sprays to take place during 2023/24 which would begin in April 2023.

The local Member for Roosecote asked for an update on Manor Road Bridge. The Local Area Highways Manager explained there were ongoing discussions with the landowner regarding this and that further information would be provided from the Structures Team.

The Sub-Group was advised that going forward the Westmorland and Furness Board had agreed that schemes could be planned for three months from 1 April 2023.

RECOMMENDED, that the report be noted.

48 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business on this occasion.

49 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that this was the last meeting of the Sub-Group in the life of Cumbria County Council.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, thanked all officers for their help and support and wished them well for the future.

The meeting ended at 11.25 am