

BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group held on Tuesday, 15 October 2019 at 10.15 am at Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow

PRESENT:

Mr W McEwan (Chair)

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

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs L Harker	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	- Area Manager - Barrow
Mr K Tetchner	- Highways Network Manager

Sergeant D Proctor representative from Cumbria Police Authority attended the meeting.

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr M Barry, Interim Assistant Director - Regeneration and Built Environment, Barrow Borough Council.

12 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Group held on 14 June 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

A question was raised regarding the life expectancy of Jubilee Bridge and members were informed that there was an expectation that the waterproofing would last between 40-60 years and the painting for approximately 20 years. Members were informed that an annual survey of the Bridge was undertaken highlighting that ongoing maintenance would be required due to the age of the structure.

The Sub-Group welcomed the update and emphasised again the need to lobby for a second crossing.

The Highways Team was congratulated on the work they had undertaken regarding the Biggar Bank Traffic Calming scheme.

13 UPDATE FROM CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

Members welcomed Sergeant David Proctor to the meeting.

The Sub-Group held a discussion regarding untaxed vehicles parked on the highway for a substantial length of time. Members were informed that if it was causing an obstruction the Police could deal with this otherwise the DVLA should be notified. A member drew attention to a vehicle causing problems on the highway and it was agreed to provide details to the Police who would investigate this matter further.

The local Member for Walney North raised a concern regarding a boat on a trailer and a caravan parked on The Promenade, Walney. He explained this had been brought to the attention of the Borough Council and Police but, to date, no action had been taken. Whilst it was acknowledged this caused a problem it was highlighted that lack of action was due to the availability of police resources. Members were informed that this could be investigated by the Streetcare Team and their details would be forwarded to the local Member.

Members raised their concerns regarding cyclists in the pedestrianised area of Barrow Town Centre. The Highways Network Manager informed the Sub-Group that Barrow Borough Council had been approached in the first instance to ascertain whether they had Byelaws in place to prohibit this. He explained that if there were no Byelaws a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit cycling could then be considered.

The Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Group, thanked Sergeant Proctor for his attendance and invited him to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

14 BARROW WORKS PROGRAMME 2019/20

The Sub-Group considered the Barrow Works Programme for 2019/20.

Members noted that a number of trees had been removed on Portland Crescent as part of Phase 1 and that further trees would be removed during Phase 2. The Sub-Group was informed that to offset this Barrow Borough Council had agreed to plant 25 saplings in Borough land which would be provided by Cumbria County Council Highways.

The local Member for Walney North raised a concern regarding traffic congestion on Ocean Road due to vehicles parked on the highway. He asked if an extension to the existing double-yellow lines south of Jubilee Bridge could be investigated to alleviate the problems.

The Sub-Group, whilst acknowledging the resources available in the Parking Enforcement Team, raised concerns regarding the impact this had on their ability to enforce parking restrictions. It was explained that two additional Parking Enforcement Officers had recently been recruited, therefore, it was anticipated this would improve enforcement activity.

A discussion took place regarding traffic congestion on North Road due to buses dropping off passengers not at the identified stop and it was agreed that the local Stagecoach Operations Manager be contacted. Additionally, it was suggested that a double white line system be implemented for vehicles travelling north on North Road to prevent overtaking. The Highways Network Manager informed members that the contractor should have undertaken road safety audits and he would investigate this matter further.

The local Member for Walney South raised the concerns of a resident regarding the lack of communication in connection with highway matters in South Walney. He informed the Sub-Group that the resident had written to several officers in the County Council regarding his concerns and, to date, no response had been received. The Highways Network Manager agreed to investigate this matter further and confirmed an officer from his Team would contact the resident.

The local Member for Risedale raised the concerns of Greengate Street residents regarding speeding traffic on the highway. It was highlighted that Greengate Junior School and a Children's Centre were located in the area and a request was made for two Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) to be erected at the location. It was suggested that officers consider placing the SIDs near the Children's Centre and on the other side of the hill.

Members raised their concerns regarding increased traffic congestion following completion of the new Burger King outlet on the Hindpool Retail Outlet. The Highways Network Manager informed the Sub-Group that a contractor was currently surveying road junctions in the area and would be approached regarding investigating potential options for improving those junctions. He highlighted that there was no funding left in the current budget to cover the costs.

The Area Manager confirmed that there was sufficient funding available in the General Provisions budget to cover the costs of the SID and a traffic study at Burger King. Members agreed this should be included in the Barrow Area Planning report to be considered at the next meeting of Barrow Local Committee on 18 November.

The Sub Group was informed that a Working Group had been established to consider the proposals at Hindpool and Hollywood Retail Parks and encouraged those members who had been appointed to the Group to attend the meeting scheduled for 24 October. It was agreed that Michael Barry, Interim Assistant Director - Regeneration and Built Environment, Barrow Borough Council would also be invited to the meeting.

A discussion took place regarding new traffic lights on Greengate Street which were not audible. The Highways Network Manager highlighted to members that the audio was occasionally turned off in urban areas and agreed to investigate this matter.

Members raised their concerns regarding traffic congestion on North Row, particularly close to Roose Primary School. It was explained that some of the problems were caused by teachers from the School parking on the highway. It was suggested that the School be approached with a view to an area of land in front of the School, which was owned by them, being made into a staff car park.

15 HIGHWAY STANDARDS AND POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Members received a report from the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed background information and further knowledge on how highway policy and procedures were developed and applied.

RECOMMENDED, that the report be noted.

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

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

Members were informed there were 320 back streets in the Barrow area, totalling over 33km in length. It was explained they were classified as unclassified roads and had the same status as any other section of highway even when gated. Members noted they were inspected by highway officers as part of the routine inspection system, with periodic condition surveys of all of the back streets also being undertaken. In addition to ongoing maintenance activities in many of the other streets details of those resurfaced in the last five years were presented to the Sub-Group.

The Sub-Group was informed that in order to reduce costs and allow budgets to stretch further an alternative treatment had been trialled which was a thin 30mm overlay of the existing surface. It was explained this utilised the strength of the existing back street and a new surface course was applied. Members noted that the treatment was approximately 75% cheaper, however, before this was rolled out on a wider scale it was intended to monitor the performance.

Members were informed there was an expectation for the new treatment to last for approximately ten years. It was explained the areas which formed part of the trial would be inspected after the winter to ascertain whether there had been any deterioration.

A question was raised regarding the use of recycled plastic road surfacing materials. Members were informed that this had not been used in the Barrow area but it was understood positive feedback had been received to date.

The Sub-Group welcomed the update and the trial of alternative treatment. The importance of best value was highlighted to ensure works undertaken lasted for a significant period of time.

RECOMMENDED, that the following be noted:-

- (1) the assessment (detailed in Appendix 1 of the report);
- (2) the current method of assessing and prioritising how we maintain the back streets in the Barrow area.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The local Member for Hawcoat asked for an update on the suggested one-way system on Quarry Brow, Barrow. The Highways Network Manager agreed to investigate this and report back direct;

During the course of discussion members raised their concerns regarding vehicles parked dangerously on Quarry Brow and suggested that a parking bay in the area may be beneficial.

The local Member for Hawcoat raised his concerns regarding the timescale for the introduction of the agreed Traffic Regulation Order on Elterwater Crescent. The Highways Network Manager explained that this type of Order was undertaken once every 12 months but gave assurances that the implementation of this one was imminent. At the request of the local Member it was agreed to send a letter to the residents of Elterwater Crescent updating them of the situation.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Sub-Group would be held on Tuesday 17 December 2019 at 10.15 am in the Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm