

Highways Engineer meeting – 5th March 2019**Attendees:**

Richard Bishop	(RB)
Philip Bray	(PB)
David Jacklin	(DJ)
James Dean	(JD)

Topics Discussed:

1. Yellow Lines – Beech Close – the Transport & Action Focus Group (TAFG) are now tasked with putting a proposal together for consideration under the Highway Project Fund, agreed at the Council budget meeting. It was noted that consideration was needed as to whether the project was worth utilising the new budget and whether the extended yellow lines would be enforceable, or a worthy deterrent given the close proximity to the school on Whitecross Road.
2. White Lines - Community Centre – Icen Partnership were asked by Highways to agree costing – nothing can progress without this commitment.
3. Church Walk lighting – RB advised the Council had agreed to put this project forward for Cllr Colman's Membership Allowance for this financial year. DJ advised he needed confirmation from Cllr Colman to ensure this was added to the current workstack, budget included.
4. Church Kissing Gates – RB suggested this was a project on its own, outside the Parish Partnership Scheme, to be progressed later in the year after further discussions with Andrew Gayton, Breckland Historic Buildings Officer.
5. Parish Partnership Scheme – once confirmation is received of this year's scheme then TAFG and the Council can start to consider potential projects for consideration. The deadline is usually December each year for proposals.
6. Town Centre Trees – this remains unresolved with Breckland.
7. War memorial - RB is looking to formalise a request to Breckland to allow the Council to take over the area surrounding the War Memorial, and the space surrounding the Corn Exchange building.
8. Car Parking Charging – a S50 agreement is awaited from Street Works to progress the works.
9. Hamonds Academy hedge – now completed by the school.
10. Swaffham Network Improvement Strategy / Transport & Access Focus Group – RB had now received a copy of the initial Feasibility Study report and would be circulating this to the TAFG and Council shortly.
11. Railings at Traffic Lights – the railings were now repaired with the section on Mangate Street outside Kev's tackle which was still to be completed. RB advised that he would be escalating the Council's concerns regarding the area design to be sent to DJ to add comments before being sent to the head of the Works Team.
12. Additional queries to be investigated by DJ & the team:
 - Lynn Road bus stop - grass verge concerns – DJ agreed to chase for an update
 - White lines – London St & Buttercross mini roundabout – PB highlighted that the lines in both areas were faded and need ed repainting.
 - Greyhound bollard – a replacement bollard had now been installed.

Next meeting Tuesday 2nd April 2019, 9.30a.m

Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
Sent: 05 March 2019 15:56
To: 'Jacklin, David'
Cc: Ed Colman (ed.colman.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk); Claire Smith
Subject: Railings at the Traffic Lights in Swaffham

David,

First of all it is recognised and appreciated that some work has recently taken place to repair railings at the Traffic Lights in Swaffham, and that we still have one section near to Kev's Tackle in Mangate Street to be completed. However, I am writing to you to express the disappointment of the Town Council at the snails pace of replacing/repairing the railings at the Traffic Lights in the Swaffham Town Centre. This has been a constant problem throughout my time here as Town Clerk and most certainly since the railings were upgraded as part of the Town Centre regeneration works of 2005/06 so for many years now the Town has had to endure this blight on our Town Centre. More recently, for the past eight consecutive months, we have been given the same message of the railings are 'on order', which to be quite frank is a lame unacceptable response, until finally they are repaired/replaced, now we ask the question, for how long?

There is only a small percentage of that time when the railings have been fully repaired and looking smart, for the majority of the time they have been broken, awaiting a repair or parts that are 'on order'. This situation just cannot continue in the longer term, I have had the same excuse month after month, year after year not only from you, but from Paul Groom your predecessor and from Jason Glasspoole before him, Jason as I understand it now heads the Street Works team, so he should be fully versed of this constant problem we have. It is understood that it is not the fault of the Local Highway Engineer, as your budgets have been cut year on year. It is however, a false economy patching up a failed layout/design and an intolerable set of broken railings, that are always broken somewhere. We need a different approach to tackle the following: -

1. The layout and design of the railings just does not work, it is always getting hit by larger vehicles.
2. The bespoke design of the railings means that broken railings takes several months to replace, the ordering process is just constant.
3. The bespoke design meant to enhance the conservation area is a contradiction in terms, as the full effect is never seen, it is always broken.

We need to have a grown up conversation with senior officials at County Hall, to talk about how we address these issues. The railings have been an unmitigated disaster for well over a decade now and their almost permanent derelict state is detrimental to the conservation area and to the town as a whole. There urgently needs to be a change in policy here by Norfolk County Council, to deal with the short term replacement repair in a more timely manner, or if this is not possible to scrap the current railings and replace with a better layout and an off the shelf supply line of railings, so that repairs can be dealt with promptly. There is a line of thought here that if the layout and design are dealt with properly, there would in fact be no repairs required (or a greatly reduced maintenance budget as a minimum), so in the longer term it has to be beneficial to both Norfolk County Council and the Town of Swaffham.

I would be grateful if you could forward this request to the relevant department within Highways at Norfolk County Council, as the current situation is untenable and looks as if we don't care about what the town looks like. I look forward to hearing from you in this regard – many thanks.

Best regards,

Richard Bishop
Town Clerk



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