

Highways Engineer meeting – 2nd July 2019

Attendees:

Richard Bishop	(RB)
David Jacklin	(DJ)
Philip Bray	(PB)

Topics Discussed:

1. Council Committee restructure
 RB gave an overview of the recent discussions at Council around restructuring the Council Committees and, in particular, formalising the current Transport & Access Focus Group into a new Transport, Access and Environment Committee.
 It was being proposed that this new Committee would meet monthly, fully managed by officers of the Council.
 DJ agreed to attend the new Committee meeting however asked that meetings be held during the normal working day with Highway items put early on the agenda to allow DJ to leave if necessary, rather than stay for the full meeting.
 It was suggested the 2nd Tuesday at 4pm would be good and RB agreed to work this into the proposal being discussed at Council. If approved the new Committee would commence on Tuesday 3rd September at 4pm. The 2^{ns} August meeting would run as normal at 930a.m.
2. A1065 cobbled crossing by the Green Parrot
 RB confirmed the Council had agreed on the option to leave the dropped kerb and relay golden gravel to highlight informal crossing when the area needed repair next.
3. A1065 Crossing at Church Walk
 RB confirmed that at the last Council meeting it was requested that the topic of an additional crossing be resurrected and progressed. DJ recalled this topic had been discussed previously and was declined due to safety audit reasons – namely the close proximity to the existing traffic lights. DJ advised it was highly unlikely a different outcome would be forthcoming as the situation had not changed and so the safety audit reasons would stand.
4. Railings at Traffic Lights
 DJ confirmed the project to investigate alternative options, considering design, health & safety, conservation etc would be considered this year and the Westfields/Theatre St footpaths would be deferred until next year.
5. Swaffham Network Improvement Strategy
 RB agreed to chase for an update.
6. Yellow Lines – Beech Close
 The TAFG would be asked for an update following their next meeting on Thursday 4th July 2019.
7. Church Walk lighting
 RB would be chasing CJM Electrical for outstanding costing quote for consideration by the Council.
8. War memorial
 Cllrs would be asked at the July Council meeting if they wished to apply for a land transfer from Breckland to take on management of the area., including trees etc.
9. Car Parking Meters
 These were now being installed, charging was in plan to commence from 1st August 2019.
10. Bus Stop hard standing opposite Highfield Avenue
 RB advised this topic would be raised at the July Council meeting and Cllr's would be asked how they wished to proceed.

11. Pightle No Through Road Sign – a requested had been received from a member of the public for a no through road sign as it was noted that people were being sent down the Pightle with Sat Nav's etc.
DJ advised this was something Breckland District Council managed through adapting street signs, there was a cost involved.
RB agreed to raise the topic with the Council at their next meeting before proceeding.
12. Overgrown hedges / trees
It was advised that numerous calls were being received by the office from members of the public reporting overgrown hedges and trees that were obstructing pavements and footpaths. DJ advised Highways did not have the resources to manage these initial complaints and local Parish & Town Councils were asked instead to contact the property owners to informally ask them to tidy unnecessary overgrowth.
It was agreed the office would create a template letter to be issued to property owners to address these situations with a view that any not being rectified would be referred to Highways for a more formal approach.
13. Longfields – Pubic Right of Way (PROW)
RB raised a query regarding the cutting of the various PROW around town as several complaints had been received.
DJ advised that resources were limited and so there was a cutting list created of the main PROW usually undertaken once a year. DJ agreed to share the cutting list with RB for information.
The office was advised to report any issues as normal via the Highways website.
14. Car park outside the Methodist Church.
DJ was asked what work was planned as a sign stated roadworks commencing 8th July. DJ agreed to investigate what this was and also advised that anyone can find this information on roadworks.org.
Following the meeting the office checked the website to find out BT had received approval to the closure to install a BT Duct in Pit Lane, 8-12th July.

Next meeting Tuesday 3rd August 2019, 9.30a.m