

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Transport Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Town Hall

#### **Present:**

Cllr Lewendon – Chairman  
HCC Cllr Heron  
Mr T. Denne & Mr G Kimmings, Fordingbridge Society  
Mr A Mollison, Ms S Wanstall

#### **In attendance:**

Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

#### **1. Apologies**

There were apologies for absence from Mr M Harley, Mr J Hewitt and Mrs C Pope & a representative from the Fordingbridge Pharmacy.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. To receive any matters raised by members of the public**

No members of the public were present.

#### **4. Chairman's Update**

The Chairman advised that Fordingbridge Pharmacy had offered use of their CCTV camera to monitor traffic in Bridge St over a 24 hour period. It was AGREED to liaise with the Pharmacy to use the CCTV camera to assist with monitoring the traffic.

#### **5. Public Transport update**

The X3 bus service from Salisbury to Bournemouth would be better used if it started earlier in the day and finished later. Currently, it was not helpful to those working in Bournemouth as it did not arrive early enough. The service to Salisbury was not helpful to persons accessing Odstock Hospital even though the hospital is a ¼ mile from the bus route. A suggestion was to lobby to have a bus stop moved to the end of Homington Road to facilitate passengers getting a further bus to Odstock.

It was very difficult to get a bus from Fordingbridge to Southampton with passengers having to travel via Salisbury. This makes it a long journey.

#### **6. To Outline of current situation by Cllr E Heron.**

Cllr Heron discussed the HCC Survey of lorry traffic in the Downlands area carried out 5 years previously. Lorries can be restricted from entering an area but for unloading purposes may enter despite the restriction. The survey results were 10% through lorry movements but 90% which could enter the zone for unloading/loading purposes. Based on this it was unlikely that a further survey would be commissioned. Traffic volumes have increased but the percentage of lorry movements haven't.

Members commented that Fordingbridge was not designed to accommodate the size of lorry that was transiting through. Currently, Veolia lorries are operating under a voluntary agreement and travelling via Salisbury and the A354 when visiting the recycling unit at Rockbourne rather than via the A338 and Fordingbridge. Any subsequent planning changes could make this mandatory. Haulage businesses also require permission from the Transport Commissioner who deals with comments regarding lorry movements.

There are transport issues connected with any plans to extend Sandleheath Industrial Estate but this needs to be balanced with the need for economic development in the area.

If there are a further 100 properties built off the Whitsbury Road, as allocated in the NFDC Planning Core Strategy, then this will have further implications for traffic management in the town.

White lining and non-friction surfaces are being re-lined in the forthcoming financial year. The pavement at Green Lane is being repaired in June 2013 and the road re-surfaced as a separate job. The parked cars allowed between restricted areas in Salisbury Road was working and there were no speeding problems reported.

## **7. Fordingbridge Society report**

GK explained that this was a document to encourage discussion. The Society offered to organise a traffic survey in conjunction with HCC. Cllr Heron advised that traffic counters could be provided. However, traffic surveys were expensive and routine surveys were carried out by HCC. It is possible that NFDC have current data for Whitsbury Road. Cllr Heron was happy to help in prioritising what to do first.

Traffic enforcement – the report suggested that the Town Council pay for/toward a traffic warden. NFDC provide traffic warden services in the district. Cllr Heron explained that traffic enforcement was expensive to provide. At peak times there are many parking fines which then reduces traffic violations and so makes the traffic warden expensive to provide. The Town Council could ask the traffic warden (currently shared with Ringwood) to focus on an area which is experiencing problems and can ask for the route to be varied. Alternatively the Town Council could bid for a portion of time. The Committee to bring this suggestion to the Town Council.

Problems with loading could perhaps be resolved by the presence of loading bays but many of the small shops do not have a say when their suppliers deliver goods.

To encourage flow of traffic, traffic lights could be placed at the bottom of the High Street and timed to suit the slowest vehicle. The Committee felt that this was very costly and would not make that much of a difference for the investment that would be needed.

A further route across the NFDC car park would not be granted and any land owned by the NHS trust over hospital property would not be relinquished.

Cllr Heron advised that a 20 mph limit had been trailed in Hampshire and would be only put in where there were physical barriers available to slow traffic and where cyclists, road users and pedestrians mixed.

Additional speed signs would not be allowed but 'Think 30' posters would be and could be paid for by the Town Council. A grant might be available from Cllr Heron.

Community Speedwatch is an option to link with another parish and with teams of 3 persons monitor vehicle speeds using an SED on a tripod. The first and second offences get a letter sent to the culprit and the 3<sup>rd</sup> offence a visit from a police officer. Breamore and Godshill are currently looking for a third partner. The Fordingbridge Society are willing to take on this task.

Anyone breaking parking restrictions in the town should let the Clerk know. NFDC can then be asked to send an out-of-hours warden to the site. If a vehicle is obstructing a pavement or highway then the police can take action.

A new pedestrian crossing by the pharmacy would be too expensive to put in. It would also be too close to the mini-roundabout and there would not be sufficient visibility for traffic coming over the bridge.

**8. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business**

Nothing to report.

**9. To note the date of the next Transport Committee as Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.