

# Gerrards Cross Town Council

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## Minutes of the Highways Committee

### Meeting held 8pm at Gerrards Cross Memorial Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Present: Cllr A Wood (Chairman), Cllr I Bayliss, Cllr C Brown, Cllr J Chhokar, Cllr J O’Keeffe, Cllr H Orme, Cllr J Palmiero (Virtual), Cllr P Roberts, Cllr T Scott (Virtual), Cllr E Surkovic.

In Attendance: Cllr J Woolveridge and Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk).

#### Actions

- 1. Public speaking from residents** – Mrs Scott spoke to present her objections to the recent implementation of the Quietway along Lower Road. She believes the road closures are causing traffic congestion outside the 2 schools being St Mary’s in South Park Crescent and GX Combined School just off Mill Lane. Also, the closure of the access to the bypass on the A413 is causing more congestion along the Packhorse Rd and she raised concerns that the diversions could cause delays to the Emergency Services reaching their destinations in the area which could be life threatening.

AW responded that GXTC had not been consulted on this scheme which we will be discussing at tonight’s meeting. Apparently the Emergency Services were statutory consultees prior to the road changes.

- 2. Apologies for Absence** – None.

- 3. Potholes** – AW reported that the last phase of pothole repair has been completed and unfortunately a lamp post was knocked down in Bentick Close during the works which Highways UK will reimburse. The Town Clerk reported that Buckinghamshire Council (BC) will consider revisiting funding the pothole repair scheme in Phase 2 next year. In the meantime BC will hopefully report back next week if GXTC can self-fund these works in this current financial year.

SM

- 4. Reports from Councillors on the Town Sectors including Devolved Highways Work**  
**South West Sector- HO and IB** have submitted their report -Nothing much to mention since the last report except lamp post 257 outside 7 Windsor Rd is obscured by trees. They will carry out a more in-depth report for next month including a lighting check, and road marking.  
**North East Sector – ES and JO.** ES reported: - TfB have carried out some further patching in South Park Drive which looks questionable. SSE have carried out some road repair work in Oak End way which she believes will sink within 6 months. JO reported that BC’s street light opposite Wildwood has been out for 4 years. He will carry out a street light check for the next meeting.

JO

CB added that the 2 BC’s street lights knocked down last year, together with the damage to the central reservation, by the 50mph sign along the A40 have still not been repaired and the road is very dangerous at night time.

**South East/West Sector – JP and TS** – JP asked if TS could take the lead on this as only volunteered to be a backup to NH. TS agreed to this. JP reported that there are new road markings along the central reservation Oxford Road. Dukes Wood drive has new Kerbing stones and there are some potholes at Dukes Wood Drive/Howard’s Thicket Junction

TS

JC added the GX sign has been knocked down along the A40 and Cllr Reed may be able to find out some information about this traffic accident.

Lastly AW asked all Sector Leaders to check if there are any street lights being obstructed by vegetation.

5. **Packhorse Road traffic lights update-** Buckinghamshire Council will now be carrying out the resurfacing of the section of Packhorse Rd by traffic lights.
6. **CCTV updates** – Regular meetings are in place now with BC to agree the next phase of CCTV installations in the town centre, so slowly progressing. GXTC need to carry out a stress test of BC's street lights using their accredited contractor at a cost of £860. The CCTV Contractor needs to complete the technical details on the paperwork required for the stress testing and carry out another site visit (at a cost of £800) to confirm the additional changes made to the system with regards to the camera locations, to survey the wireless infrastructure again to accommodate the changes and then adjust any costs if necessary if additional equipment was required. This was all agreed.
7. **Update on Covid measures still in place in the Town Centre** – The temporary crossing has now been removed.
8. **Quiet Ways – To consider the recommendations laid out on the paper attached as written by Cllr Surkovic:- ‘Emergency Travel fund: quietway Chalfont St Peter - Gerrards Cross’ and to agree a way forward for discussion with Bucks Council. To agree who will attend the next meeting with Joan Hancock.**

AW reported that he had received an email from Thomas Broom (Joy Morrissey's MP office) asking where we wanted the planters relocated. AW passed this on to the Town Clerk who referred it to Martin Tett. Martin Tett has been separately discussing this with Joy Morrissey's Office whether there were any potential modifications which would make the scheme more acceptable but did not know about the meeting later this week. AW went on to report that some local residents set up a petition objecting to the Quietway and there is now just under 1400 signatures supporting the petition. AW believes that the GX petition has helped alert Grant Shapps, the Minister for Transport, about the problems associated with the introduction of Quietways in the Country. However, AW went on to say that there are local residents in support of the scheme. ES has circulated a report on the Quietway and recommended:-

- (i) The current Quietway is removed immediately.
- (ii) That alternate routes are offered for experimentation as set out in the map at Annex 1.
- (iii) That Bucks commits to defining parameters of success, measures activity both before and after and engages with the community to agree on the outcome of the experiment.

After much in-depth discussion regards the disadvantages and advantages of the Quietway, CB put forward the following proposal to modify the Quietway scheme in GX in order to alleviate the traffic problems caused by the present scheme. The modifications proposed are:-

- (i) To remove the bollards at the top of South Park with the junction of Oak End Way to allow access on to Packhorse Road.
- (ii) To have access from the Lower Road slip way (opposite South Park junction) to allow entry and exit onto the A413 in order to use the bypass and reduce traffic on GX roads, as is the purpose of the A413.
- (iii) To remove the bollards on Lower Rd in GX which are near to the junction with South Park to allow better vehicle access for residents in the area. The remaining bollards along Lower Road, near to the junction with Claydon Lane in CSP, will still ensure less traffic is using Lower Road.

These proposals were agreed unanimously, and we will ask for these proposals to be carried out immediately. Also, it was agreed for CB, AW, ES and SM to attend the next meeting on Quietway.

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**9. Request from West Common Residents for:-** (i) A 20 mph speed limits along West Common and surrounding roads with the possibility of a one-way traffic flow along West Common; (ii) Establishing a Quiet Road scheme along the Commons. IB asked for this request to be considered at a later date.

**10. Highways Budget** (as in *Shared Drive*).

**11. To consider projects for next year's budget 2021-22.** Projects proposed:-

- Continue with pothole repair;
- Re-route footpath to avoid tree routes in Oak End Way to assist residents of Swathmore Care Home to access town centre.
- Footpath repair.
- Gulley cleaning.
- Cut back vegetation around streetlights.
- CCTV – maintenance and transmitting video footage to the Police Monitoring Centre.

**12. Communications** – AW reported that a Government Minister will be accompanying Joy Morrissey MP to visit GX Railway Station to advise if the car park can be made larger.

**13. Correspondence** – Windsor Road - continuing complaints from resident about speeding. It was agreed that GXTC's response remains the same.

**14. Items for the next meeting.** None submitted.

**15. To confirm** that the next meeting of the Highways Committee will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 8pm at Memorial Centre after the Commons meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed.....

Date.....

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