

Minutes of the Woodstock Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) Held at the Town Hall, on Wednesday 10 October 2012 at 4pm

Present:

Cllr Colin Carritt (Chair), Woodstock Town Council
Cllr Brian Yoxall, Woodstock Town Council
Cllr Julian Cooper, WODC
Cllr Dr Elizabeth Poskitt, WODC
Mr John Hoy, Blenheim Palace
Ian Clarke, OCC
Dave Austin, WODC
PC Gordon Richardson, Thames Valley Police
PCSO Phil Workman, Thames Valley Police

1 Apologies

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council
Sgt Lindsay Nursaw, Thames Valley Police
Heather Carter, Blenheim Palace
Odele Payne, OCC
Mike McLoughlin, WODC

2 Election of Chairman/Vice Chairman

Cllr Carritt said he was happy to continue in the role of Chairman. All agreed.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

4 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2012 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

5 Matters arising and not covered by an Agenda Item of this meeting

Cllr Yoxall enquired about the decision by WODC not to remove the taxi rank on Oxford Street and replace with a parking bay. The Town Council have a view that the taxi space is not required and understands that the matter was raised at a Licensing Committee meeting of WODC and the Chairman (at that time), Cllr Ian Hudspeth, suggested that the taxi rank be returned to a parking bay when next the Traffic Regulation Orders were being reviewed.

**ACTION: To ascertain when this decision was made and whether it can be reconsidered
Dave Austin, WODC**

6 Possible representation on the TAC from Wootton, Bladon and Stonesfield

Cllr Poskitt was concerned that residents of Bladon felt they have no voice and no mechanism for engaging with the Highway Authority regarding the problem of speeding traffic through the village. It was felt that it might result in a very long meeting if the same level of detail from each of these communities was needed at future meetings. Cllr Carritt suggested that 6 weeks prior to the meeting, the representatives for Bladon and Wootton were contacted to ask if they wished to add anything to the agenda, in particular in relation to the A44 or A4095. If necessary, a representative could then be invited to attend the meeting. All agree to this suggestion.

**ACTION: To contact Bladon and Wootton 6 weeks prior to next meeting.
Colin Carritt, WTC**

7 Update on Parking Review

Paper submitted by Mike McLoughlin which stated that although OCC had made a start, workload had prevented them from getting far. Cllr Carritt asked whether it would be acceptable for WTC to commission a consultant to complete the work, if the Council agreed to do this. Ian Clarke said that it may be worth asking the question of David Tole from OCC.

PC Gordon Richardson said that there had been an increase in complaints from the public about the lack of parking. Cllr Carritt said that the recently completed Town Partnership Survey had shown parking is a key issue in the town.

The problems with parking at the junction of Union St and Brook Hill were raised. Double parked cars had recently caused an obstruction to HGVs delivering to Owen Mumford.

Cllr Poskitt also raised the problem of careless parking on Plane Tree Way.

- ACTION:**
- 1) To contact David Tole at OCC regarding commissioning a consultant to complete the traffic survey.
 - 2) Problems of parking at Brook Hill/Union St junction and also at Plane Tree Way to be investigated by the Neighbourhood Policing Team to determine the extent and possible options.
- 1) Colin Carritt, WTC and 2) Gordon Richardson TVP

8 Town Fair

The responsibility for the Fair at WODC has changed department and now lies with the Environmental Team. Dave Austin from WODC presented a report and explained some of the changes that have been made this year. They include a limit on the noise level and an agreement to close at 10pm. Officers from WODC were on site to check noise levels. The limit was set at 75dba. At one point the noise reached 81dba but that was quickly rectified. (Report attached from WODC).

Cllrs reported that there had been some complaints from residents about the noise and fumes.

In addition there had been complaints from traders about the effect on trade of the road closures. Cllr Carritt confirmed that the fair was not allowed to start setting up until after lunchtime on Sunday in an attempt to assist traders.

PC Richardson enquired about the lifting of restrictions on Hensington Road that had happened in previous years. Dave Austin had not been aware of that and agreed to investigate for next year.

Cllr Cooper reminded the committee that the charter for the Fair belongs to WODC not the Showman's Guild.

Cllr Yoxall suggested that an earlier close time of 9pm might be preferable. Dave Austin said that changes were being made gradually and they would continue to monitor.

Cllr Cooper asked what records were kept about the condition of the planters belonging to WTC before and after the fair. Dave Austin confirmed that photographs were taken before and after. WTC would like it to be made clear to the Showman's Guild that planters should not be moved.

- ACTION:**
- WODC to make report available to WTC about the monitoring process to share with concerned residents.**
 - WODC to investigate with OCC the suspension of waiting regulations on Hensington Road, for the duration of the fair as has happened previously with some success.**
 - WODC to ensure that the fair operators do not move the delicate planters on the town hall square without express consent.**
- Dave Austin, WODC

9 Various issues for OCC

Hensington Road improvements – as this issue was discussed at length at WTC meeting the previous evening, it was not felt necessary to discuss at TAC. WTC had passed a motion condemning OCC for the lack of supervision of the project and are seeking an apology and compensation. There is ongoing concern about lack of signage and marking to show priority for vehicles coming from town direction.

- ACTION:**
- OCC to give attention to replacing priority signage and markings and to ask the stage three safety audit to also consider these issues.**
- Ian Clarke, OCC

Cycle Stands – report circulated from Odele Payne stating that cycle stands would be installed in Woodstock in late October in 4 locations: Box of Delights, back of The Crown, Town Hall, and Museum.

Safety Audit in respect of planters at the northern gateway entrance – Tony Kirkwood, OCC, looked into this and found there had been 4 accidents in the last 5 years, in 2 cases the planters had been hit. He suggests in his report that the planters are not the cause of the accidents. Cllr Yoxall and Cllr Poskitt suggested that the speed limit could be placed earlier rather than at the planters giving people a chance to slow down before arriving at them.

- ACTION:**
- Request copy of the safety audit.**
- Ian Clarke, OCC
- CC to refer the matter of a speed limit extension back to Council in due course.**

20mph speed limit – CC explained the recent government consultation paper on the introduction of 20 mph speed limits and that he had suggested relaxing the rules on shorter lengths of 20 mph as may be appropriate in Bladon and Woodstock Oxford St., town centre.

Pedestrian Crossing at A44 Caroline Court – it was agreed that many residents and visitors cross the busy A44 around this point and that a pedestrian crossing would be a good idea and OCC should be encouraged to commit to funding this scheme. John Hoy agreed that many Blenheim visitors cross from the Main Gate to the bus stop and a crossing would be very useful. He suggested a position somewhere between the new Berkeley Homes development and the Main Gate.

ACTION: CC to take a proposal to Woodstock Town Council for resolution.

Ian Clarke had to leave the meeting at this point so the remaining points were not covered. However, Ian Clarke's written report (appended to these minutes) does provide answers to the following:

- **Resurfacing A44 Old Woodstock**
- **Maintenance of Footway Old Woodstock to B4437 - Subsequent to the meeting we have been informed that an inspection and assessment of this footway is imminent.**
- **Maintenance of Sustrans Off-Road Route 5 - Subsequent to the meeting we have been advised that progress on this matter is unlikely without Member support from Cllr Ian Hudspeth.**

OCC Policy on A-Boards – Ian Clarke left details of the policy (attached). There have been some complaints about the proliferation of A-Boards in the town and whilst there was sympathy with traders who see them as essential advertising, it is important that they stay within permitted guidelines. PC Gordon Richardson advised that Ady Cole from WODC has been visiting businesses that are using A-Boards and letting them know the guidelines.

10 Thames Valley Police

Following recent road repairs around town, the yellow lines have not yet been replaced. This is causing traffic management problems and needs to be rectified.

**ACTION: OCC requested to replace yellow lines
Ian Clarke, OCC**

PC Richardson also commented that as there is no pavement on Union Street, people were forced to use the road. This has been particularly difficult due to the number of vehicles parked on Brook Hill.

PCSO Workman commented that since the school buses no longer transport children from Old Woodstock, there has been an increase in the number of cars delivering children to school which causes problems on Shipton Road and New Road.

11 Blenheim Palace

John Hoy reported that it had been a strong year for Blenheim from a traffic perspective. The community events to celebrate the Jubilee and the Torch Relay had been extremely successful with around 12,000 people attending the Torch Relay. The Horse Trials had gone particularly well this year with figures 40-50% up on last year. Despite this, the traffic management had been excellent with very little queuing despite an estimated 70,000 visitors over the 4 days of the event.

12 Any Other Business

Cllr Yoxall reported that he had complained to OCC about uneven pavement slabs outside The Bear Hotel on a number of occasions during the past 2 months but the matter had still not been dealt with.

ACTION: Request that Ian Clarke looks into the matter.

The date of the next meeting was set for 17th April 2012 at 4pm

Chairman:..... Date:.....

The following matter was not discussed at the Traffic Advisory Meeting but is included at the end of these minutes to draw attention to a particular issue that the town council representatives on the committee wish to raise. Namely:-

That WTC will seek to identify requests for service at the earliest opportunity and to submit such requests through the Customer Services Centre (CSC). However, we believe that issues raised in the course of the Traffic Advisory Committee that could not have been identified earlier will be included in the minutes and deemed to have been properly reported to OCC and may not, therefore be separately reported through the CSC.