

NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP

MINUTES OF NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP MEETING ON 1ST DECEMBER 2009

In Attendance: Penny Butterill (Chairman); Bronwyn Dean (Disability Resource Exchange); Maureen Corn (Millstone Lane); Chris Booth of Cheshire East Engineers; Arthur Moran Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Peter Foster of Sustrans & Acton Parish Plan; David Yorke; (Wellington Road Residents Association), John Lewis Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Andrew Martin Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Graham Fenton, Nantwich Town Council; Annie Combes (Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish); Cindy Biggins (Welsh Row); and Riddell Graham (Clerk, Nantwich Town Council).

Apologies: Dr Rick Appleton sent apologies for absence.

1. Welcome

Mrs Penny Butterill, Chairman of the Group, welcomed those present. Each person introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 1st September 2009 were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes not otherwise set out on the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Wellington Road and Signage

Councillor John Lewis reported that while the resurfacing on the A51 was being undertaken, and HGVs redirected, conditions on Wellington Road had been much better. Councillor Arthur Moran agreed and mentioned the efforts of the police to keep heavy vehicles out of the town. David Yorke confirmed there had been an improvement but feared lorries would return now the resurfacing had finished.

In the absence of Rob Welch, (who had joined Andrew Ross's team in the 'Strategy' group of the Highway Engineers) Chris Booth could report only that signage was being dealt with 'at a higher level' by Phil Sherratt.

The Engineers were assessing the position. There had been two resident's meetings, a traffic count and a traffic registration number survey. Currently, however, no decision on relocation or removal of signage had been made.

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Councillor John Lewis asked, in connection with this item, what the procedure was for obtaining a 7½ ton weight limit. Apparently it was for Cheshire East Councillors to put it forward as a request, which was then considered with others and prioritised by the Portfolio Holder (Councillor David Brickhill). Councillor Arthur Moran said that Ward councillors had already put forward a number of requests for traffic measures. However, he was not in favour of the system of the Portfolio Holder choosing which measures should receive special attention. A more effective and transparent system was the 'Area Highways Committees' which Cheshire County had formerly had in place. This allowed elected Councillors, following reports from officers which were open to the public, to determine which proposals should go forward for implementation.

Councillor Arthur Moran had submitted a Notice of Motion to the December Cheshire East Council with a view to reinstating Area Highways Committees.

5. Welsh Row Traffic Calming and Environmental Enhancement

It was reported that there was not yet in place a permanent 7½ ton weight limit.

The two islands on Welsh Row were still considered a hazard by some. On the other hand there had been no recent collisions, pedestrians valued them and they fulfilled a role of discouraging drivers from using Welsh Row.

The traffic light sequencing at Malbank School for cars turning onto the new bypass was criticised by several members of the Group for not allowing sufficient time for cars to join the new road.

It was suggested that there should be further signage of the Riverside path and noted that parking was taking place on the footpath nearby.

6. Gateways

Chris Booth reported that he was reasonably satisfied that they had a suitable design. He was intending 'Cheshire Railings' with a black and white sign displaying a Nantwich logo and some indication of entering a gateway, such as road narrowing. He was reluctant to adopt the suggestion of Annie Combs of some difference in road colouring or road surface to mark the gateways.

Chris showed the group the locations where 'gateways' were proposed and received feedback. Generally speaking most comments were positive. However, there was concern that no improvements were being proposed at the Aqueduct on Welsh Row. Chris explained that action to improve the scruffy appearance of the bridge was for British Waterways. There was also a comment from Peter Foster that it was important generally that the design of gateways should not squeeze cyclists on to the carriageway or force them to move into streams of traffic.

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Particular concern was expressed about the gateway proposed at the brook near the Peacock Stores on the A534. A slightly different position for the gateway was suggested, on the rise up to Hillside Veterinary Practice where the carriageway was wider. Annie Combes said she felt it was important that the parish council of Acton/Henhull and Edleston had an opportunity to see the gateway treatment proposed for Marsh Lane Nantwich.

The locations intended for the Nantwich Gateway features were as follows:-

i) Marsh Lane, Nantwich – from Wrenbury toward Nantwich. Proposal to introduce gateway feature:-

- * Reduce carriageway width
- * Provide gate feature (Cheshire Railings)
- * Incorporate 30mph limit signs
- * Nantwich sign (welcome etc)

ii) A5301 Peter DeStapleigh Way – Junction with Audlem Road.

- * Provide gate feature (Cheshire Railings)
- * Nantwich sign.

iii) London Road, Nantwich – location of old junction with Newcastle Road.

- * Provide gate feature
- * Nantwich sign
- * Reduce carriageway width
- * Possibly incorporate 30mph limit sign?

iv) Shrewbridge Road, Nantwich – location at Weaver Bridge (No. 2)

- * Reduce carriageway width
- * Possibly incorporate 30mph limit signs
- * Provide gate feature
- * Nantwich sign

v) Broad Lane, Stapeley – location of junction with Bishops Wood.

- * Reduce carriageway width
- * Provide gate feature
- * Nantwich sign

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vi) A530 Middlewich Road – between A500 roundabout and Sainsbury's roundabout.

- * Reduce carriage width
- * Provide gate feature
- * Nantwich sign
- * Possibly incorporate 30 mph limit signs.

vii) Barony Road, Nantwich – location of beam bridge.

- * Reduce carriage width
- * Provide gate feature
- * Nantwich sign
- * Possibly incorporate 30 mph limit signs.

viii) Crewe Road, Nantwich – location of Cheneybrook Bridge.

- * Possibly reduce carriage width
- * Incorporate sign and gate feature if possible

(Problems with carriageway width, footways and cycleway).

ix) Chester Road, Acton approach – Screens outside Malbank School.

7. Railway Station

Councillor John Lewis reported briefly on progress. There was a general willingness to tidy up the land next to the Railway Station in Wellington Road. This could be done by creation of a car park which would benefit the town by creating more parking spaces and also benefit the Railway Station, by providing somewhere safe for people to leave vehicles when travelling by rail. There were several different ownerships and interests to be accommodated but Councillor John Lewis was hopeful that a meeting scheduled for 9th December would progress matters.

8. Update on Connect 2

Peter explained that money was 'ear marked' by the Big Lottery Fund but not yet transferred or committed. Various requirements had to be satisfied namely, an agreed route (with some flexibility permitted); not too many crossings of highways; funding in addition to that from the Lottery; and a Steering Group, to show local 'buy-in' and help guide the project.

Various names were suggested for a Steering Group. Councillor Arthur Moran said he would make some soundings and report back. The issue was to be included on the agenda for the next meeting. A leaflet outlined the project and which showed a map of the intended route, was circulated.

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9. Relationship of Transport Group with Local Area Partnership (LAP)

A paper and draft letter written by the Clerk was considered. The suggestion was that the Transport Group membership be widened to form a consultative body for the Nantwich LAP, considering transport issues for the wider LAP area, covering some 30 parish councils.

The feeling of the Group was that to properly consider and represent the divergent views of the rural area surrounding the town, as well as the town itself, would be difficult to achieve and would dilute the purpose of the Group, which was primarily constituted to focus on the concerns of Nantwich. Accordingly, the view was that the Group should regretfully decline the invitation to become the "Nantwich LAP Transport Group", although they would, of course, be pleased to inform the LAP of issues which they felt were important to the town itself.

Councillor Arthur Moran agreed to inform the LAP of this decision at their next meeting.

10. Vision Statement

11. Councillor Graham Fenton's Little Items

The items mentioned above were deferred until the next meeting.

12. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 2nd March 2010 at 4pm in Brookfield Hall.

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