

# NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP

## MINUTES OF NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP MEETING ON 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009

**In Attendance:** Penny Butterill (Chairman); Chris Booth of Cheshire East Engineers; Arthur Moran Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Peter Foster of Sustrans & Acton Parish Plan; David Yorke; Rachel Shenton; (both of Wellington Road Residents Association), John Lewis Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Rick Appleton (Hospital Street Association); Andrew Martin Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Annie Combes and Riddell Graham (Clerk, Nantwich Town Council).

**Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.

### 1. Welcome

The Chairman, Mrs Penny Butterill, welcomed new members to the Group. Each person introduced themselves.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 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

Chris Booth reported that signs were in place. He was aware of concerns about signage and the traffic flows resulting were being monitored.

David Yorke raised an issue mentioned in a letter to him from Phil Sharratt. Part of the reason for redirecting traffic was the low bridge at Welsh Row. David said in 34 years he had never known an incident involving the bridge and wondered whether this was a real risk.

Chris Booth said a survey of HGVs entering the town had been programmed and he expected it "some time this month" (September).

It was suggested that the only effective deterrent to heavy lorries was a weight limit on the outskirts of the town centre. Admittedly a few people would ignore it but the majority were law-abiding and the argument from the police of difficulties of enforcement did not hold water.

Chris Booth felt that most of the HGVs were local hauliers carrying cheese or milk. David Yorke agreed.

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The following points were made:-

- St Anne's school had asked for a 20mph speed limit outside the school. The Town Council supported this. Weaver and Brine Leas were likely to submit similar reports.
- There should be a weight restriction at the end of Park Road.
- Councillor Moran said that a crossing person had been requested at Brine Leas bearing in mind the building and development work going on there.
- Councillor Moran said he understood that the number of car parking spaces at the Brine Leas school new development had been reduced at the request of the Cheshire East planners.

## **5. Welsh Row Traffic Calming and Environmental Enhancement**

Chris reported that weight restriction signs were erected although legal orders were not in place for either weight restrictions or the 'no waiting' yellow lines which were also in place. The projecting islands in the road now carried signs. It was reported that tree foliage were covering some road lights and suggested that additional trimming was needed near Nixons Row.

## **6. Gateways**

Chris Booth reported on the Gateway project. It involved several Cheshire East Officers. Liz Rogers (Conservation Officer), Ruth Parry (Landscape Architect), Chris Lawton (Maintenance), Sue Togay (Town Centre Manager), Phil Riding (Special Projects).

Chris envisaged that each Gateway would also carry a 30mph restriction sign on the entrance to the town. He was open to suggestions on 'Gateways' but was personally favouring "the Cheshire Fencing" and a 'Welcome to Nantwich' sign.

It was suggested that each gateway was different and required a bespoke solution. Points were made about specific Gateways. The question of time-scale for ideas and work on the Gateways was raised. Chris Booth was flexible on time-scale but made the point that there was only £55,000 in the budget. He was seeking additional funds.

Annie Combes said that the Environmental Group of Nantwich Now had carried out some work on Gateways. (The attached documents refer). The Gateways envisaged by the Traffic Engineers more or less matched those identified by the Environment Group. Chris would welcome ideas for the form of Gateways and would bring some sketch designs to the next meeting for comment.

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## **7. Railway Station**

Councillor Lewis reported briefly on the Railway Station. The key players were attending a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September. The most difficult to pin down were Railtrack but they had agreed to send a representative and John was hopeful that some agreement on land adjoining the station could be reached – probably for development as a car park. He would report further.

## **8. Update on Connect 2**

A useful update was provided by Peter Foster (attached). The route was to be constructed in stages, each one 'stand-alone' so they were worthwhile in themselves, but made a coherent and comprehensive whole. Councillor Moran said he might be able, as a Trustee, to give some assistance in relation to the Beam Heath Trust negotiations.

## **9. Long term vision for the future**

A discussion took place in a shared Vision for the future. Reference was made to the summary of Nantwich Town Transport Action Plan which had emerged from discussions in recent years and to a draft Vision Statement circulated by Rick Appleton. Annie Combes expressed concerns about a bypass coming onto Chester Road – problems would be caused for Acton.

Rick Appleton made the point that it was necessary to have a Vision and to promote it at any opportunity over the next 12, 15 or 20 years, because that is how long it took to get any progress.

Peter Foster expressed reservations about promoting a bypass simply to encourage more traffic and lead to construction of even more roads. As part of a comprehensive plan it may have a place, but encouraging use of public transport, reduction in need for freight, closer collaboration between planning and transport, were all more important.

It was accepted that there were a number of issues of concern but a broad measure of agreement. The Clerk agreed to try to pull together the different strands and to bring forward an amended draft for further discussion on the agenda of the next meeting.

## **10. Possibility of Site Visits**

The general view was that the organisation of site visits as a Group was difficult and probably unnecessary. People either knew the sites discussed or could visit them individually.

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## 11. Items for the next Meeting

The following were proposed for the agenda of the next meeting:-

- Vision Statement
- Report on carriageway improvements
- Signage
- Gateways
- Railway Station
- Relationship of Nantwich Transport Group with Local Area Partnership
- Update on Connect 2 Nantwich Green Way
- Update on Wellington Road.

## 12. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 at 4pm in Brookfield Hall.

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