

# NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP

## MINUTES OF NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP MEETING ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Penny Butterill (Chairman); Arthur Moran Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; David Yorke, Georgina Ross (Wellington Road Residents Association); Phil Mason (Cheshire East Council Environmental Health); Rebecca Shorrocks (Cheshire East Council Public Protection & Health); Peter Foster (Sustrans); Rick Appleton, Chris Barratt (Hospital Street Association); Cindy Biggins (Welsh Row); Bronwyn Dean (DRE); Sharon Angus-Crawshaw (LAP Manager CEC); Andrew Martin Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Michael Jones (Cheshire East Councillor Bunbury) and Riddell Graham (Town Clerk, Nantwich Town Council as acting Secretary of the Group.)

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Councillors John Lewis and Graham Fenton, NTC; Mrs M Corn (Millstone Lane) and Malcolm McCuaig (Cheshire East Council Highway Engineer who sent an email which arrived after the meeting – extracts are shown at appropriate points).

### **ACTION BY**

#### **1. Welcome**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Penny Butterill, welcomed those present and a quick round of introductions was made.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011, were approved as a correct record.

#### **3. Arising from Minutes**

There were no matters arising not already included on the Agenda.

#### **4. Current responsibilities of Highway Engineers**

Malcolm McCuaig says:-

*The Highways Service procurement project is now in its final stage of the process. The remaining three bidders have submitted their final tenders for evaluation. The procurement team and other relevant Council staff are now evaluating these submissions in order to recommend a decision to the Project Board and to the Cabinet on the sixth of June 2011. The Preferred Bidder will be announced in early June 2011.*

CEC  
Engineers

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## 5. Hospital Street Air Quality

ACTION BY

Phil Mason and Rebecca Shorrock of Cheshire East Council Public Protection and Health department kindly attended the meeting. They gave an interesting outline of the work of the department and progress in tackling problems of air quality in the Borough and then focused on Nantwich and Hospital Street. A series of actions to be undertaken between 2011-2015 were outlined. They included:-

- Review of parking
- Review of weight restrictions
- Review of impact of Hospital Street becoming 'one way'
- Review of impact of improved signage and traffic calming
- Notifying 'Sat Nav' companies to update maps

Perhaps the most novel, was the spraying of paint which causes sunlight to break down Nitrogen Dioxide into harmless nitric acid which is washed away by rain. Trials had given positive results and there was an expectation that this could be undertaken 2011/12.

Like other services, the Public Protection Group had been badly affected by government cut-backs in finance.

PM/RS

The measures were broadly welcomed by the group who asked a number of questions.

Phil and Rebecca were thanked for their attendance and the positive steps which seemed to be being considered.

## 6. Wellington Road and signage

Wellington Road representatives reported that data recently collected by the Highway Engineers showed that both London Road and Wellington Road carried heavy vehicles and traffic was travelling too fast on both. Wellington Road actually had a higher number of heavy vehicles. Another count is to be done in June. Incremental measures are being taken to address the problems. In response to a question it was mentioned that the Engineers were aware of the difficulty of turning right at the top of Park Road (which might increase traffic going down Wellington Road). However, no action was proposed.

CEC  
Engineers

Malcolm McCuaig says:-

*Some alteration to direction signage was completed in March 2011 and additional traffic data collection, has been programmed for the later half of June 2011 in order to obtain representative data before the school holiday period begins. Data will be collected from the same survey positions used previously to enable direct comparison and I will share the information as soon as it is available.*

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## 7. Welsh Row Traffic Calming

**ACTION BY**

Councillor Moran said he intended to walk down Welsh Row with David Chan the local traffic engineer. He was not aware of any further incidents on the “build-outs”. There was a problem of persistent double-parking outside Malbank School.

AM/DC

Malcolm McCuaig says:-

*There are no current proposals carry out alterations to the established traffic calming scheme in Welsh Row, Nantwich. However, consideration will be given to problems of parking as part of the town centre review planned for Nantwich.*

## 8. Restricting traffic along pedestrian area on Square

Malcolm McCuaig says:-

*Proposals for a scheme to exclude vehicles from the pedestrian area of Nantwich Town Centre, for part of the day, is recorded as a priority scheme within the list promoted by Cheshire East Ward members and approved by the LAP. The scheme is listed as a reserve in the programme and delivery will be subject to slippage within the programme releasing funds for delivery unless an alternative source of external funding was to be procured. It was agreed that advance work was to be carried out by the Town Council in the form of informal consultation to ensure that there is majority support for such a proposal. To aid this informal consultation and to reassure potential objectors, I have suggested that any new restriction should be considered experimental basis as a first step.*

MMcC

## 9. Update Connect 2

Peter Foster of Sustrans reported on the current position. The crossings at the Rising Sun and Sainsbury’s were progressing satisfactorily. Part of the route around the perimeter of the Barony was with the Planning Inspectorate because it was classed as a ‘village green’ but it was not anticipated that there would be a problem. The route by Middlewich Road on Beam Heath land was being delayed by discussions with the Beam Heath Trustees but it was hoped it would be progressed fairly soon.

PF

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## 10. Local Area Partnership

**ACTION BY**

Sharon Angus-Crawshaw, the new LAP Manager and successor to Claire Wilson, introduced herself. She outlined the way the LAP worked and the Highways Group which took into account representations of this Group and met every couple of months. She said there would be three 'Question and Answer' panels for local residents to get information about the Local Development Framework shortly. She was anxious that the various groups considering highways and traffic matters did not duplicate each others work and ensuring this didn't happen would be one of her tasks.

SA-C

## 11. Car parking and speeding problems in Nantwich

Concern was raised about the use of 'the Crescent' (which runs parallel to Beam Street at the traffic lights at Beam Street / Park View) as a 'rat-run' to avoid the lights. Residents had petitioned CEC, although what measures could be taken was not clear, already signed 'Access only'.

Comments were made about the short length of time for 'free parking' on Hospital Street and Pillory Street and the fact that they were sometimes abused.

Councillor Moran also raised concern about on street parking (to avoid traffic restrictions and parking charges) outside residential properties.

Councillor Michael Jones suggested that Cheshire East was aiming for 50p for 2 hours parking, instead of the current 50p for 1 hour.

The problem of drivers using the Snow Hill car park as a short cut to the lights at the bottom of Middlewich Road was discussed. The Highway Engineers were aware of it and had considered possible measures to discourage it.

Concern was also expressed about speed of traffic in Hospital Street.

## 12. Any Other Business

The secretary agreed to email Cheshire East Engineers to ask them to attend the Group in future. He also said he would draw their attention to the loose manhole cover at the end of Millstone Lane which was rattling as cars passed over it.

Councillor Jones said that he was trying to get Nantwich roads 'de-primed' to discourage HGVs from passing through the town.

## 13. Date of Next Meeting.

6<sup>th</sup> September 2011, 4pm Brookfield Hall, Shrewbridge Road, Nantwich.