

# NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP

## MINUTES OF NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP MEETING ON 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2010

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Penny Butterill (Chairman); Arthur Moran Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; David Yorke; (Wellington Road Residents Association), Peter Foster; (Sustrans), John Lewis Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Chris Barratt (Hospital Street Association); Cindy Biggins (Welsh Row); Annie Coombs Acton PC; Malcolm McCuaig (Cheshire East Council); Jenny Lees (CEC); Paul Burns (CEC); Maureen Corn (Millstone Lane); Bronwyn Dean (DRE) and Riddell Graham (Town Clerk, Nantwich Town Council as acting Secretary of the Group.)

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Councillor Andrew Martin NTC & CEC, (who joined the meeting later); Claire Wilson – Nantwich LAP Manager; Councillor Graham Fenton, NTC.

### **ACTION BY**

#### **1. Welcome**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Penny Butterill, welcomed those present.

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

The Minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010 were approved as a correct record.

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

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

#### **4. Local Transport Strategy Consultation**

Jenny Lees of Cheshire East Council (CEC) Highways and Transportation Unit was present to outline the Strategy and receive comments. She distributed copies of the Local Transport Plan Consultation Document. She explained the LTP would shape investment in highways and public transport over the next 15 years and will be implemented by rolling three year plans. Jenny explained that priorities were 'sustainable futures' and 'business growth'. The group made a number of comments about the Consultation Document including questions as to whether the document reflected the Groups 'Vision Statement' which had been communicated to CEC. Malcolm McCuaig explained that the LTP was a delicate balancing act in that it was, in part, a bid for government funding. Accordingly, it was necessary to accord with national, central government, priorities in order to try to obtain maximum funding. It was inevitable that the LTP could not, in these circumstances, always reflect local conditions or aspirations. A number of other comments were noted by Jenny. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

JL

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## 5. Current Responsibilities of Highway Engineers

**ACTION BY**

Malcolm McCuaig outlined the 'Ward list' system. He explained that, currently, the Engineers were looking through requests previously supplied by Ward Councillors and dividing them into 'aspirations' and 'practical schemes' which could realistically be implemented.

The point was made that 'aspirations' may not be immediately achievable, but they were important, because first, they helped provide a direction and overall aim and second, at some point, the resources may be available to make them a reality.

Malcolm emphasised that, as a Borough Officer, his priorities for the town came from Ward Councillors. Accordingly, the Group should direct their suggestions and concerns to those Councillors. Arthur Moran confirmed that the Group provided a valuable feed back and information for Councillors – in fact, the first Ward List had been based on the Group's priorities.

Malcolm agreed that attendance at the Group by CEC Engineers was helpful – but warned that a Highways sub-group was being established as part of the LAP and it may not always be possible, due to limited resources, to send a representative to the Transport Group.

## 6. Hospital Street Air Quality

Chris Barratt, of the Hospital Street Residents, had not personally been able to attend the subsequent meeting with the Environmental Health Department of Cheshire East. He understood that the consultative meeting had been poorly attended. There had been concern expressed about the position of the recent zebra crossing installed. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to CEC to establish the current position as regards the Air Quality Study and next steps (email attached to these minutes).

RG

## 7. Wellington Road signage

A list of suggestions from the Residents Association as to possible alterations to signage had been provided to CEC. Malcolm said that two of the alterations had been agreed, drafted and the signs ordered. They could be expected within the next 6 months. There was also a suggestion of imposition of a weight limit. However, practical points which made this difficult were outlined.

MM

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## 8. Welsh Row Traffic Calming

**ACTION BY**

Councillor Moran mentioned temporary bollards at the end of Queens Drive and the need for a permanent (rather than A frame) sign indicating the need to give way to ongoing traffic. Regulatory orders on parking bays would form part of a review of parking being undertaken by Paul Burns (CEC). There was some discussion as to whether any restrictions were necessary at all. Paul said he would be happy to receive observations from residents in the area.

## 9. Nantwich Parking Review

The 'prompt' paper issued by Paul was considered. He made the following points:-

- Already discussed traffic bays on Welsh Row (see item 8) – must consider whether time limits are needed.
- Access to the town centre for waiting and parking would be reviewed.
- Wall Street cuts across Snow Hill car park. Suggestions are that it is used as a 'rat run'. Paul would discuss with Highway Engineers whether it may be appropriate to stop it up.
- Tariff levels are being altered and would be kept under review.
- Initiatives such as the parking at the Football Club were welcome and the effect would be monitored.
- Consideration was being given to selling of a limited number of car park permits on some car parks.
- The surfaces of some of the car parks, especially Snow Hill, needed attention.

**ALL  
BY  
PB**

Points were made by the Group to the effect that a 50p per hour tariff was a step in the right direction but hopefully there would be further moves to parity with other towns. Suggestions were made of increased efforts to ensure compliance and of a "free half hour" to allow people to undertake activities like a quick purchase or collect a prescription.

Difficulties of parking in Whitewell Court were mentioned. Paul felt a residents parking scheme was highly unlikely because of the existence of adequate off-street parking.

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## 10. Pedestrian area on the Square

**ACTION BY**

Malcolm said that he was prepared, subject to resources, to consider the possibility of an experimental order in Mill Street, restricting traffic. The way to progress it was through the 'Ward Member' system as outlined at item 5.

WARD  
MEMBERS

## 11. Update Connect 2

Peter Foster reported on the progress of Connect 2 and distributed a plan outlining the current position.

## 12. Gateways into Nantwich

It had been agreed that David Chan (CEC) would take responsibility for the £10,000 left in the budget for 'gateways'. There was some debate about whether 'gateways' was the best use of the funds, but the conclusion was that it should be progressed. A small group – Annie Coombs, Cllr Moran and Cllr Martin agreed to assist David to take the matter further.

RG  
AC  
Cllr AM  
Cllr AMtn  
DC

## 13. Railway Station

Councillor John Lewis reported that the reluctance of Network Rail to allow any work to the land adjacent to the station had been reported to the MP Edward Timpson who had written to Network Rail Chief Executive. No response as yet but Councillor Lewis would continue to pursue the matter.

JL

## 14. Local Area Partnership and Highways "Joint" Committee

This had already been discussed at item 5. A sub-group of the LAP would form a "Highways Committee" with input from parishes, the Town Council and the Transport Group as well as ward Councillors. Highway and traffic matters could be discussed and progressed in this pilot scheme in Nantwich.

## 15. Car parking problems in Nantwich

Whitewell Court had been discussed at item 9. Regents College (now COG7) was a very difficult entrance onto Crewe Road. Councillor Martin knew the junction and felt double yellow lines could be a solution. Malcolm said that if Ward Members raised the issue it would certainly be considered.

Cllr AM

## 16. Date of the next Meeting of the Transport Group

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011, Brookfield Hall, at 4pm.

- END -