

# NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP

## MINUTES OF NANTWICH TRANSPORT GROUP MEETING ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010

**In Attendance:** Penny Butterill (Chairman); Bronwyn Dean (Disability Resource Exchange); Maureen Corn (40 Millstone Lane CW5 5PE); Chris Booth of Cheshire East Engineers; Arthur Moran Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Peter Foster of Sustrans & Acton Parish Plan; David Yorke & Georgina Ross; (Wellington Road Residents Association), John Lewis Councillor, Nantwich Town Council; Graham Fenton, Nantwich Town Council; Annie Combes (Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish); Claire Wilson (LAP Manager) and Riddell Graham (Clerk, Nantwich Town Council).

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Councillor Andrew Martin and Dr Rick Appleton.

### **1. Welcome**

Mrs Penny Butterill, Chairman of the Group, welcomed those present. Each person introduced themselves. The absence of Rick Appleton due to illness was noted. He had sent his apologies. Mrs Maureen Corn of Millstone Lane had joined the group as a representative of that area.

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

The Minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 were agreed and approved as a correct record.

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

There were no matters arising from the Minutes not already set out in the Agenda.

### **4. Wellington Road and Signage**

It was accepted by representatives of residents in Wellington Road that there had been some reduction in heavy lorries. However, traffic counts showed a slight increase in traffic generally. The aim of encouraging drivers to use the "by-pass" did not seem to have been achieved. Chris Booth said that Malcolm McCuaig, the new senior traffic engineer for the area, was to take up the offer of a meeting and 'walk-about' to discuss remaining concerns about signage.

In connection with traffic approaching Wellington Road, Councillor Lewis made three points:-

- Yellow lines needed re-instating after utility work.
- Weight restriction signs can't be read.

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- Although speed limits had changed on the stretch of road near the lake, de-restricted signs were still in place.

Chris Booth said he would pass on these concerns.

## 5. Welsh Row Traffic Calming and Environmental Enhancement

7½ ton weight limit now in place and signs were up. Order was enforceable except that there was a 7½ ton limit on Marsh Lane, from the Wrenbury direction, which would need alteration.

On Welsh Row some yellow lines needed re-instating and there had been some accidents or near misses as a result of the ‘islands’ so some road-markings were to be altered. Cindy Biggins recorded her dismay at the appearance of Welsh Row – the environmental enhancements did not seem to have improved matters.

## 6. Draft Vision Statement

The draft submitted was considered incomplete. It was agreed that John Lewis would initially attempt to recast it and, after consultation with David York and Annie Combes, bring a new version before the Group at the next meeting.

## 7. Councillor Graham Fenton’s little items

- (a) The issue of a barrier on Mill Street was being dealt with in discussions involving Councillors Moran and McGinnis about reducing traffic in the Square.
- (b) Councillor Fenton reported that there were no practical objections to more frequent train services – in theory trains could stop every hour at Nantwich – it was a question of political pressure to achieve this. The Group were in favour of greater train usage.
- (c) Councillor Fenton suggested putting the Transport Group Minutes onto the Internet, with a link to the Town Council site. The general view was that this was a good idea. The Secretary (Riddell Graham) agreed to make enquiries as to the practicality of this suggestion and report back.

## 8. Update on Connect 2

Peter Foster mentioned his fear that the Big Lottery award available may be threatened, or even lost, because of delays in approving crossing points for the Greenway. The Engineers were satisfied from a traffic and safety point of view with the designs but for some reason the proposals had not been given the “go ahead” by Cheshire East. The Group were dismayed to hear the project might be in jeopardy. The Secretary was asked to write to the Cheshire East Portfolio Holder to express the Group’s concern.

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## 9. Gateways into Nantwich

Some designs were circulated. There were some designs still “on the drawing board”, Chris was going to press for them to be finalised. If orders were not placed this financial year, there was a risk that the funding would be lost in the budget.

## 10. Railway Station

John Lewis briefly outlined the position which amounted to a lack of interest by Railtrack in making the most of their site near the station. Efforts would continue, if necessary through the MP, to obtain a positive response.

## 11. Local Area Partnerships

Claire Wilson the newly appointed LAP Manager, was in attendance for this item. Councillor Moran explained the position. The LAP had three (four, if the Nantwich Transport Group was included) advisory sub-committees considering traffic and transport matters, but the Cheshire East Cabinet had agreed to establish Transport Forums to deal with consultation on traffic orders, diversions, local highway issues etc. Councillor Moran felt it was important to have a consultative forum which could make decisions, relatively quickly. The establishment of the advisory sub-committees to the LAP might cause a potential conflict. Claire did not feel there would be a problem, as she felt that the various committees could “feed into” the Forum and that, in any event, the terms of reference of some would mean they had different roles.

## 12. Road to Nowhere (aka Edmund Wright Way)

Councillor Moran reported that the road was now adopted. The question was whether the developers would pay for an extension of the road and whether residents actually wanted this stretch of road. The feeling of the Group was that this was an important link and people had bought houses on the understanding that it would be completed. Councillor Moran agreed to report further developments.

## 13. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 4pm in Brookfield Hall.

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