

Main points arising: Tree Estate dropped kerbs and Park Lane crossings/ Operations Manager's update for June 2015 / Main Hall flooring/ Easement of Byelaws for Poynton Show

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 27TH JULY 2015 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr H Murray

Cllrs. L Berry, L A Clarke, Mrs S-J Gilmore, Mrs S Horsman, Mrs T Lorde and Mrs J Sewart

Also attending under SO 56: Cllrs C Gorst and I Hollingworth

9. Questions from members of the public

Mrs Arrowsmith, 20 Parklands Way.

Mrs Arrowsmith presented a report which had been circulated to committee members in advance. She had been temporarily disabled and needed to use a mobility scooter to get around Poynton. As such, Mrs Arrowsmith became familiar with the issues around disability access and appreciated the challenges faced by disability scooter users in the village. She concentrated on the roads around Yew Tree Lane, and her presentation highlighted a lack of dropped kerbs at the Ash Road/Yew Tree Lane junction, the Holly Road/Yew Tree Lane junction and the entrance to the High School. It was noted that some new dropped kerbs had been installed on the Parklands Estate.

Mrs Arrowsmith raised a second issue of the difficulty faced by pedestrians in crossing Park Lane in the area of the Community Centre. She explained that this was a particular difficulty at school times. She noted that vehicles tend to increase their speed as they exited shared space at the Waitrose junction. Mrs Arrowsmith asked the Committee why there was no formal crossing for school children such as that on Dickens Lane.

Cllr Lorde confirmed that she had walked the school route with Mrs Arrowsmith and sympathised and agreed with the issues raised. A speed indicator device (SID) had been deployed on Park Lane but was not located in a suitable position to gather evidence of traffic speed. It was reported that there was no available mounting post for the SID in the correct position.

The Chairman confirmed that it is already known that vehicle speed does increase towards the School Lane junction and that the area around Poynton Green had originally been intended to be part of the Shared Space zone.

This would have helped address this issue and would have provided suitable crossing points. The Chairman stated the Council was aware that a solution is required but that budgetary constraints could hamper progress. .

The Committee discussed at length the problems including the historical background, contributing factors, possible deterrents and solutions. The Chairman noted that road engineering solutions rather than signage achieves the desired results but required more funding. Despite the issue of funding, a permanent and long term solution would be preferred.

Some of the dropped kerbs have previously been approved and installed through the Local Area Partnership (LAP) Highways sub-committee (now the Local Joint Highways Committee) but this process has taken up to 18 months. It was noted that a pair of dropped curb costs approx. £3,000.

It was agreed that a study of across the whole village was required, with the aim being to make all areas accessible to the village centre by users of mobility vehicles and buggies. The Chairman envisaged a series of 'super-routes' ensuring that each estate can then feed onto these and subsequently into the centre of Poynton. A Task & Finish Group with the remit to research, plan, consider old plans and existing data, collate data together with an idea of costs and a map of where to install drop kerbs is gathered and in the first instance, presented to the Local Highways Committee. The Task & Finish Group will include: Cllrs Mrs T Lorde, L Berry, Mrs J Sewart and Mrs Arrowsmith. Two areas for the group to consider will be crossing Park Lane as highlighted by Mrs Arrowsmith and a mobility plan across the village. The Group will report to the next FIED Committee meeting.

The committee thanked Mrs Arrowsmith for her research and presentation.

10. Apologies for absence

Cllr M C G Sewart.

11. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None.

12. Minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 8th June 2015.

Hockley play area – It was noted that the drainage and safety work has now been completed.

Queensway Revitalisation Working Group - It was confirmed that Cllr G Smith had agreed to continue as Chairman of this Working Group.

Middlewood train station parking – It was noted that this needed to be publicised as part of the Visitor Economy actions.

Footpath Task and Finish group – It was noted that this forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee of 8th June 2015 are approved as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (NC)

13. Update for June 2015 from the Operations and Events Manager

Willow Lane ponding is still a problem. The Operations Manager continues to follow up with CE and awaits a response.

A ponding issue was reported in the area of London Road North/corner of Park Avenue. The Operations Manager will follow up on this also.

Dog Fouling

It was suggested that the stencil and spray be applied at the entrances to Lady's and Prince's Inclines on Towers Road to deter dog fouling. The stencil will also be reapplied at Dickens Lane/Copperfield Road.

Play Areas

The Operations Manager has been notified by CE that the seat of the zip wire at Barnaby Park has been repaired but will verify this.

Problems with anti-social behaviour at Barnaby Park were discussed. The Chairman noted that when the new park equipment was first installed, it was agreed that should there be any issues, the Town Council would arrange to have the play area fenced off.

The footpath from Barnaby Road to Barnaby Park was reported as overgrown. The Operations Manager confirmed that this public right of way had been reported to Cheshire East at least three weeks ago and that he would follow it up.

Cllr Mrs Sewart thought that there were Town Council funds of £26,000 available for the fencing.

The Chairman confirmed that a resident consultation exercise was previously conducted and quotes for fencing had been received. It was proposed that the process to install fencing be re-started by refreshing the quotes.

RESOLVED: That the process to install fencing around Barnaby Play Area is commenced and quotes for that refreshed (NC)

The Chairman shared an e-mail recently received from Mr Jacks who has been researching the possibility of a play area at Philip's Bridge on the Glastonbury estate. Mr Jacks had been making good progress and was preparing funding bids. Mr Jacks was asking the Town Council to confirm

what support it would be prepared to give to the project. The Chairman explained that the land is owned by CE and that the Town Council has asked for it to be transferred to the Town Council. If the land was transferred then the maintenance would fall to the Town Council in the same way as it does at Brecon and Hockley play parks. It was proposed that Mr Jacks be invited to attend the next FIED Committee meeting and then the Committee can make an informed decision on the issue. It was also proposed that the Committee would support the project in principle, including long term maintenance.

RESOLVED: That this Committee supports in principle the idea of a new play area at Philip's Bridge, including its long term maintenance; and that the issue of the play area is an agenda item at the next FIED Committee meeting, to which Mr Jacks be invited (NC)

Inclines

The Chairman requested that future work on the Inclines, such as the removal of Japanese knotweed, is publicised in the PUN.

Coppice Road Allotments

The Operations Manager was asked what the criteria was for sending warning letters to allotment owners. He replied that a number of factors were taken into account including plot utilisation, condition of the plot and its borders and changes since the last inspection. The criteria are based on information from the Allotment Association and the Chairman of that Association is also involved in the decision.

RESOLVED: That the written update for June 2015 from the Operations and Events Manager is received with thanks (NC)

14. Repair and refurbishment of the Main Hall floor and stage.

RESOLVED: That the action taken under SO 51 concerning the repair and refurbishment of the Main Hall floor and stage is noted (NC)

15. Easement of the Town Council's byelaws for the Poynton Show on 29th August 2015.

RESOLVED: That the request from the Poynton Show for an easement of the Town Council's byelaws on the use of parks and open spaces, to enable the Poynton Show to take place in Poynton Park on 29th August 2015, is approved (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.50pm