

Avebury Parish Council

Draft: minutes of the Transport Group Committee meeting held 25th October 2022 at the Social Centre, Avebury SN8 1RF.

Agenda

1. Introductions :
 - Alice Macaire (alicemacaire@gmail.com), Mike Bedford (APC: chair), Stephen Stacey (APC), Ben Woodward (Bwoodward86@gmail.com BB&WMJPC), Helen Ramsay (hramsaypc@gmail.com, BB&WMJPC and WM), Bob Parker (APC), Angela Norman.
2. Apologies for absence
 - Ben Butler, Mike Daniels
3. Declarations of interest
 - None
4. Acceptance of minutes of 2nd September 2019
 - Accepted
5. Matters arising from the minutes
 - All issues dealt with in this meeting
6. A4 road safety enhancement schemes at Beckhampton and West Kennett: recap and project status:
 - The Transport Group's recommendation to accept Atkin's design plans was accepted at full council meeting on 3 September 2019
 - Danny Kruger met the West of Marlborough Traffic Group (APC, KVPC, and Preshute PC) in December 2021. See copy of Danny Kruger MP's letter dated 01/02/2022 sent to government about implementing Atkins on the A4 at West Kennett and Beckhampton, and subsequent replies from the Departments for Transport and for Culture, Media, and Sports: in essence "it's up to Wiltshire to do it and not us."
 - West of Marlborough Traffic Group is following up with Danny Kruger. Next step: Group to meet again and go through Danny to the new Secretaries of State.
 - West Kennett still a NSL and won't change unless the road is re-engineered. This would require closure of the B4003, which needs to be agreed by other local parishes. One area to consider is to approach West Overton PC to test whether there has been or could be a change of heart. **Action: SS to talk with Jayne Drew to investigate the possibility of getting consensus regarding the closure of the avenue.** Could consider a pilot of 3-4 months from April to August to so see what problems ensued. Closure of the avenue would also make the junction in Avebury safer. HR to determine if BB& parish would support this idea. Discussion regarding a compromise to enforce a weight restriction recognised as a half-way measure which would not allow narrowing of the A4 in WK and hence a speed reduction.
 - **Action: SS to consult Emma Sayer at WHS partnership panel to determine if there is some co-ordinated approach we can work on**

Avebury Parish Council

7. A strategy for moving forwards:
 - To review the recommendations outlined in the Avebury WHS Management Plan. Example: extending the pedestrian area at the entrance to Green Street, road narrowing on the A4361 (mind education) and informal crossings. Small, incremental work is possible via LHFIG.
 - LHFIG (used to be CATG) feeling is that, now that Avebury have had a speed reduction, other parishes deserve attention first.
 - Gates/flowers on entrances into Green Steet could be considered. Gates may not be acceptable in the WHS but would be useful if they were for residents only.
 - **Action: MB to request the data from the police regarding accidents in the WHS area and surround as this may provide data to pressure for speed reductions.**
 - To request a free Metro Count on the A4361
 - The SID makes this irrelevant, particularly if a second SID is purchased.
 - PC's plan for a 20 mph speed restriction adjacent to the Play Area (this could be extended to include the length of highway past Longfields to the A4361)
 - **Good idea but needs another consultation, which would cost £1,000 out of the LHFIG total annual budget of £40,000.**
 - Likely will be unmonitored by police but at least community speed watch could enforce to some degree.
 - Road narrowing is more likely to reduce speed long term.
 - To note that the Beckhampton roundabout and other verges are now included in WC's Wild About Wiltshire rewilding scheme (from May 2022). This means WC will undertake mowing of vision splays only on verges and will mow a border of about 3 metres around the base of the roundabout
 - Consider planting wildflowers / trees
 - Dr Bedford is a member of Route 403 sub group of the Calne LHFIG (Local Highways and Footpaths). This links Cherhill PC and Avebury PC for planning and implementation of the cycle route through Avebury
 - Note the 403 as it goes over little arch bridge and into Avebury there have been several incidences where elderly persons have been startled by cycles travelling at speed. Need to consider signage to warn cycles of pedestrians. **Action: SS to raise at next APC meeting.**
8. Purchase of a second SID (Speed Indicator Device): strong support already received from businesses and members of the community that were present at the Annual Parish Meeting.
 - There has been an offer from NT to contribute £2,000 towards next SID, leaving £1,700 to be found. Avebury Sports and Social Club have also offered money and an approach to MAB will be made. **Recommended that this should be supported by APC.**
9. Pedestrians walking between the sports club and the car park: bring Wiltshire Highways into it to come to a decision
 - Not a decision for the APC, should be raised with Highways. A more likely successful route is to put signage in the SocialClub entrances to discourage pedestrians from walking on the road.

Avebury Parish Council

10. Correspondence: including:

- Ideas from members of the public for improving road safety and slowing traffic: (i) use flowers to reduce speeding see: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-62304096>. This would support WC's Climate Strategy and Our Natural Environment Plan, and there is a Community Environmental Toolkit to support the creation of community environmental project (ii) apply double white lines to the middle of the A4361 that runs through the centre of the village
- To receive the NT's formal report on visitor numbers to Avebury
- Acoustic Camera Trial: update

11. List of Priorities for action (in order of importance)

- B4003 (The Avenue)
- Apply for 50mph in West Kennett
- Police stats
- SID
- 20mph in Trusloe

12. Any other business: to note the need to encourage more people to become members of the Transport Group

- Please consider encouraging residents to join the group and contribute to the group.

13. Date of next meeting

- December 5th at 7pm
-

Extract of Design Principles adopted in the Parish Traffic Plan

In addressing the delicate balance between highways and special places such as Avebury and the surrounding WHS, our proposals seek to influence driver behaviour and traffic speeds by emphasizing a close relationship between highway design and details, and the specific context of each place and set of circumstances. To this end we aim to avoid reliance on standardised signs and markings, barriers and conventional traffic calming measures. Instead the proposals intend to alert drivers to the unique surroundings of the Parish of Avebury, and to ensure that, as far as possible, the highway forms an integral part of the settlements and the World Heritage Site. Legibility, low speeds and a reduction in highway intrusion underpin our approach. The design principles include:

- *careful attention to the entry points into the site, and into each settlement, to contrast the low-speed context of the villages and archaeological sites with the remainder of the highway,*
- *strong emphasis on place-making at key locations to maintain driver awareness and lower speeds,*
- *the use of contextually appropriate surface materials, verge details, minimal intrusive road markings and reductions in apparent carriageway widths to emphasize pedestrian activity and likely crossing points throughout the Parish, and*

Avebury Parish Council

- *the use of carefully selected and appropriate materials and elements to clarify the vehicular boundaries between the visitor and residential areas of the Avebury village core.*

Given the constraints on resources, the plan concentrates on a limited number of important focal points where improvements are necessary and where the combined efforts of Wiltshire Council, the local community and other stakeholders could develop sensitive and effective ways to minimise the impact of traffic and maintain the distinctive qualities of place on which Avebury relies.

[The Plan then proposes schemes for nine 'Focal Points' and the need for better signage. Eight of the Focal Points are the Red Lion/Green Street area, Avebury High Street, the Rawlins Park/Swindon Road area, NT main car park, Trusloe/Bray Street, Beckhampton, West Kennett and the four scheduled monuments along the A4. The ninth 'Focal Point' addresses intermittent events such as summer solstice, and an appendix addresses the need for better signage.]