

AVEBURY TRANSPORT GROUP AND WILTSHIRE HIGHWAYS MEETING

Wednesday 19th September 2018
1:00 – 3:00pm Avebury Social Centre

Present:

Stephen Stacey (SSt)	Chair Avebury PC
Cllr Jane Davies (JD)	Wilts Council
Steve Hind (SH)	Principal Engineer Highways Assets & Commissioning
Helen Miah (HM)	World Heritage Site Coordination Unit Partnership Officer
Sarah Simmonds (SSi)	World Heritage Site Coordination Unit Partnership Manager
Jill Petchey (JP)	Chair Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton PC
Jill Turner (JT)	Fyfield and West Overton PC
Andrew Williamson (AW)	Avebury PC

Apologies:

Mike Bedford Avebury PC

1. **Welcome**

SSt welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves.

3. **Purpose of the meeting**

SSt – explained that it was useful to place a marker on where we are now following the two recent community exhibitions. The intention of this meeting was to discuss the pre-circulated paper and agree actions. The paper tried to put exhibition outcomes in the framework of the agreed Avebury WHS Transport Strategy (March 2015). In particular we should consider whether there are any items that we can get started with now. Are there any common views? SSi – provided brief context for the Transport Strategy and key objectives, funded by Wilts Council and developed in partnership with all the key stakeholders. Approved by the WHS Committee. This is now the framework for moving forwards.

4. **'Implementing local community requests to improve the safety of road users in the Kennet Valley'** (pre-circulated paper)

4.1. WHS landscape

This item requested consideration for 50mph signage on the A4, A4361 and A361 at or before entry to the WHS, clear definition of pedestrian crossings, and pedestrian/cycle path segregation.

- SH explained that, whilst limits have to be assessed locally and therefore they would not be likely to be recommended across the entire site, the current A4 proposals for Beckhampton and West Kennett include carriageway narrowing, which would allow reassessment.

- JD suggested we need to raise the priority of this action, especially given the focus given to Stonehenge.
- SSt/SSi said that there ought to be special treatment for the WHS in its entirety.
- JD said that we ought to raise the profile of road safety issues within the WHS at Cabinet level.
- It was noted that Richard Clewer (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts and Tourism) is on the WHS Partnership Panel and should be contacted.
- SSi commented that there might be 'legacy' funding available from A303 works.
- AW reported that he had been invited to a Highways England workshop on Oct 4 to discuss the criteria for 'legacy' funding.
- JD suggested that we need to put a very strong bid together for 'legacy' funding.

Actions:

- 1. AW will find out more about 'legacy' funding from attending Oct 4 workshop and report.**
- 2. SSi will circulate contact details for Esther Gordon-Smith at Highways England (the contact person for this event).**
- 3. ATG will consider at its next meeting how best to raise WHS road safety issues with Cabinet.**

4.2 A4 in Fyfield, West Overton and Lockeridge area

This item requested extension of the existing 50mph speed limit on the A4 at Fyfield eastwards to the Clatford turn and westwards to Beckhampton.

- SH said that a PC can request a speed limit review through (in this case) the Marlborough Area Board (MAB), which would then refer it to the Community Area Transport Group (CATG). All Wilts A roads have been assessed and, unless there have been relevant material changes, it is unlikely that speed limits will alter.

Action:

- 1. SH will email JT information on the last speed limit assessment on this stretch of the A4.**

4.3 A4361/A361

This item requested signage on A roads approaching the WHS to deflect the heaviest HGVs onto approved alternative routes.

- JP reported that surface treatment on the A4361 at Winterbourne Monkton was breaking up mainly due to heavy vehicles.

Actions:

- 1. SSi will follow up at mtg with Wilts Council next week and report.**
- 2. JP will report surface breakup issue on Wilts website and, depending on the response, consider raising it at the next meeting of CATG.**

4.4 Avebury Trusloe

This item requested extension of the existing 30mph speed limit westwards along the A4361 to include New Bridge, Trusloe and Trusloe turn (Longfields) and a 40mph speed limit westwards from that point to the Beckhampton roundabout.

- SH reminded the meeting that, as with item 4.2, unless there had been significant material change since the last speed limit review, a second review would not be likely to provide evidence in support of a speed limit reduction.

Actions:

- 1. SH will check previous assessment and let SSt know the outcome.**
- 2. SH will send SSt info on distance between repeater signs.**
- 3. SSt will ask ATG to consider whether speed limit reduction at this point should benefit from any 'legacy' funding received.**

4.5 Avebury

This item requested differentiated road surfaces for pedestrian crossings within the Henge.

- After discussion, it was agreed that this item required further consideration by ATG. If it was decided to proceed with it, the next step would be for Avebury PC to raise it with CATG.

4.6 The Sanctuary

This item requested road narrowing and speed limit reduction to 50mph to protect vulnerable road users visiting the site and accessing the Ridgeway.

- SSi reminded the meeting that the action agreed in the Strategy was to construct pedestrian pathways to right and left of the A4 and a crossing point at the foot of Overton Hill.

Action:

- 1. SSi will add it to the list for 'legacy' funding**

4.7 Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett

This item requested a pedestrian/cycle path segregated from the A4361.

- It was noted that the land over which this path would run was owned by the National Trust (NT) and Laura Cooper and might therefore be best dealt with by getting permission from them.
- SSi said that a path of this kind was consistent with the landscape access strategy and she hoped the NT would be supportive.

Actions:

1. SSt said that he had a meeting with NT Wilts Landscape General Manager Jan Tomlin planned for 26 September and he would float the idea with her then and report to JP.
2. SSi said that she would add JP's contact details to the circulation list for Avebury WHS Steering Committee.

4.8 and 4.9 West Kennett and Beckhampton

SSt suggested taking these two items together. Both concern the progress of work commissioned by Wilts Council and co-financed by APC and its parishioners from Atkins to produce detailed plans for road design countermeasures aiming to reduce traffic speeds and enhance road safety on the A4 at these two points.

- SH reported that the Beckhampton scheme is progressing with Atkins and he planned to have a meeting with them soon.
- JT drew the meeting's attention to an email sent to SSt by the chair of Fyfield and West Overton PC noting the PC's objection to closure of the B4003.
- SSt said that it was not currently ATG's position that the B4003 should be closed but rather Atkins' considered recommendation that, to secure the required road safety benefits for the A4, closure would be necessary.
- After further discussion, JD proposed that a way forward might be to close the B4003 south-north whilst keeping it open north-south.
- The need to reconstruct the verge at the 'informal' lay-by in order to protect buried archaeology was also noted.

Actions:

1. SH agreed to consider JD's proposal and report the outcome.
2. SSi will see if 'legacy' funds can fund a fly over video showing the discordant relationship of the road and monument.

4.10 FP22 Avebury

This item requested action to resurface the footpath linking Avebury Trusloe and Avebury and forming part of NCN Route 403.

Actions:

1. SH undertook to check footpath budget/plans.
2. JD suggested that SSt should discuss with Martin Cook (Area Highway Engineer, Northern Wiltshire).

Action since the meeting: SSt discussed with Martin Cook and Andrew Jack (Community Engagement Manager) in the margins of the CATG meeting on 20 September and was advised to write to Richard Broadhead copying Cllr Jane Davies.

4.11 High Street/Green Street

This item requested renewed signage at the heads of both roads indicating "permit holders only past this point".

- It was noted that the possibly forthcoming extension of the Ridgeway TRO would make Green Street a no through road and, if so, could be signed as such.

Action:

- 1. ATG to consider further and refer to CATG if the need for action was confirmed.**

5. Next steps

1. PC representatives would report to their PCs.
2. In addition SSt would report to ATG.
3. JT reported that an invitation would be forthcoming to Kennet Valley PC chairs for a meeting to discuss ways of working together to improve road safety on roads in the area.

6. Any other business

None.

7. Date of next meeting

Not set.

DRAFT