

Stockbridge Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKING GROUP AND
HAMPSHIRE CC HIGHWAYS
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2022
AT 9.45AM AT HCC OFFICES, WINCHESTER.



Present: Stuart Jarvis (HCC Highways)
David Wilson (HCC Highways),
Cllr Iain Bell (Stockbridge Parish Council),
Mrs Emma Jefferies (Stockbridge Primary School),
Cllr David Drew (HCC County Councillor)

Clerk: Belinda Baker

TS/22/001 Cllr Bell thanked the Stuart Jarvis and David Wilson for taking the time to meet with him and Mrs Jefferies. He said he had been involved with the Old London Rd Safety issue for 4 years. He said that he was concerned that HCC saw the issues regarding Stockbridge's High Street and the safety issue on Old London Rd as the same problem. Cllr Bell said it was important to separate the two issues as they were both different and parking on the High Street would not affect parking on Old London Road. He pointed out that the terms of reference in the proposal for the Old London Road feasibility study did not include any reference to parking on the High Street. He said the meeting was not concerned with the merits of parking on Stockbridge High Street.

TS/22/002 Mrs Jefferies emphasised that the matter with regards to Old London Rd was a safety issue and separate from the parking issue on the High Street. She said that the issue was long standing. She said the feasibility study, by the sole service team commissioned by Stockbridge Parish Council, was an opportunity to come up with a permanent solution.

TS/22/003 Mrs Jefferies said that the safety issues occurred when parents parked on Old London Rd while other parents tried to drive down the road and while children were trying to cross the road, all in a short space of time. Both Mrs Jefferies and Cllr Bell agreed that the alternative of using the A30 laybys was of limited value because the A30 was a major road which the children would be need to cross.

TS/22/004 Cllr Bell pointed out that those residents that parked on Old London Rd during the day were those without off street parking. He said that there was no overspill of parking from the High Street

TS/22/005 Mr Wilson said that the team that was doing the feasibility study, Hampshire Services, had been set up to provide evidence for Parish Councils who had the CIL available to undertake a Highways project. He said that the engineering consultancy would look at whether HCC would allow the proposal to go ahead.

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However, he said that it was appropriate for the feasibility study to look at Stockbridge as a whole and that it was wrong for the study to look at Old London Rd in isolation.

- TS/22/006** Mr Wilson said he was looking at a number of Highways projects across Hampshire and parking in Stockbridge was one of the issues being considered.
- TS/22/007** Cllr Bell commented that the success of the school meant that it had now increased in size and it had developed this isolated problem concerning the safety of children crossing Old London Rd whilst other parents were parking their cars. He said it was specific issue only occurring at certain times of the day and it was not related in any way to the issues concerning parking on the High Street.
- TS/22/008** Cllr Drew said that SPC had commissioned the work on Old London Rd to look into this issue. Mr Jarvis said that this had meant that the HCC wanted to look at the complete picture of parking in Stockbridge.
- TS/22/009** Mr Jarvis said this approach was in accordance with policy. The results of the parking survey would feed into the Old London Rd feasibility study to ensure there wouldn't be a displacement effect.
- TP/22/010** Mr Wilson explained that the Covid barriers that SPC had successfully worked on with John Harvey, had brought the problems in Stockbridge to a fore. He said that HCC had received a number of complaints regarding parking in Stockbridge over the years and he now had funding for a number of projects which he hoped to use to provide a solution in Stockbridge. He said that different proposals could be considered and including one that pushes people into the centre, which was being successfully deployed on other High Streets.
- TS/22/011** The Clerk said she had emailed Ms Ware to make it clear that SPC did not support HCC undertaking a parking survey on the High Street. She said that her email had been adamant that SPC had not asked for the survey or for parking controls and was not supportive of HCC's actions.
- TS/22/012** Cllr Drew agreed that this was SPC's position. Mr Wilson and Mr Jarvis expressed surprise.
- TS/22/013** Cllr Bell made the point that people visit Stockbridge for recreation not just shopping. This was acknowledged.
- TS/22/014** Cllr Bell made it clear that he believed the matter in Old London Rd was a safety issue and was concerned only with improving safety for the children at the school. However, it was pointed out that HCC did not see them as separate issues. HCC saw them as part of the same problem and was therefore unwilling to look at them differently.

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- TS/22/015** Mrs Jefferies commented that she felt there was miscommunication in Ms Ware's email because the safety issue was not at the top of the list. She said there was a need to separate the two issues – parking on the High Street and on Old London Rd at school times.
- TS/22/016** Mr Jarvis said that safety was HCC's highest priority. He continued that any consideration of parking would need to include the other areas in Stockbridge.
- TS/22/017** Mrs Jefferies said she had looked into the school street option mentioned on the feasibility study and she had visited a school when it was in operation. She said that in her opinion it would have a greater impact on parking than making the road one way because the option effectively blocked the road off which would mean that parking would be pushed out to other areas.
- TS/22/018** Cllr Bell confirmed that the school street proposition not an option that SPC would support. He went on to say that there was a pavement problem in the High Street which would impact where parents could park cars. He said the pavements in Stockbridge were narrow and were very often narrowed further by people parking the bonnet of their cars over the pavements. He said it was not a solution to ask parents to park further away because there was no safer solution than Old London Rd.
- TS/22/019** Mrs Jefferies pointed out that others can choose when and if they come into Stockbridge but school children could not.
- TS/22/020** Cllr Drew said that it was important to bear in mind that the population of Stockbridge was surprisingly small with under 300 homes
- TS/22/021** Cllr Bell was clear that there was no conflict or division between the wishes of the traders and the community and that there was no support for paid parking. He said it was important that HCC took in the wishes of the wider community into their decision making.
- TS/22/022** Mr Jarvis opined that he did not regard the concerns at Old London Rd as a known safety issue but he was happy to look into it. He said he suspected the answer would lie somewhere in the area put forward.
- TS/22/023** Mr Wilson explained that he was under pressure to look into the parking problems in Stockbridge but agreed that communication between HCC and SPC had been poor and it would be better if the two sides worked together to reach an understanding and consensus.
- TS/22/024** It was agreed to set up a meeting with HCC and members of SPC's TPWG to discuss the issues.
- TS/22/025** Mr Wilson confirmed he would be interested in the results of the survey due to be held on the High Street.

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Meeting closed at 10:45am.

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