

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES - 12 SEPTEMBER 2013

Present: Councillors Page (Chair), Ayub, Davies, Duveen, Hacker, Hopper, T Jones, Terry, Whitham and Willis.

Also in attendance: Councillor D Edwards.

Apologies: Councillors Anderson and Rodda.

24. FORMER TRANSPORT USERS' FORUM - CONSULTATIVE ITEMS

(1) Presentation - Reducing Sign Clutter

Cris Butler, Assistant Network Manager, gave a presentation and answered questions on the Department for Transport's Traffic Advisory Leaflet entitled "Reducing Sign Clutter". The presentation covered the recommendations contained in the Leaflet, the benefits of reducing sign clutter, and examples of sign clutter, both within the Borough and elsewhere. This matter was also the subject of a report to the Sub-Committee later on the agenda (Minute 35 refers).

Resolved -

That Cris Butler be thanked for his presentation.

(2) Future Presentations

The Chair reported that the following presentations had been arranged for future meetings of the Sub-Committee:

5 November 2013 - Cycling Strategy;
16 January 2014 - Reading Buses.

Resolved -

That the future presentations be noted.

25. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 13 June 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26. PETITION: - GEORGE STREET, CAVERSHAM - INCLUSION IN PARKING PERMIT ZONE 02R

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report on the receipt of a petition from the Residents of George Street, Caversham, requesting that they be included in parking permit zone 02R. A location plan was attached at Appendix 1.

The report stated that the petition, containing 18 signatures, read as follows:

"We are residents of George St and would like to be included in parking zone 02R and share the same parking priorities as other residents of the area".

The issues raised within the petition were to be fully investigated and a future report would be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

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At the invitation of the Chair, lead petitioner Elizabeth Lewis addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the issue be investigated and a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration;
- (3) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

27. RESIDENTS' PARKING (RP) - REVIEW OF STREET BAYS

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of a review that had been carried out to investigate the amount of kerb side space available for RP holders.

Attached at Appendix 1 was a list of requests received in relation to existing RP bays together with officer recommendations.

The report stated that a number of issues had been raised by residents and councillors regarding the amount and type of kerb side space available for residents. These issues had been collated and circulated to the relevant Ward Councillors with officer recommendations.

Two distinct areas of requests had been received from residents and it was proposed that these be investigated within two separate phases:

Phase 1 - Amendments to the existing Traffic Regulation Orders

This would pick up on issues with existing RP bays, for example, 'abuse' of the RP system where areas of unrestricted parking remained within RP areas and were heavily parked up; excessive use of no waiting at any time which could be shortened to accommodate more RP bays; and areas of RP bays that were not clearly defined or were at an "odd length", (e.g. could only fit one and half vehicles in the space). Residents had also requested amendments to streets which had bespoke operational hours which they would want to fall in line with the remainder of the zone.

The report also referred to Minute 12 of the meeting of 13 June 2013, at which it had been decided that motorcycles were no longer required to display either an RP permit or a visitor parking permit when in a bay designated for permit holders. The Chair reported at the meeting that the Sub-Committee's decision had resulted in the removal of motorcycles from the Scheme definitions, and it was now necessary to allow officers to carry out the necessary legal consultation procedure to remove the reference to motorcycles within the RP Scheme Traffic Regulation Orders. This would complete the desire to remove completely the need for motorcycles to have any type of residents' permit when parking within marked RP bays within the Borough. This was, of course, subject to the statutory consultation process and to any feedback received.

The report also referred to Minute 18 of the Sub-Committee's meeting of 13 June 2013, at which it had been decided to re-advertise a proposal for the RP only bay on the east side of Eastern Avenue to revert to Zone B2 as Permit Holders Only. It was proposed to provide

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information concerning this change to each property of Eastern Avenue located within the RP zone.

Phase 2 - Investigation of streets not currently within RP Zones.

Phase 2 of the programme would involve investigation of streets where residents had requested RP, but were not currently within RP Zones. This would require a wider consultation with Ward Councillors and residents in affected streets. In order to ensure a consistent approach with zonal numbering it was proposed that any new RP that was subsequently implemented should fall in line with its adjoining zone. In addition it was proposed that a Zone 15R should be introduced within the University/Hospital area, encompassing three existing single street zones, B4 (Redlands Road), B5 (Upper Redlands Road) and B6 (Whitley Park Lane), together with any new additional RP that would be implemented within the area.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic, Environment, Planning & Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultation and advertise the proposed amendments in Appendix 1, in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996;
- (3) That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultation and amend the existing Traffic Regulation Order relating to motorcycles in RP bays as set out above and in Paragraph 4.6 of the report, in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996;
- (4) That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultation, and re-advertise the RP bay in Eastern Avenue as RP Permit Holders Zone B2 Only, in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996;
- (5) That subject to no objections being received the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order implementing the proposals;
- (6) That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

28. ANNUAL WAITING RESTRICTION REVIEW - PROPOSED NEW SIX-MONTHLY PROGRAMME AND REQUESTS FOR WAITING RESTRICTIONS (SPA12)

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of the current list of requests for waiting restrictions within the Borough that

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had been raised by members of the public, community organisations and Councillors, since August 2012. The list of requests was attached at Appendix 1.

It was proposed that the list of issues be fully investigated and Ward Councillors consulted. Upon completion of the Ward Councillor consultation, a further report would be submitted to the Sub-Committee requesting approval to carry out statutory consultation on the approved schemes.

The report also contained details of the process for reviewing issues raised and proposed that the previous practice of carrying out an annual review be revised and that the review be undertaken on a six-monthly basis in future, to enable a quicker response to be made to parking issues raised by the local community.

The report also stated that there were occasions when the need to change traffic regulation orders had to take place outside of the annual waiting restriction review. These could be for development (housing/commercial) related requirements where alterations had to be made sooner than the annual review could deliver. Over the previous two years, six separate traffic regulation orders had been advertised with £9k of external funding. With the annual review reduced to six-monthly cycles there was potentially a greater opportunity for external funding to assist with the advertising costs, thus reducing the calculated increase in advertising costs even further.

At the invitation of the Chair, three residents of Patrick Road, one of the roads listed in Appendix 1, addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the proposal to increase the frequency of the annual waiting restriction review to a six-monthly basis at an annual increase in cost of £2.2K, to be met from existing budgets, be approved;
- (3) That the requests for waiting restrictions as shown in Appendix 1 be noted and that officers investigate each request and consult on their findings with Ward Councillors;
- (4) That should funding permit, a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee requesting approval to complete the statutory consultation on the approved schemes.

29. WILSON PRIMARY SCHOOL - NEW ACCESS, RELOCATION OF ROAD HUMPS

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report seeking approval to carry out statutory consultation on the relocation of an existing speed hump on Wilson Road at the northern boundary of Wilson Primary School, and to amend the existing School Keep Clear markings. Site Location and Proposals Plans were attached at Appendix A.

The report stated that Wilson Primary School was currently being refurbished and was due for completion in early 2014. The highway works associated with the development involved closing off an existing vehicular access and creating a new vehicular access, to be located close to the northern boundary of the site. This new vehicular access would conflict with the existing road hump and to overcome this, it was proposed to relocate the

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road hump five metres to the south of its existing location. Such a measure would ensure that vehicle speeds remained low along the school frontage.

The report also stated that the existing School Keep Clear markings located close to the northern boundary of the site would no longer be required, given that the access point would not be available to pupils. It was therefore recommended that this restriction was replaced with 'no waiting at any time' which was an extension of the restriction located further north of the site.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to advertise the proposed relocation of the road hump and subject to no objections being received, to implement the proposal;
- (3) That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to advertise the revocation of the existing School Keep Clear Markings at the new access and to replace them with no waiting at any time restrictions;
- (4) That any objections received during the statutory consultation be reported back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

30. INSTALLATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS - SHIRESHEAD CLOSE, READING - CONSULTATION

Further to Minute 63 of the meeting of the Traffic Management Advisory Panel of 17 January 2013, the Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on a consultation undertaken at Shireshead Close with the regard to the installation of waiting restrictions.

A Site Location Plan and Summary of Consultation Responses were attached at Appendix A.

The report stated that the consultation had been undertaken between 13 June and 5 July 2013, with a 30% return rate. The results showed that 65% of respondents believed that the parking issues along Shireshead Close were minor, and 69% of respondents did not want waiting restrictions introduced.

It was therefore recommended that the waiting restrictions should not be introduced.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That following the results of the consultation, parking restrictions not be installed and the developer be informed;
- (3) That the local residents consulted be made aware of the outcome.

31. VALPY STREET - ALTERATIONS TO BUS STANDS, PARKING BAYS AND MOTORCYCLE PARKING

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report stating that the owners of Minerva House, Valpy Street, had submitted a planning application to refurbish and remodel the existing office building. The proposals would replace the existing blank ground floor wall with a shop, restaurant or café, creating an active frontage which would improve the urban realm.

The application had been granted by the Planning Application Committee at its meeting on 4 September 2013.

The applicant had requested that the current bus stands and parking along Valpy Street be reconfigured so that the current bus stands would no longer be located outside the new active frontage to Minerva House.

The report sought approval to commence the statutory process to amend the existing parking layout as detailed on two drawings in Appendix 1.

The Chair proposed that, in order to accommodate two vehicles, the length of permit parking on the north side of Valpy Street be extended to 11 metres, with the permit parking length extending for the full length.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the changes to the parking and bus stands in Valpy Street be approved, subject to the length of permit parking on the north side of Valpy Street being extended to 11 metres, with the permit parking length extending for the full length;
- (3) That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultation in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 to advertise the proposal and subject to no objections being received, to implement the proposal;
- (4) That any objections received to the statutory consultation be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

32. ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2013/14 - UPDATE AND SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL POLICY

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of the Road Safety Education Programme for the current year.

The report also detailed procedures for allocation of school crossing patrols, stating that officers worked with schools to promote patrols which were vacant and wherever possible fill these with local residents with connections to the school, although the take up rate to the positions was very low.

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It was necessary to ensure that the provision of school crossing patrols was cost effective and in some past cases school crossing patrols had been employed in locations where a formal crossing provision had been provided in the form of traffic signal controlled crossings (Pelican, Puffin and Toucan). Given the costs of installing such a provision, with an average installation costing £45,000, to then employ a school crossing patrol at the same location to operate the signals was not making the best use of limited resources, especially as there were schools where no formal crossing facilities were provided.

Zebra crossings were also formal crossing points, but they operated differently to a signal controlled crossing and the driver of a vehicle had to stop if they saw a pedestrian wishing to cross. However, it was not always possible to clearly see a child, and in these cases, the provision of a school crossing patroller was justified.

It was therefore proposed that requests for school crossing patrols should be prioritised to schools which were provided with informal crossing points and zebra crossings in the vicinity of the school grounds. At locations where traffic signal crossing facilities were provided an additional school crossing patroller was not considered justified and would no longer be provided. This policy would not have any implications on the currently employed school crossing patrols as there were currently none employed on traffic signal crossings.

It was reported at the meeting that local authorities had a duty to promote road safety under Section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, and not as stated in the report.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the procedure for allocating School Crossing Patrols as set out above and in the report be agreed.

33. NEW ROAD AND THE MOUNT - RESPONSES TO PARKING CONSULTATION

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of responses received from residents of New Road and The Mount, Redlands, following a parking consultation, carried out during August 2013.

The report stated that residents of both New Road and The Mount had raised their concerns regarding inconsiderate parking and subsequent traffic flow issues within their roads. Due to the level of enquires from residents, a councillor-led 'drop-in workshop session' had been held for residents in May 2013, enabling residents to express their views and discuss potential options to alleviate their concerns.

Following on from this workshop, an informal consultation letter had been delivered to all residents of the roads, outlining the ideas and possible solutions discussed, so that all residents had had an opportunity to have their say. This would also enable officers and Ward Councillors to determine whether a level of consensus could be reached between residents on what form of waiting restrictions (if any) they would want to see in their road.

The report had attached:

- Appendix 1 - Parking Consultation Leaflets for New Road and The Mount;
- Appendix 2 - Summary of responses received from consultation.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the work carried out with Ward Councillors and residents, resulting in the informal consultation, be noted;
- (3) That it be noted that officers would continue to work with Ward Councillors and the two neighbourhoods to reach a consensus and, should a proposal for statutory consultation be taken forward, this be done as a part of the waiting restriction review process.

34. DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT - PINCH POINT FUNDING UPDATE

Further to Minute 11 of the meeting of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee of 9 July 2013, the Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on two schemes for which Pinch Point grants had been awarded to Reading Borough Council by the Department for Transport (DfT) for improvements to the highway network, to improve traffic flow and to improve structural resilience of key infrastructure.

The report also contained details of the proposed programme for the two schemes; Reading Bridge Structural Improvements & Traffic Management Scheme and the A33 Congestion Relief Scheme.

The report stated that the Reading Bridge structural maintenance scheme would address issues that had been identified in the structure as a result of long-term exposure to weather where water leakage through the structure had caused deterioration. Without this work the bridge might have required a weight restriction to be applied in the future, which would create a significant highway pinch point. As the works to the Bridge included structural strengthening and re-waterproofing and resurfacing, there was also the opportunity to include investigation of the introduction of a 'tidal flow' lane traffic management system to maximise the capacity for peak time traffic, southbound in the morning and northbound in the evening. The options available to achieve this aspect of the detailed design would be the subject of a further report to the Sub-Committee.

The A33 scheme comprised a range of measures to improve journey time reliability and reduce congestion along the corridor. This included extending the left-turn filter lanes for exiting the A33 onto Rose Kiln Lane (north and southbound); providing more direct pedestrian and cycle links alongside the A33 crossing of the Kennet; providing an alternative pedestrian and cycle route to negotiate seasonal flooding around the Bennet Road area; and partial signalling at peak times only of the junction of the A33 with South Oak Way.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted and Policy Committee be requested to accept the grant and give spend approval in accordance with the DfT's terms and conditions;
- (2) That the scheme updates be noted and the programmes for the A33 Congestion Relief Pinch Point Scheme and the Reading Bridge Structural Improvements & Traffic Management Pinch Point Scheme be agreed,

subject to an update report in relation to the investigation of the tidal traffic management component of the Reading Bridge scheme being submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;

- (3) That, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out any statutory consultation required in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 to advertise the proposals and subject to no objections being received to implement them;
- (4) That any objections received to the statutory consultation be reported back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (5) That regular update reports be submitted to the Sub-Committee in relation to the Pinch Point schemes.

35. REDUCING SIGN CLUTTER - UPDATE

Further to Minute 89 of the meeting of the Traffic Management Advisory Panel of 14 March 2013, the Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report highlighting the next steps being taken in reducing sign clutter within the Borough.

As previously reported, the Department for Transport (DfT) had published a Traffic Advisory Leaflet (TAL), 'Reducing Sign Clutter'. The TAL gave practical advice on reducing sign clutter and emphasised that officers should use their engineering judgement and local knowledge to complement the guidance to ensure signing solutions were effective. Following an officer review of the DfT's sign clutter recommendations, the report detailed the proposed approach to sign removal in Reading under the headings:

- Removal of regulatory signs;
- Removal of warning signs;
- Removal of directional signs;
- Removal of local directional signs;
- Removal of tourist destination signs;
- Removal of temporary signs;
- Temporary warning signs;
- Illumination of signs;
- Blue bordered signs.

Officers proposed to adopt the approach set out in the report and remove any signs conforming to the criteria at the earliest opportunity. However, officers would consult with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and relevant Ward Councillors on any proposals to review or remove local directional signs or tourist destination signs.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the Department for Transport recommendations on reducing sign clutter be applied to all road signs in Reading and officers begin a programme of sign review/removal at the earliest opportunity;

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- (3) That officers consult with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and the relevant Ward Councillors on any proposals to review or remove local directional signs or tourist destination signs.

36. WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2013-14

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of the outputs delivered by the 2012/13 Winter Service Plan and providing details of the 2013/14 Plan, to be put in place in October 2013 to manage the 2013/14 winter period.

The report stated that the 2012/13 winter had proved to be a protracted cold winter season with several prolonged severe weather events similar to those experienced in the two winter seasons of 2009/10 and 2010/2011. The 2012/13 Winter Service Plan had provided a robust service for the duration of the winter period with limited disruption to the primary and secondary network. There had been no reported problems with the availability of salt or maintenance of the salt stock level during the 2012/13 winter season.

Highway officers had completed a full review of its 2012/13 Winter Service Plan, the main points of which were summarised, and had produced the 2013/14 Winter Service Plan. This would be reviewed and amended as appropriate at the end of the 2013/14 winter service period in order to continually improve its performance and provide the most cost effective and high performing service. The updated 2013/14 Winter Service Plan and a map showing the primary/secondary routes and grit bin locations had been made available as a background paper, electronically, and on deposit in the Members Room.

Resolved -

- (1) That the outputs delivered by the 2012/13 Winter Service Plan and procedures put in place be noted;
- (2) That the 2013/14 Winter Service Plan be noted and endorsed.

37. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Further to Minute 15(1) of the meeting of 13 June 2013, the Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report on the current position regarding additional pothole repairs.

The report stated that the additional pothole repair plan had commenced on 29 July 2013 on a road-by-road basis as outlined in the previous report and detailed below:

- Priority 1 - A class roads;
- Priority 2 - B class roads;
- Priority 3 - C class roads;
- Priority 4 - Bus Routes not on the A, B or C class roads;
- Priority 5 - Premier/National Cycle Routes not on the A, B or C class roads;
- Priority 6 - On road cycle routes not the A, B or C class roads.

The roads included in each category were detailed at Appendix 1.

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The report contained details of the numbers of potholes identified and repaired in each category. An update was given at the meeting, the figures as at 6 September 2013 being as follows:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Potholes Identified</u>	<u>Potholes Repaired</u>
Priority 1	112	96
Priority 2	11	5
Priority 3	354	140
Priority 4	-	-
Priority 5	-	-
Priority 6	-	-

Resolved -

- (1) That current position regarding additional pothole repairs be noted;
- (2) That a further progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

38. READING STATION HIGHWAY WORKS UPDATE

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report providing a progress update on the Reading Station Redevelopment Project and the associated highway works, and highlighting the key programme dates for future works associated with Reading Station.

The report had appended:

- Appendix 1 - Plan showing the new interchanges and public squares;
- Appendix 2 - Plan showing the bus stop arrangements at the Northern Interchange;
- Appendix 3 - Plan showing the cycle routes at the Northern Interchange;
- Appendix 4 - Plan showing the drop-off facilities at the Northern Interchange.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

39. EASTERN AREA STUDY UPDATE

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on progress with the implementation of the pedestrian and cycle schemes being delivered through the Eastern Area Transport Study.

The report stated that in June 2013, implementation of a series of pedestrian and cycle schemes in the area had been approved by the Study Steering Group, following a public exhibition held in January 2013 and subsequent undertaking of statutory consultation. The report contained details of progress on the schemes, which had been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and focused on measures to create positive changes to encourage pedestrian and cycle trips, as follows:

- Redlands Road Refuge Islands;
- Redlands Road Zebra Crossing;
- Craven Road Refuge Island;

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- Southampton Street & Silver Street Cycle Lanes;
- London Road & Cemetery Junction Shared Path.

Future progress on the transport schemes being delivered through the Eastern Area Transport Study would be reported to future meetings of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

That the report and progress with delivery of the pedestrian and cycle schemes be noted.

40. POCKET PLACES FOR PEOPLE

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of the aims and objectives of the Sustrans-led project 'Pocket Places for People' and the progress to date.

The report stated that Sustrans had approached the Council during summer 2012 concerning the opportunity to build on existing work being undertaken with the charity as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme, by bidding for further match funding to host a new two-year community engagement project. This project aimed to support local communities to reclaim a series of 'Pocket Places for People' along a busy urban street to help re-knit the social and physical fabric of their area. The Council had subsequently submitted an Expression of Interest focussing on the Northumberland Avenue corridor and had been notified that it had been successful in autumn 2012.

The project involved a dedicated Project Officer, part-funded by Reading Borough Council and part by Health Confirm, and managed by both Sustrans and Reading Borough Council, to engage with local residents and businesses. The objectives were to identify barriers to walking and cycling and improvements that would increase social interaction, thus creating a healthier and happier experience of living in or passing through the local neighbourhood and making people feel safer. The project would initially introduce temporary improvements, but with a view to more permanent interventions.

The report outlined action taken to date, including door-to-door surveys at 115 properties in Northumberland Avenue, monitoring of traffic speeds, and organisation of four workshops at venues in the Avenue.

As a part of this work and with approval of the LSTF Steering Group, one Car Port Lite had been purchased and installed to encourage people in the area to cycle to local facilities/services.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted and officers continue to update progress on this initiative to the Sub-Committee;
- (2) That schemes be progressed in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and relevant Ward Councillors.

41. LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on progress with delivery of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Small Package, for which £4.9m funding had been approved by the Department for Transport (DfT) in July 2011, and the LSTF Large Partnership Package, for which £20.692m funding had been approved by the DfT in June 2012.

The report provided an update on each of the five delivery themes of the LSTF programme, with particular focus on projects that had reached milestones within the previous three months.

The report had appended a plan showing details of the upgrading and relocation of the existing signalised pedestrian crossing at the junction of Church Street and Bridge Street in Caversham. This was one of the initiatives being taken under the Active Travel theme.

In particular, the Sub-Committee was asked to note the following:

- The progress made on the Local Sustainable Transport Fund Projects to date, and the fact that officers would continue to deliver this programme and report progress to the Sub-Committee;
- The granting of planning permission by Wokingham Borough Council's Planning Committee for the Park & Ride sites at Mere oak and Winnersh;
- The identification of a preferred option for the Pedestrian Cycle Bridge over the Thames as a bridge with a single mast;
- The receipt of three tenders from bidders for the Bicycle Hire scheme for Reading following publication of the Invitation to Tender;
- The progress made with implementation of the roadside Variable Message Signs throughout the urban area.

Resolved -

That the progress made on the LSTF projects to date be noted.

42. PLAY STREETS UPDATE

Further to Minute 10 of the meeting of 13 June 2013, the Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on progress on Play Streets.

The report stated that residents had been given the opportunity to apply to join the scheme and a total of seven applications had been received. These were listed in Appendix 1 together with requested closure dates and reserve dates.

Following discussions with the police, it was proposed that the Play Street closures be trialled under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and Ward Councillors, the

Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the appropriate Experimental Traffic Regulation Order in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996;

- (3) That any objections received to the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order be reported to the Sub-Committee at the appropriate time;
- (4) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to modify or suspend provisions in the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order and that the Experimental Order include provision for this;
- (5) That the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order be approved for a period of up to 18 months.

43. CAR PARK TARIFF REVIEW

Further to Minute 11 of the meeting of 13 June 2013, the Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report advising the Sub-Committee of a proposal to introduce a 4-hour tariff band at Hills Meadow Car Park and Kings Meadow Car Park.

At the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee, it had been proposed that a 4-hour tariff band was introduced as an additional charging band at the two Car Parks. Based on the current charging rate in the Car Parks as listed in the report, the new tariff rate would be charged at £4.00. Six options for the 4-hour tariff band had been considered, summarised as:

- Option 1: Same charging hours, 4 hour tariff applied everyday;
- Option 2: Extend charging hours 6am - 8pm, 4 hour tariff applied everyday;
- Option 3: Extend charging hours 6am - 6pm, 4 hour tariff applied everyday;
- Option 4: Same charging hours, 4 hour tariff applied weekend only;
- Option 5: Extend charging hours 6am - 8pm, 4 hour tariff weekend only;
- Option 6: Extend charging hours 6am - 6pm, 4 hour tariff weekend only.

The estimated annual income for each of the Options was set out in the report.

There were currently no proposals to change the car park tariff rates at Broad Street Mall, Queens Road, Civic B Car Park, Cattle Market, Chester Street in Caversham, Dunstall Close in Tilehurst and Recreation Road in Tilehurst.

Resolved -

- (1) That a 4-hour tariff charged at £4.00 at Hills Meadow and Kings Meadow Car Parks be agreed;
- (2) That the 4-hour tariff be implemented for weekends and public holidays only at both Car Parks;
- (3) That the charging hours be changed to Monday to Sunday 6am to 6pm for both Car Parks;
- (4) That the statutory requirements for changes to the Borough of Reading (Civil Enforcement Area)(Off Street Parking Places) Order 2012 be agreed

and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to advertise the proposals;

- (5) That subject to no objections being received, the Order be made;
- (6) That the Tariff Changes be implemented using the delegated authority of the Head of Highways and Transport;

44. VERGE AND FOOTWAY PARKING BAN UPDATE - TILEHURST AREA EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME AND RESULTS OF SOUTHCOTE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP CONSULTATION

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the experimental verge and footway parking ban in the Tilehurst area and on an informal consultation completed by the Southcote Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) on a proposed experimental verge and footway parking ban in the Southcote area.

The report stated that the experimental scheme in the Tilehurst area had been introduced on 7 May 2013 and, between this date and 14 July 2013, warning notices had been issued to drivers in contravention of the restrictions. Subsequently, formal Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) had been issued and it was reported at the meeting that a total of eleven PCNs had been issued up to 6 September 2013. To date, five letters of comment, one letter of objection and one letter of support had been received and it was proposed to submit a report to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on the comments and objections received during the first six months' operation of the scheme.

With regard to the Southcote area, the Southcote NAG had carried out an informal consultation between 20 April and 28 May 2013 in eight roads, as listed in the report. A total of 954 letters had been hand delivered and the consultation letter was shown in Appendix 1. A total of 281 had been returned (29%), of which 213 (76%) of the respondents were in favour of the proposed verge and footway and parking ban. The results of the consultation were shown on a road-by-road basis in Appendix 2. One of the recurring points made by the several respondents to the consultation related to road safety problems created by inconsiderate parking on or near junctions. It was therefore recommended that this issue was investigated as part of the Annual Waiting Restrictions Review.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee in November 2013 detailing the comments and objections received to the experimental verge and footway parking ban in the Tilehurst area;
- (3) That the informal consultation completed by the Southcote Neighbourhood Action Group on a proposed verge and footway parking ban in the Southcote area be acknowledged;
- (4) That the progression of an experimental verge and footway parking ban scheme in the Southcote area be agreed in principle as the next area, subject to any comments which might arise from the experimental ban in the Tilehurst area;

- (5) That parking on or near to junctions in the Southcote area be investigated as part of the Annual Waiting Restrictions Review, including the areas around the roundabouts at Southcote Lane/Circuit Lane and Southcote Lane/Virginia Way.

45. KENNET ISLAND - TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report on a review of the current highway layout and traffic management measures in the Kennet Island development which had been undertaken. The review followed several representations made by the residents of the estate and the Whitley Ward Councillors about inappropriate traffic using the estate as a short cut.

The report contained details of speed survey work undertaken in Longships Way and Whale Avenue during the period 8-13 July 2013, with the purpose of measuring the effectiveness of the 20 mph road design which Kennet Island had been subjected to.

On the basis of the survey results, Officers had reviewed the available options for reducing the road safety concerns and encouraging those drivers travelling the fastest to reduce their speed without affecting the use of the roads by the local residents. It was proposed to introduce two 6'6" width restrictions, one in Longships Way and one in Fair Isle Way as detailed in Appendix 1 as a traffic calming feature.

The report had attached at Appendix 1 a Plan showing the proposed width restrictions.

It was also proposed that officers continue to liaise with Thames Valley Police in an attempt to address the ongoing issues of excessive speed as recorded and reported.

The Chair read out a communication received from the Whitley Ward Councillors in support of the proposals.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultation and advertise the proposed 6'6" width restrictions in Longships Way and Fair Isle Way as shown on plan no A4/KI/TM/003RevA, in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996;
- (3) That, subject to no objections being received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order;
- (4) That any objections received following the statutory consultation be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (5) That officers continue to liaise with Thames Valley Police in an attempt to address the ongoing issues of excessive speed recorded and reported in Kennet Island.

46. CYCLE FORUM MEETING NOTES

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of discussions and actions arising from the 10 July 2013 meeting of the Cycle Forum under the auspices of the approved Cycling Strategy.

The Notes of the meeting were attached at Appendix 1.

Resolved -

That the Notes of the Cycle Forum meeting of 10 July 2013 be noted.

47. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGEPOINTS

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report providing a summary of a project for the provision of three rapid electric vehicle charge-points and two fast charge-points in Reading.

The report stated that the Council had submitted two bids to the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) plug-in vehicle charge-point fund in April 2013. The bids submitted were for:

- The provision of plug-in vehicle rapid chargepoints at Kenavon Drive, Palmer Park and Rivermead Leisure Centre;
- The provision of plug-in vehicle fast chargepoints at Palmer Park and Rivermead Leisure Centre.

OLEV had announced that the Council had been awarded funding for both bid submissions in July 2013. The funding was available for up to 75% of the eligible costs of providing the charge-points, and was therefore capped at £112,500 for the three rapid charge-points and £15,000 for the two fast charge-points.

The next steps were to progress the specification, procurement, detailed design and delivery programme. The grant funding was available for the current financial year and therefore the charge-points must be installed by April 2014.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report and the successful award of grant funding be noted;
- (2) That the Policy Committee be requested to agree to the acceptance of the grant and to give spend approval in accordance with the Department for Transport's terms and condition to provide electric vehicle chargepoints in Reading;
- (3) That, subject to (2) above, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out any statutory consultation required in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 to advertise the proposal and subject to no objections being received, to implement the proposal;

- (4) That any objections received to the statutory consultation, be reported back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

48. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved -

That, pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) members of the press and public be excluded during consideration of Item 49 below, as it was likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

49. APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY PARKING PERMITS

The Director of Environment, Culture and Sport submitted a report giving details of the background to his decisions to refuse applications for Discretionary Parking Permits from a total of six applicants, who had subsequently appealed against these decisions.

The Chair reported at the meeting that application 1.5 had subsequently been withdrawn since the production of the report.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Director of Environment, Culture and Sport's decision to refuse application 1.0 be upheld;
- (2) That, with regard to application 1.1, a discretionary business permit be issued, but no free book of visitor permits be issued;
- (3) That, with regard to application 1.2, a discretionary residents permit, and subject to receipt of the necessary documentation a second charged permit, be issued, on the understanding that the issue of the permits was personal to the applicant, and the normal two free books of visitor permits be issued (and up to five additional charged books, as required);
- (4) That with regard to application 1.3, a discretionary charity permit be issued;
- (5) That with regard to application 1.4, a discretionary permit be issued on the understanding that the issue of the permit was personal to the applicant, and the normal two free books of visitor permits be issued (and up to five additional charged books, as required).

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 9.05pm).