

**Bishopstone Group Parish Council**

**Annual Public Meeting**

**New Bridge Community Centre**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012**

**7.30pm**

**Minutes**

1. Welcome from Chairman and introductions – Chairman John Macklin, introduced the guest speakers and welcomed the members of the Parish Council and public to the meeting. Approximately 19 people attended.
  
2. Guest speaker Andrew Lee-Jones – Lead Engineer Traffic Management Amey – Amey has the contract with Herefordshire Council. Mr Lee-Jones gave a brief over view of his role and then opened the floor for questions which are as follows
  - (a) Whitecross Sports Academy have flashing lights and a limit of 20mph all of the time, why do you not have it just in term time?.....Reply – This is Herefordshires Council policy, this form of traffic calming is the most effective, the lights flash 24 hrs a day, they are testing part time lights flashing in school hours in 3 villages, they are being assessed to see how well they work, Sutton St Nicholas started off well, but it has now slipped and the speed has increased. The lights are half the cost of speed bumps.
  
  - (b) Why have you moved the 40mph speed limit near the Kenchester junction off the main road into Swainshill? Reply - The limit was moved when the work was carried out on Yazor Brook, but has now been moved back to its original position and it will be kept at its current position. There are now new guidelines to assess speed limits and all class A and B roads are being assessed. These guidelines look at all the 30/40/60mph sections of the roads. Out of that review so far, they have identified 59 areas which need to be looked more closely. The speed limit on the main road through our area on the A438 is consistent with the Government guidelines. It has been found that if drivers feel that the speed limit is wrong, i.e too low for that section of road, they will increase their speed, lower speed limits may not have the effect of reducing speeds.
  
  - (c) Can you think of another remedy to reduce speeds? – Reply - Police do not have the time / resources to enforce speed limits. They have an agency who enforce speed limits, when they started they looked at regular crash sites, but now they chose where they go. There will be speed enforcement at near Wyevale soon.
  
  - (d) 30mph limit was put through Bishopstone but drivers do not stick to this limit? What are the criteria for speed humps?.....Reply - They cannot be put into the road in isolation, all of the road would need to be

taken into consideration, also bends in the road and junctions need to be considered. Humps cannot be put in without street lights.

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- (e) Road markings looking worn around Herefordshire – Reply - They should be renewed regularly and when roads are re-surfaced. Budgets are tight this year, we encourage bad areas to be looked at. It was brought to Me Lee-Jones' attention that the junction on the road from Credenhill to Kenchester had no road markings and was dangerous, he made a note of it to report to colleagues.
- (f) Hereford only has one trunk road...why?... What are the criteria - ? A trunk road is one which the Government maintains. The Hereford to Abergavenny road was a trunk road, the section in Wales still remains so, the general repair of the road is noticeably better than that in Herefordshire. Reply - Road categories are :-Trunk Road, principle road, A and B roads. The Government decided two or three years ago which roads will be their main roads between a and b, and subsequently gave back some trunk roads to local government with a sum of money to maintain them for a few years.
- (g) Would you like to take back the "traffic queuing" sign as we haven't got a garage at Bridge Sollars any longer?..... We have a build-up on rural signs of mud, and poor hedge cutting prevents drivers from seeing the road signs clearly. Reply .....The Council has the responsibility to clean signs and keep them up to standard, hedges are the responsibility of the land owner, if the landowner refuses to cut them, Amey or the Parish Council should visit and advise, if that doesn't work they are issued a legal notice, if that still doesn't work then we will cut them and a bill will be sent to the land owner. Hedges can only be cut at certain times of the year. A note was made to remove the "traffic queuing" signs at Bridge Sollars.
- (h) Salt at winter time/ what is the criteria for a road to be gritted?.....Reply - We have agreed salting routes, then it comes down to time and resources for the other roads, we do provide salt boxes in the more rural areas. It was brought to the speaker's attention that Bishopstone village is on a bus route, therefore should be gritted, to which he agreed, and will look into – Awaiting feed back
- (i) Do HRS do the sub contracting for Amey? - Does anyone do a check on the quality of work as the Madley Road has patches already and was only recently repaired. Reply – The weather hasn't helped with the roads recently, also they have been testing different materials for the repairs. A note was made by the speaker to find out from colleagues the answer to this question.
- (j) What are the criteria for a sign to go on the main road to say a junction is coming? The junction to Byford Common has no warning sign and due to it being a fast road is dangerous to pull out of. Reply - There should be a sign to say a junction is coming up. A note was made to report this to colleagues.

- (k) Road to Mansell Lacy from the Bridge Sollars is a rat run, can we put a SLOW sign? Reply – Many users of this road are local and therefore drive faster as they know the roads,
- (l) Can we have a Pedestrian sign by New Bridge Community Centre/St Andrew's Church as people cross the road from the car park? Reply – The speaker made a note to report to colleagues.

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- (m) The concealed ditches on Bishopstone Road from the Bridge Sollars cross roads are not marked, during the weekend traffic was diverted through the village as there was a fallen tree on the main road. Several cars went into these ditches, causing damage to vehicles and had to be pulled out. Reply – The speaker will inform colleagues and ask them to action / respond.
- (n) What are the regulations for personal signs to go out on the road? Reply – Only authorised signs can legally put out, anything other is deemed as an obstruction. Should a collision occur, for example - if the driver is looking at the sign and not the road and a collision occurs, the sign owner could be held responsible for the collision.
- (o) On the road to Credenhill from Stretton Sugwas there is a light which shines into the road which appears to be head lights. Reply – The speaker will inform the street light departments and inform.
- (p) What are the rules around parking on verges? Reply – It is an accepted thing to do so, unless it is in Hereford City where it is against the law and the Police should be called.
- (r) Unsuitable for heavy goods signs on the Madley end of the Bridge Sollars to Madley Road but not the Bridge Sollars cross roads end, why is this? Reply – over the years these signs have gone up, but I don't feel that the road is unsuitable for heavies, Madley end was put up after a lot of pressure from the Parish Council.
- (s) A tree came down on A438 recently and the traffic was diverted through Bishopstone village both ways. Reply – We have a department who will come and clear the roads. Years ago the Police came and said diverted traffic would only go one way through Bishopstone. BGPC could speak to the police about this, The speaker will ask colleagues.
- (t) The drain near Byford Church, keeps flooding and water collects. Reply – noted and will report back to Amey.

Mr Chairman informed the meeting that during this last year we have 9 traffic collisions – 4 injury accidents and one fatal. Reply - Colleagues are going to look at the Bridge Sollars cross roads due to the dangers and increase in traffic. Damage only accident should be reported to Parish Council and then onto Andrew Lee Jones.

### 3. Guest speaker Adrian Blackshaw – Ward Councillor

Highways – Total budget is 20 million with Amey, talks are underway into extending the Amey contract. Of that 20million, 8 million for roads, we have 2,000 miles of roads in Herefordshire. We need to get to the roads repaired before they become too bad, in order to keep them in good order. Any defects need to be reported.

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Winter maintenance – 1.3 million is the budget for this current year in addition to that a small budget for PCs who can self-help, they have taken a part of the budget and have their own salt bins and spread the grit themselves, 8 000 tonnes of salt has gone out already this winter at £30 per tonne. There is a scheme – with a budget for Parish Councils called the Lengthsman Scheme, PC's choose their own person to maintain the roads etc..... self help without materials.

SID – Speed Identification Device – for main road, Cllr Blackshaw is looking into getting this device installed on the main road as a speed reduction method.

Hot off the press – decision made today for Local Development Framework, the whole process has been slipped back for 12 months. Local transport plan, may be extracted from this. The parking strategy refreshed and is being worked on. Herefordshire Council are upgrading Broad Street at a cost of 3.9 million for regeneration.

Questions from the Public –

- (a) The plans for the new relief road linking the Abergavenny Road and Ross Road, will this road be dual track or a single carriageway? Why not have a dual track in this new relief road..... maybe in some areas for safely overtaking smaller slower vehicle? Reply – It will be a single carriageway, there may be sections of dual track in some areas. The Credenhill flood relief scheme is a success story – £4 million was spent on this scheme, and it has proved a success with the water flowing from the Yazor Brook into the River Wye and has averted Hereford from flooding.
- (b) Carparking – A lot of workers use the car park in Merton meadow at a cost of £1.00 a day, other car parks charge a lot more, and would be an increased cost to lower paid workers. If Merton Meadow car park is going to go then we do need a replacement car park at a similar cost. Reply – There are 5,000 road journeys everyday going into and out of Hereford, carparking is important to Herefordshire, we increased car parking charges last year but these are still less than our surrounding cities/towns. We do need to accommodate these workers.
- (c) Where could it go? Reply -A multi-storey car park is planned to go behind the cinema when bus station moved to the train station.

(d) When will the decision be made for the new relief road ? Reply - A meeting is planned to take place and decision made shortly as to which side of Hereford it will go. Formal decision in July.

(e) Are there plans to extend the park and ride facility in Hereford? Reply – This is crucial to Hereford, it's difficult to do as we need a separate bus lane to deliver a proper park and ride facility. It will have to wait until the relief road is underway. Cheltenham park and ride goes non stop to centre of town, something to consider - do we have the buses in the traffic jams, or do we carve out a separate routes? Hereford needs to be a half day experience, and not just a two hour rush around.

4. Chairmans report from Chairman John Macklin -

5. Light refreshments