

Minutes

Thursday 11 June 2015

In and Out of Ludlow Forum

The Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow 5pm

Attended by: J. Smithers, Ludlow Town Council (LTC) (Chair); Andy Boddington, Shropshire Council (SC) (Vice Chair); Tish Dockerty, Ludlow Chamber (LC); Steve Brown, SC; Victoria Merrill, SC; Alice Dilly, SC; Gina Wilding, LTC; Viv Parry, LTC & SC; Robin Pote, Ludlow Town Centre Residents Association (LTCRA); David James Newbold, Resident; Shirley Newbold, LTC; James Newbold, LTC; & Habib Malik Mansell, Resident; Nicola North, Ludford Parish Council; Graeme Perks, LTC; & Len Schwartz, Resident

Health and Safety

The chair informed those present of the emergency exits and assembly point

Apologises:

Janette Rowlett, LC, Tim Gill LTC & Dianne Lyle LTC

Declarations of Interest

| Name | Interest | Item |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| Graeme Perks | personal | Member of Pride of Place |
| Graeme Perks | personal | Expressed concerns regarding the condition of the grade II* cobbles |
| Graeme Perks | personal | Inherited the SSDC papers from Deceased Cllr Ed Harvard regarding Ludlow Transport Hub |
| Jim Newbold | personal | Resident of Teme Avenue |
| Shirley Newbold | personal | Resident of Teme Avenue |

Public Questions Len Schwartz spoke on the problems relating to East Hamlet One Stop junction / mini roundabout. The area is a main school walking route and local pedestrian route to the One Stop Shop. Mr Schwartz has worked as a Highway Engineer and considers the mini-roundabout outside One Stop to be dangerous.

When walking his grandchild to school he has witnessed a number of near misses.

Mr Schwartz identified immediate problems of inadequate signage for motorist approaching the mini roundabout and worn road markings; parking too close the junction

However, he thinks the design is inherently flawed and at the time of construction SSDC were asked to set the One Stop building further back, but this never happened.

Cllr Boddington added that there was no off road provision of unloading and large lorries frequently obstruct visibility at peak traffic and pedestrian times. It was suggested that delivery times had been restricted to very early and late, but this was not enforced.

There are also issues regarding the width of the path and at some points there is not enough space to a safely position a buggy to cross the road.

It was generally agreed that it is a complex junction that requires a long term solution.

Other members of the forum were able to provide anecdotal evidence of problems already mentioned including parking of vehicles too close to the junction and witnessing near misses between vehicles.

ACTION:

It was agreed that Mr Schwartz would liaise with Cllr Boddington and become involved in discussions with SC Traffic officers and in consultation they would draw up a set of draft proposals to come back to the forum and to be presented to Ludlow Town Council's Representational Committee so that the committee could consider submitting proposal through SC Road Safety Policy
LS / AB / SC officers

ACTION:

Cllr Perks would be supplied with a copy of SC Road Safety Policy
GW

Unitary Councillor Q and A

Cllr Parry raised her concerns regarding the junction at Weeping Cross Lane / Lower Galdeford. She stated the obscured vision caused by close proximity of the junction and a sharp bend had caused many near misses, and the local bus often has to apply its breaks sharply because of congestion. Cllr Parry stated that a roundabout would be a safer solution and said she had been requesting a roundabout at this location for 8-9 years, but it had not been possible to action her request to date.

Actions Update

Shropshire Council Officers Steve Brown, Alice Dilly & Victoria Merrill were able to provide updates on issues raised at the previous meeting.

Broad Street

The footway defects had been investigated by Shropshire Council and found to be on a private property. The owner has been notified.

Town Centre litter

The issue of litter is being monitored and enforcement is being pursued.

Loose Paving

Outside Castle Bookshop and outside One Stop in Tower Street was notified at the meeting and will be investigated

Traffic Lights at top of Corve Street / Old Street

The sequencing of these lights had been checked by engineers and adjustments had been made. Officers were informed at the meeting that there was still a problem in a very specific situation. If a car overshoots the stopping points then the lights are jammed and traffic is held for up to three cycles of the lights. Officers took this information away with them and would revisit the lights.

Jockey Field & Teme Avenue Parking

Problems include speeding cars travelling to the school; indiscriminate parking of the same and parker attracted by free parking.

Officers had found notes that suggested a green scheme had been presented for consideration in 2004/5, but residents said they had never seen such a scheme.

Officers said they would look into the history of the parking situation and also revisit the green parking scheme afresh and bring this information back to the forum.

Lower Corve Street

Officers said it was difficult to determine if the problem was specifically the rat run or speeding, although there was usually a close correlation between the two issues.

Monitoring could take place; and Cllr Boddington would consult with local residents to get their feedback regarding the problems

Motor Cycle Parking on Castle Square

Feedback from members of the forum was split on this issue. There was support of the motor cyclists using the area as it encouraged them to stop in Ludlow which was good for the local economy. However, there had been problems caused for local businesses including Terry Jones Travel; and Castle Flats residents found that parking on Castle Square could prevent them from getting their cars in and out of their parking area.

Officers pointed out that if motor cycles were prohibited from parking, cars would also be prohibited. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored but no action taken at present.

Cllr Boddington raised the matter of parking enforcement on the road that gives access to Quality Square and continues behind the market to Castle Street. The yellow lines were worn and ineffective. It was suggested that bold thick yellow lines might not be the most sympathetic solution in a conservation area, but parking enforcement was important for safety and signage could perhaps be considered.

Minutes – 23 April 2015

The minutes were approved subject to change of working to read:

'3. Car Parks

To explore the possibility of Ludlow owning its car parks'

AB/VP (7:0:2)

Pedestrian Wayfaring

Victoria Merrill, Area Transport Planning Commissioner (South) made a presentation to the forum regarding pedestrian signage in Ludlow.

The principles of good signage were explained and examples of different styles were given. The audience for pedestrian signage was also a consideration, some destinations are more likely to appeal to local residents and some are more of a priority for tourists. Both destinations would need to be signed, but the signing routes were a matter of further discussion.

A list of current destinations on the existing signage was provided. Some listed were obsolete or had changed and there were new ones missing. It was agreed that the first task was to agree a core list of destinations. A location map of the current position of all existing signage was also provided.

Cllr Perks suggested that it was important to state that pedestrian signage did not indicate that the town centre was a pedestrianised area. Signage is simply a practical tool to enable people to navigate the town centre once they are out of their cars / bus / train etc....

Current trends in new technology such as Bristol Legible Project, TiCL and QR codes should also be considered; and initiatives such as Walkers Welcome would also be a useful focus / source of information

Action: Forum members to feedback to Victoria
victoria.merrill@shropshire.gov.uk regarding core
destination in Ludlow

Victoria to provide a digital copy of the
presentation / images of the al the existing
pedestrian signs / location map to Gina for
distribution to the forum / sub-group

Setting up a Sub-group for Pedestrian Wayfaring

Sub-group members are: Viv Parry, David Newbold, Andy Boddington & Jim Smithers

Action: The sub-group to arrange to meet and discuss the core
destinations and produce a list of destinations.

To hold further meetings to consider the location of pedestrian
signs and the most appropriate directional signs for each
location. The sub-group will report back its recommendations
back to the forum

Current Public Consultations are:

- Yellow lines on Sheet Road
- Disabled bay on Broad Street
- Weight restriction on Foldgate Lane

These matters have been to Representational Committee for consideration and Cllr Boddington stated that these matters would benefit from input from the forum on a pre-application basis in future.

He also suggested that the overall process would benefit from more detailed consultation papers being presented by an officer to ensure full understanding of sometimes complex issues and provide the opportunity for questions to aid understanding before comments are made to SC.

Cllr Smithers supported this proposal and stated that LTC had previously received specialist support from SC with regarding to planning and explained how positive this level of partnership working had proved for both organisations.

Simon Jones, Shropshire Council's new portfolio holder for Transport

introduced himself and stated his commitment to be actively involved with the forum and attend as many forum meetings as possible. He explained that Shrewsbury BID was instrumental in supporting and part funding the £1 Parking on Sunday initiative. Cllr Jones has asked for a paper from officers to brief him on the potential for expanding the scheme to other towns such as Ludlow.

Items for Future Meetings

- Another HGV got stuck in the town centre; highways want to restrict large vehicles from the town centre. Note and ask highways to bring a full proposal to a future meeting.
- Eco Park & Park & Ride – empty buildings / parking/ youth racing.
- East Hamlet – see above
- £1 Sunday parking
- Disabled Parking after 4pm is difficult in Broad Street

Date, Location & Topic for next meeting

Meetings would be held on a six weekly cycle at 5pm at the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow . Proposed meetings for the remainder of the year are:

23rd July 2015

3rd September 2015

15th October 2015

26th November 2015

7th January 2016