

# THE RUSHTON PARISH ROAD SAFETY GROUP

Notes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Held Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at the JHVH.

Present:

Chair: Cllr Mike Wilson	Cllr Eddie Shaw	Bert Platt	Paul Mitchell
Cllr Julie O'Shea	Sue & Ray Duckworth	Paul Healey	Alexa Carter
John Freeman	Brian Oldham		

Apologies: Cllr David Lilley

## 1. Introduction:

All were welcomed to the meeting and thanks given to Head Teacher Paul Mitchell, Alexa Carter and John Freeman for agreeing to be part of this Working Group process. A representative from the Whalley Drive area is needed to cover the village. **Action: Whalley Drive Rep required – Mike W & All**

Further to the major accident of the collision of 2 cars at the Cross last weekend, it was agreed that extra time would be spent in discussing the section of Eaton Lane between the Village Hall and the outgoing 30mph sign on the village exit towards Cotebrook.

## 2. Matters Arising from the Meeting Held 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. (notes of the meeting had been circulated):

### a. Changes to reduce the volume and speed of “rat-runners” using Eaton Lane

#### i. Measurement of Vehicle Flow along this road

**Action:** Police to be asked to install “rubber strip” that records volume and type of vehicle. This has been used successfully before. Data can be compared – **Mike W**

**Result:** The date given for this measurement in Eaton is May 2015!!!!

**New Action:** This date to be questioned; within the next 6 weeks the target.- **Mike W**

#### ii. Purchase of Vehicle Activated Signs showing speed

**Action:** Balance to be chased up **Mike W**

**Result:** Letter received from Police Commissioner stating that after 12months consideration!!? he cannot support this project. First letter of request sent July 2013

**New Action:** Stern reply to be sent stating disappointment at rejection and delay in decision **Mike W**

**Action:** Full quote and details of signs from 2 or 3 suppliers to be made available for the next meeting **Mike W**

**Result:** Discussions have taken place with a company, SWARCO, and an independent report on VAS's received which is very positive about their success. A revised quote for 2 installations has been received which now includes equipment (£6,800) installation (£1,560) and “traffic management” during installation / trials (£2,400) totalling £10,800. Without the Commissioners money it was agreed to look at the cost of 1 installation (Red Lion area) with perhaps Highways being asked to cover the traffic management

cost which could bring the total down to equipment £3,400 & installation £1,000 which with Eveleigh's already received £3,400 would be do-able. A suggestion to ask the Red Lion developer to support was made.

**New Action 1** : Above figures for 1 installation to be negotiated – **Mike W**

**New Action 2** : Other sources of funding to be investigated – **Mike W**

iii. **20mph Zone (see also item 3e below).**

**Action:** Subject to be raised with the Police and Highways and backing confirmed from Cllr Eveleigh Moore Dutton – **Mike W**

**Result:** Backing confirmation received from Cllr Moore Dutton & PC Ged Gigg. However this needs to be relayed to Highways for their assessment.

**New Action:** Highways to be consulted – **Cllrs Lilley & Wilson**

b. **School Area**

i. **Parking / Car Sharing:**

**Action:** A meeting to be arranged with Mr Mitchell - **Mike W**

**Result:** Head Paul Mitchell, Head of Governors Julie O'Shea & Alexa Carter were asked to update the group on these issues.

**Parking:** Paul explained that this remains a problem area for the school which will get worse with the possible numbers of the pupils going up from the current 105 to 170. The decision on this will be made by the end of January and if positive, plans will then have to be put in place to handle the additional traffic. Options were discussed re different entrances (pedestrian & car), increased parking area. The "snail" parking in the school is successful with between 15 & 20 vehicles parked for the busy pick up time 2.30pm – 3.30pm. Paul is looking at installing plastic white posts to restrict parking. Alexa gave the view of parents, often with toddlers in the back, having to park their car and see their child safely into school. She felt that communications should be improved as few parents would think about issues such as resident's frustrations and access of emergency vehicles, heavily hampered by badly parked cars. Parking around the junction of Winterford Lane and Edgwell Lane was discussed and it was agreed to investigate the tarmac area on Edgwell Lane, which seems to be under utilised.

**Car Sharing:** Paul stated that this is encouraged and does take place but Julie explained that some parents are wary about their children travelling in other cars and some youngsters at 5yrs old want their parents to drop them off.

**New Action: 1.** Decision on school expansion & new parking options to be relayed to the group when known. Also progress with "Plastics Marker Posts" **Paul Mitchell**

**New Action 2.** When the above is known a letter to be produced for parents to explain the issues and concerns/support of the community . **Alexa; Julie; Paul M & Mike**

**New Action 3.** Views on parking of Edgwell Lane residents to be obtained: **Bert Platt.**

c. **General**

i. **Hedges**

**Action:** Such areas to be identified and reported to Chair at next meeting **All**

**Result:** A list has been compiled. Mike with Eddie are arranging for a contractor to carry out some trimming. The hedge to the right of the school entrance (when pulling out) is a problem and the land owner is to be contacted. Paul Mitchell explained that he has had to resist a County initiative to replace hedges with 8ft high railing which is seen as a better “safe-guarding” arrangement. All supported his resistance.

**New Action:** Landowner to be contacted – **Mike**

Trimming to be completed – **Cllrs Shaw & Wilson**

### **3. Eaton Lane – within the 30mph Limit**

Photographs of the accident which occurred the previous weekend show that 2 cars were involved with a heavy impact as they met on the bend of the Cross. The cause is not known but “inappropriate speed” is thought to be a major factor. Other accidents at this point have been caused by vehicles driving straight across the junction when travelling from the Cotebrook or Lower Lane direction to go up Sapling Lane. All agreed, this is a very dangerous junction. The following options were discussed:

#### **a. Moving & reducing the Cross to form a mini roundabout at the bottom of Lightfoot Lane**

Bert Platt described the history of the Cross which although modified in the ‘70’s, goes back many centuries. Being a listed monument in a conservation area he did not feel that permission would be granted plus many residents would be totally against this change.

#### **b. Traffic Light System allowing single file traffic only in each direction**

Although this would probably work it was rejected on cost and risk of “pile-up” into queuing traffic. For the same reason a “pinch-point” idea was also rejected.

#### **c. “Sleeping Policemen”**

The objections are usually noise of heavy vehicles crossing plus possible damage to cars. However it was agreed with red tarmac these can work and that this should be looked at later.

#### **d. Vehicle Activated Signs**

It was agreed that properly sited, this could slow down traffic entering the village.

#### **e. 20mph area (see 2a iii above)**

20mph is now strongly recommended in school areas. However, as has happened in countries such as France & Holland (20km – 12mph!) many villages are looking at this to state to drivers that this is a risk area which is enforced in Eaton with no pavements.

#### **f. Signage**

Improved signage in the Cross area was suggested to warn motorists of pedestrians

#### **g. Curb – Edgewell Lane to the Village Hall**

The Parish Council have got agreement from Highways to add a 100mm curb along this section but leaving the top porous (request of local residents to avoid damp). This could be grass or a retained gravel in a mesh mat as recently installed at the Tollemarche Pub car park.

**New Action: c,d,e,f &g** to be discussed with the Police and Highways – **Cllrs Lilley & Wilson**

### **4. Speed Watch Team**

Many rural villages (e.g. Church Minshall) have set up such a team to record speeds etc. It was agreed to discuss this at a later meeting.

### **5. Date of Next Meeting – All were thanked for their attendance.**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm at the Village Hall**