

# THE RUSHTON PARISH ROAD SAFETY GROUP

Notes from the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Held Weds 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the JHVH.

Present:

Chair: Cllr Mike Wilson                      Cllr David Lilley                      Brian Oldham                      John Freeman  
          Cllr Julie O'Shea                      Sue Duckworth                      Paul Healey

Apologies:    Cllr Eddie Shaw, Bert Platt, Paul Mitchell, Ray Duckworth, Alexa Carter

## 1. Introduction:

All were welcomed to the meeting. Using the fairly comprehensive (updated) minutes of the last meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015, it was agreed that the **Agenda for this meeting would be :**

- a) **Matters Arising and Update of the Meeting Held 28.01.15**
- b) **Discuss and agree issues and proposals surrounding this years agricultural crop harvesting**
- c) **Agree the outstanding issues that the Group feel should be worked on / handed over to the newly elected Parish Council at the Annual Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015** (note: this Working Group was formed in November 2014 with the objective of working on the output of the Open Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2014. The intention was that the Working Group would disband in April 2015).

## 2. Matters Arising and Update of the Meeting Held 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (order now simplified)

### a. Eaton Lane

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

The data from the measurement carried out by the Highways Department on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. has been circulated. However it was felt that as our own data will soon be available from the new VAS (see ii below), a much wider level can be looked at covering a longer period..

**Action: Paul Healey** has agreed to collect and analyse this new data when available.

#### ii. Purchase of Vehicle Activated Signs showing speed & collecting data

1. The order was placed in February and the sign should be delivered for installation by TWM by the end of April. Most of the cost (£3,795) has come from Cllr Eveleigh Moore Dutton's' budget.
2. Mike W has negotiated with the Oulton Estate Manager and also trustee Mike Scott with regards to the positioning opposite to the Red Lion entrance. We do not now need a lease. **Action: Mike W** to liaise at time of installation

3. The suggestion that the sign could be made to be portable to other sites in the village through half poles/sockets will be looked into **Action: Mike W**

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

The Parish Council have reached an agreement with Highways to add a 100mm curb along this section with soil backfill and turf. The residents of Royal Farm Mews have been informed and no objections have been lodged. The cost (circa £3,000 will be born by the Village Hall and the Parish Council). **Action: Mike W** to progress.

## b. **20mph Zone**

The “Speed Limit Assessment Report” based on measurements carried out by Highways dated 9<sup>th</sup> Feb were discussed:

- i. Measurements were taken on Lower Lane; Winterford Lane (connecting LL with Edgewell Lane) and Edgewell Lane.
- ii. The conclusions/final recommendations of the report are:
  1. **Lower Lane** to remain at 30mph (with a measured mean speed of 30.8mph the logic is that a 20mph limit cannot be introduced to reduce this average. Traffic calming measures {e.g. speed bumps} would have to be introduced to reduce the average to 24mph before a 20mph limit could be put in). However an advisory part-time 20mph limit sign with the flashing school warning limit would be considered in the area of the school.
  2. **Winterford Lane** could be changed to a 20mph zone
  3. **Edgewell Lane** could be changed to a 20mph zone

- iii. Having understood the logic of this report the meeting were surprised that no account had been taken of the absence of pavements in the village (the existence of the auto-electrical garage was also ignored).

- iv. The meeting concluded that:
  1. The assessment had been taken over 3 sides of a square i.e. Eaton Lane from the Green to Edgewell Lane was not included. Without pavements this is a very dangerous section for pedestrians and as done in France, Holland and increasingly in the UK, e.g. Crewe & Lymm, we should pursue the idea of the full “square” being 20mph.
  2. The above to be discussed with Cllr Moore Dutton who is sympathetic to this issue and then a meeting to be set up with Highways.  
(note: the issue was discussed the following day with Eveleigh and she agrees to support the initiative and will attend a meeting with the team and Highways in the next couple of weeks).  
**Action: Mike W** to arrange the meeting with Eveleigh, Highways & Working Group..  
**Likely date : Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 6pm – Village Hall**

### c. School Area

#### i. Expansion of the School:

The decision on school expansion has been delayed

#### ii. Poor Parking around the school entrance:

Head Teacher Paul Mitchell has asked whether the Parish Council would like him to pursue the idea of white posts being purchased and installed around the "Green Triangle and opposite verge. The meeting discussed this and felt that the objective of these posts was not clear. Was it to stop parking in these areas or to stop parking on the grass verges in these areas? It was agreed that signs may be more appropriate and the following statements were felt to be relevant:

- not on grass
- leave vehicle access (including emergency vehicles) to all roads
- don't block the roads particularly by leaving a big gap to the verge
- parking meant to be for short periods

**Action: Paul H** to look at these statements with a view to a sign proposal!!

**d. Hedges:** The residents who were interested in a co-ordinated hedge trim have been advised that this has been delayed until the autumn.

### 3. Discuss and agree issues and proposals surrounding this year's agricultural crop harvesting

(Note Councillor and farmer Eddie Shaw in sending his apologies for the meeting had sent some suggestions on this subject and was happy to attend a special meeting if felt helpful.)

After a lengthy discussion on this subject, the following was agreed

- a. The meeting was sympathetic to the needs of farmers in running / diversifying their business and it has to be accepted that we live in a rural Parish
- b. The use of large HGV is necessary in this modern day to deliver & collect goods from the farms but all efforts should be made to minimise the danger/disruption to village life. (it was pointed out that with 5 farms down Lower Lane in pre-war days, the problems of cow muck on roads was a problem of that era).
- c. John Shaw's idea of a seasonal sign at the Green to ensure that vehicles travelling North to the A49 /M6 travel use the phone box side of the Green. This should be pursued with Highways **Action: Cllrs Wilson / Shaw**
- d. The problematic telephone pole at Cllr Shaw's farm which prevents trucks turning left and avoiding the village should again be progressed with BT **Action: Cllrs Shaw / Wilson**

### 4. Agree the outstanding issues & Future of this Working Group

The meeting felt that the issues addressed at this meeting should be pursued before considering other areas of concern. It was agreed that a presentation of progress would be presented to the Annual Parish Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May. An option for the future would be to retain the Working Group and perhaps meet quarterly. This would be put to the new Parish Council and considered by the WG Members.

**Action: Mike W** to make a presentation for the May Meeting.

### 5. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May – 7.30pm