

STEPPING HILL WARD COMMITTEE

Meeting: 15 October 2008
At: 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Ben Alexander (Chair) in the chair; Councillors Maggie Clay and Mark Weldon.

1. MINUTES

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meetings held on 10 September 2008 were approved as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declaration of interests were made.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(i) Neighbourhood Policing

Inspector Mark Gallichan (Greater Manchester Police) attended the meeting to answer questions from Councillors and members of the public in relation to neighbourhood policing issues within the Stepping Hill Ward.

Inspector Gallichan reported on the re-launch of Neighbourhood Watch, efforts to address anti-social and problems around licensed premises in the area. In particular, it was stressed that the Police would be increasing their activities in the run up to Halloween and Bonfire Night, as this was usually associated with an increase in anti-social behaviour. Members of the public were encouraged to report any illegal bonfires.

Members of the public as questions and raised concerns about the following issues in the area:-

- Obstruction caused by parents taking pupils to Grammar School.
- HGVs using Woodsmoor Lane, and associated roads.
- Youths congregating in the school grounds causing a disturbance to residents, and suspicious behaviour in the Great Moor park.
- Police responses to calls from the public.
- Problems of anti-social behaviour on Woodsmoor Station.

RESOLVED – (1) That Inspector Gallichan be thanked for their attendance.

(2) That Inspector Gallichan report back on the number of visits made by the Police to Great Moor Park in preceding month.

(ii) Public Question Time

No public questions were submitted.

(iii) Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

(iv) Area Flexibility Funding

There were no applications to consider.

4. BRAMHALL LANE TRAFFIC CORRIDOR

The Chair reported on proposals being developed to create a bus lane on Bramhall Lane between Woodsmoor Lane and Garners Lane. He reported on surveys he had undertaken on traffic movements on Bramhall Lane, and had found that the proposals would lead to only minimal improvements to traffic movements.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. WOODSMOOR/ GREAT MOOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

A report of the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) was submitted (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the results of a consultation with residents in the Woodsmoor and Great Moor areas on proposed improvements to traffic management measures in the area to reduce speed and improve safety.

The Chair explained the background to the proposals which had been developed with the assistance of a focus group of local residents. The initial findings of the focus group had been the subject of a Ward Committee meeting earlier in the year, and the outcome of this meeting had formed the basis of a consultation with 1650 properties over the summer, of which 22.5% had been returned.

Cllr Clay then invited the meeting to consider and comment on the main proposals in turn.

Section D – Moorland Road – Woodsmoor Lane (northerly junction) to Cedar Road

- A one way system would cause traffic to go up Westwood Road, which would cause further problems, and this would need to be made one way as well. This should be in the opposite direction to Moorland.
- Motorists would ignore any proposals which did not include measures to stop traffic.
- There was a need to involve the Grammar School in any proposals or consultation, as parents are largely the cause of the traffic problems.
- The proposals would cause problems for smaller roads, such as Claremont, and those wishing to exit Moorland Road, and for those
- Making the road one way would cause further traffic congestion.
- These proposals would divert traffic past the primary schools, which would not be a positive change.
- Further traffic may cause the collapse of sewers on these roads, such as Moorland Road
- Consideration should be given to signalising the junction of Woodsmoor Road and Buxton Road.
- Motorists currently used Claremont Road because of difficulties with parking.

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- One way system would make sure that motorists used the alternatives.
- One way system would favour of Grammar School traffic and HGVs trying to cut through to A6. The one way directions needed to be reversed.
 - Motorists did not adhere to the existing one-way systems, such as on Delemere Road.
 - Need to restrict the road widths to prevent the larger vehicles/ HGVs to make the roads safer.
 - The enforcement of current restrictions and action against inconsiderate drivers/parking would resolve many of these difficulties.
 - An alternative solution would be to make Moorland Road and level crossing one-way toward Bramhall Lane. Roads in this area are predominantly residential – Bramhall Lane is much suitable for this volume of traffic, regardless of actual congestion.
 - The focus group felt that one way toward Bramhall Lane was too punitive to residents on the Bramhall Lane side of the bridge/level crossing, and impractical.
 - The Focus group was trying to create deterrent for through traffic, not to penalise local residents, but no proposals could suit all of the people all of the time.

Sections K & L – Norwood Road and Southwood Road

- It was important to ensure that any build-outs associated with the changes in priorities would not remove parking in the area. Motorists currently ignore parking restrictions.
- There needed to be more parking enforcement of parking around the school. Previous enforcement activity was unsatisfactory as officers were merely there as a 'deterrent' rather than to issue notices.
- The layout of the roads, and the parking in the area might mean that motorist do not take account of the changes in priority, which would make these proposals dangerous.
- Speeding traffic often by reckless drivers, who will ignore changing priority.
- The installation of speed humps would be a last resort if the other measures did not work

Cllr Clay invited comments on the possibility of an increase in the noise generated by traffic slowing down to give priority. In response it was suggested that any increase would be tolerable if the changes to the priorities achieved a reduction in speed.

Section E – Moorland Road – junctions with Lowland Road and Crossway

The removal of the planters was welcomed.

Section G – Woodsmoor Lane near Carrfield Avenue

It was commented that there was little adherence to the speed limit and enforcement of it was required.

There was also discussion about the use of chicanes to slow the traffic, with concerns being raised that it would encourage irresponsible driving, as had been the experience on Cherry Tree Lane.

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The Chair then invited Councillors to sum up. Councillor Weldon acknowledge that the proposals would inconvenience some residents more than others, but stated that they would strike a balance between the needs of residents and making the roads less attractive for 'rat-runners' and HGVs. It was also recognised that the views of the members of the public did not necessarily reflect those in the neither consultation results nor views expressed at previous meetings.

The Chair emphasised that these were experimental proposals which would be monitored, and should they prove not to be successful could be amended or reversed.

Members of the public then thanked Councillors for their hard work and assistance to residents to developing these proposals.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report and the results of the consultation be noted.

(2) That the Stepping Hill Area Committee be recommended to approve the proposals as set out in the report, subject to the following issues being addressed by the Service Director (Transportation & Planning):-

- Further investigation and monitoring of the implications of the proposals on Westwood Road.
- Investigation of the installation of traffic light controlled junction at Woodsmoor Road and Buxton Road.
- Further consideration of the impact of the changes to priorities on Norwood Road/ Ripley Avenue.
- Investigation of the cost of installing bollards on the pavements at junctions where priorities are to be changed.
- Investigation of narrowing Moorland Road.
- Investigate the installation of high visibility signs, similar to those used on Garners Lane, to discourage HGVs using Woodsmoor Roads and associated roads.
- The removal, as a matter of urgency, of the planters on Crossway.
- Investigation of relocating the pinch point closer to Flowery Fields.

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm.