

JOINT WARD COMMITTEE
HAZEL GROVE AND STEPPING HILL WARDS

Meeting: 21 January 2009
At: 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillors Ben Alexander, Maggie Clay, Christine Corris, Stuart Corris, Kevin Hogg and Mark Weldon.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Ben Alexander be elected Chair of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.

Councillor Alexander in the Chair

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(i) Neighbourhood Policing

Sgt Lee Barrow (Greater Manchester Police) and Elaine De Fries (Community Safety Unit) attended the meeting to answer questions from Councillors and members of the public in relation to Neighbourhood Policing issues within the Hazel Grove and Stepping Hill Wards.

Sgt Barrow reminded residents to secure their vehicles when unattended to avoid opportunist thefts.

RESOLVED – That the Sgt Barrow and Elaine De Fries be thanked for their attendance.

(ii) Public Question Time

Members of the public were invited to put questions to the Chair of the Ward Committee.

Three questions were submitted in relation to the response rate for the Chester Road consultation, the principal of using vertical deflection measures for traffic calming, and the designation of district distributor routes.

The questions were answered at the meeting.

(iii) Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

(iv) Area Flexibility Funding

There were no applications to consider.

4. PHASE 2 - CHESTER ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

A representative of the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the response the public consultation on Phase 2 of traffic management measures for Chester Road and surrounding roads, proposing an amended scheme in light of the consultation feedback.

The Chair invited members of the public to ask question and make comments on the proposals, firstly on the overall scheme, and then on the individual scheme elements. The following issues were raised:-

General

- There was a marked difference in speeding levels between the northern and southern ends of Chester Road.
- The parking on Chester Road acted as horizontal deflection and slowed speeding cars.
- More use should be made of speed indicator signs.
- The proposals detracted from the attractiveness of Chester Road.
- The level of accidents in this area was significantly higher than reported. Many were minor collision and may not all have been reported.
- Traffic calming would discourage the use of Chester Road as shortcut to and from the A6.
- Parked cars reduced visibility.
- There was inadequate provision for cycling, particularly under the bridge where it narrowed.
- Had consideration been given to the impact of the proposals on emergency vehicles using Chester Road?
- The children crossing Chester Road did not use the existing facilities.
- There was the potential disturbance caused by the noise and vibration of delivery vehicles to South Manchester clinic travelling over speed tables.
- These proposals would lead to increased 'rat running' through Shelpy Drive etc., and the existing 20mph speed limit was not a deterrent.
- These proposals would not address the significant problem with visibility from roads onto Chester Road.
- There was a problem with cars blocking driveways parking associated with the clinic.

Traffic Islands

- The relocation of the bus stop and installation of a traffic island near the football pitches would reduce availability of parking for users of pitches.
- The proposed Islands were close to bus stops which may hold traffic up, and be dangerous for pedestrians.
- There would be a conflict between the demands for parking and the proposed islands on south of Chester Road, particularly as there were houses that did not have off-street parking
- Anecdotally, there was no evidence for demand for the proposed crossing facilities/ traffic islands as pedestrians crossed in other locations.
- The proposed island near no. 107 was not necessary because of its proximity to the new crossing.

Speed Tables (North)

- Hatching and traffic islands would be a better alternative to speed tables.
- There was less traffic at the Longmead Road junction. Shepley Drive was more dangerous and better used. The proposed table may increase the use of Longmead.
- Vaudry Drive was a very dangerous junction and the proposals here were welcomed.
- Improvements to the cycle network, particularly at the north end of the road would be welcomed.

Toucan Crossing

- The new pelican crossing was welcomed, but there was a difficulty for motorists seeing the signals and not stopping in good time, particularly for those turning out adjoining roads.

Speed Tables (South)

- The number of speed tables on the southern section of Chester Road seemed excessive given that there were lower speeds here. Parking was a more significant problem.
- Speed humps lead to cars revving and slowing down, which caused more disturbance to residents.
- Could the scheme not be done on an incremental basis, to assess the effectiveness of earlier measures without the need for the more invasive elements?

Councillors then commented on the scheme, and emphasised that there was a genuine concern with the speed of traffic along the north section of Chester Road, particularly in view of the fact there were four schools in the area, and welcomed the measures to improve the safety of the Vaudrey Drive junction. They also recognised that the parking on the southern section of Chester Road slowed speeds.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the proposals for Phase 2 of the Traffic Calming measures on Chester Road as set out in Option 2 be endorsed, subject to the removal of the speed table element from the scheme, with the exception of the proposal for the junction with Vaudrey Drive, and the addition of a table at the junction with Shepley Drive.

(3) That the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) be requested to investigate whether hatching and the measures currently on the A6 in Disley could be adapted for the Chester Road scheme.

(4) That the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) give further consideration to measures to address 'rat-running' along roads adjoining Chester Road, to the potential problems with parking at the football pitches, and for measures to mitigate parking problems on the southern section of Chester Road in the vicinity of the South Manchester Clinic.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.