

**Traffic Working Group Meeting.
MINUTES - Thursday 2nd January 2020**

- **Apologies for absence** - Steve Dyer.
- **Present** – Mike Booth, Matt Mason, Ben Smith, Rob Pryor, Russ Nichols, Tony Rice (GBC Cllr.).
- **Declarations of Interest** - None
- **Introduction:** - Mike Booth chaired the meeting and noted that there is currently a considerable degree of frustration from residents that despite ever increasing traffic problems at peak times nothing seems to be done by the Parish Council.

Keeping the residents informed of the activity within the group is vital. Therefore, the existing Facebook Group called Cobham Traffic Group, will be the platform to achieve this. The current administrator has kindly agreed for this to happen and Tony Rice will be added as another administrator.

The CPC have adopted a policy of gaining information in an organised fashion to lobby Kent County Council as soon as possible in 2020 and we expect this to gather momentum as we move into the new year

- **Traffic Consultants RGP**

The group discussed the proposal received from RGP in December and agreed to recommend to the main council that we should proceed but with a few more strategic indicators to be put to RGP by Matt Mason.

RGP will be appointed as our Traffic Consultant at the meeting of the council on the 6th January 2020.

- **Meeting with GBC**

Tony Rice briefed the group about his meeting on the 29th November with 3 senior members of Gravesham Borough Council.

Kevin Burbidge – Director of Planning and Development

Wendy Lane – Assistant Director for Planning

Tony Chadwick – Principal Planner for Transport

In preparation for the meeting Tony undertook a resident's survey in The Street which got some interesting responses and was a useful exercise.

The purpose of the meeting was to highlight the traffic issues in Cobham's Conservation Area. At the last Conservation Area Appraisal in 2016 it was stated that the traffic calming measures seemed to be working. However, the data presented at the meeting highlighted that this was not the case. Traffic volumes are way above anything previously noted by GBC. GBC will now review the traffic data for themselves and update its response accordingly when formulating local plans and interacting with other authorities such as KCC and Highways England

- **Speed Indicator Device**

The group discussed the operation and the use of the data.

It was agreed that this could be improved to provide more relevant data for our lobbying of KCC.

Access to the data has been approved for GBC to use in relation to our issues in Cobham & Sole Street and for GBC to use when dealing with the impact on local traffic in relation to the Lower Thames Crossing

Ben Smith agreed to take on more responsibility for SID in conjunction with James Blakett for the time being.

- **Cobham Traffic Sign Survey**

The group then discussed the Traffic Sign Survey carried out by Tony Rice in November and reported to KCC by the clerk.

It was agreed that we need to be pushing KCCC on the works and recommendations to be completed.

We need a list of the works and form them to be ticked off as they get done

- **Buses**

It was agreed that the service we get is probably not entirely fit for purpose and a review with KCC as the final operator is needed.

- **Air Quality Monitoring**

As a result of the meeting held by Tony Rice GBC have agreed to undertake this by placing a Diffusion Tube in The Street. GBC have to get agreement from the owner of the preferred site for it to be mounted on the property.

- **Other Actions**

1. Bryan Sweetland to be asked to provide the results of the Traffic Surveys carried out by KCC Highways during the past summer.
2. CPRE to be approached for their support – Robert Pryor to action.
3. A local resident to be approached regarding helping analyse data from the SID

Addendum to add to these minutes provided by Tony Rice:

Cobham and Sole Street Traffic Update, 2nd Jan 2019

Here is a general update on what the Cobham Parish Council and the Traffic Group are doing, strategically and tactically, to find solutions to the traffic problems in our villages ...

Strategically, while there are ways in which we can lobby Kent County Council to make improvements that may help with speeding and safety issues, but we also need to look at the bigger picture and the very high volumes of traffic we experience. Tactical changes are important (see below), but none of them will solve the problem of volume. Therefore, Cobham Parish Council is commissioning an experienced traffic consultant, who has been briefed to analyse our situation and recommend potential solutions that we can present to KCC. We hope this work will be completed in the next 2 months. Our objective is to seek HCCs agreement for substantial changes that will reduce the scale of traffic rat running through Cobham and Sole Street.

Tactically there are several initiatives underway:

- **Road Sign and Infrastructure Survey** - this is in progress and is identifying road signs and markings that need repair or maintenance, such as obscured or damaged signs. It also includes ideas for additional signs that may reduce HGV traffic, reduce speeding and kerb mounting. KCC have already started work on repair and maintenance of faulty signs and road markings. New additions, such as more bollards in The Street, and speed warning signs in Sole Street will be included in the additions to be requested, however KCC will have to agree, they may or may not approve our requests.
- **Air Quality** - residents, particularly in Cobham village centre, are concerned that the high volumes of traffic are generation noxious NO2 (nitrous oxide) emissions. There are legal limits. This has been raised with Environmental Health at Gravesham Borough Council, and they have agreed to install a temporary measurement device to monitor levels over a period of time. We hope this will be installed in January. If levels are high, we will be using it in our case for change.
- **Kerb Mounting in The Street** - driving onto the kerb is a traffic offence and illegal. Residents in Cobham frequently experience safety issues as vehicles climb the kerb and compete with pedestrians for space, often with wing mirrors clipping people. This has been raised with the Police who have agreed to attend on a random morning and view for themselves, enforcing where necessary. However, we will be adding this issue into our plan to be presented to KCC for a permanent solution, such as more bollards
- **Noise Pollution** - Residents are subject to early morning wakeups as vehicles speed through our villages, or because of sheer volumes of slow-moving traffic. Sadly, there are no legal limits to traffic noise that can result in enforcement. However, we will be seeking volunteers to keep noise diaries, so that we can then add this to our case for change with KCC.

Quarterly updates will be provided here, but to stay fully up to date with what's going on please follow www.facebook.com/Cobhamspeedwatch/ where you can also send us the traffic issues affecting you as you encounter or experience them.