

# minutes



Meeting HIGHWAYS SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 15 January 2007 (commencing at 10.30 am)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLORS

The Hon Joan Taylor (Chair)  
Andy Stewart (Vice-Chair)

A Jen Cole  
A Bruce Laughton  
A Jim Napier  
A Philip Owen

Sheila Place  
Ken Rigby  
David Shaw

## MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18 December 2006, having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Laughton, Napier and Owen.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

## CARERS AND ROAD SAFETY

Julia Tabreham, Chief Executive of The Princess Royal Trust Nottinghamshire Carers' Centre gave a presentation on road safety issues for carers. The issues had been identified by carers' groups belonging to the Carers' Federation. They included problems with crossings and parking, and reflected a variety of needs, including those of wheelchair users and their carers. There followed a discussion about the points raised, with responses from officers from the Communities Department.

In respect of crossing patrols, Liz Rickards, Principal Officer, Road Safety, agreed that recruitment was difficult, with competition from more attractive jobs. The current vacancy rate, across 150 sites in the county, was about 20%. The council was moving towards mechanised solutions at crossings.

Councillor Stewart referred to the misuse of blue badge parking permits. Councillor Cole commented that it might be the carer who used the badge. She referred to

problems created by clutter on privately owned forecourts, the replacement of pedestrian refuges by humps, and planning policies which encouraged less off-street parking. Councillor Taylor pointed out that the local member often had clear views on local conditions.

Chris Charnley, Acting Group Manager (Highway Management), responded. He said the council was keen to allow pedestrians freer movement than in the past, which might mean more crossings, especially in key locations, such as near health centres. Any suggestions from members or others would be looked into. While the public preferred light-controlled crossings, these cost 3 or 4 times more than a refuge or zebra crossing. Creating a refuge wide enough for a wheelchair user and carer could mean widening the road and moving utilities. At traffic lights, there was a balance to be kept between the needs of pedestrians and vehicles. Creating roadside parking to avoid parking on pavements meant narrowing the pavement. A shared footway scheme in Bilsthorpe was working well. At light-controlled crossings, the loudness of the beeps met national standards, but sometimes nearby property owners objected to the noise. The time allowed for pedestrians to cross depended on the width of the crossing. Mr Charnley observed that for new schemes, the authority worked to national standards on inclusive mobility. However there were thousands of old schemes which did not meet these standards. He explained that under decriminalised parking enforcement, the police would still be responsible for dealing with obstructions of the pavement.

Councillor Taylor thanked Ms Tabreham for her contribution.

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MOTORCYCLE FORUM**

Liz Rickards gave a presentation on the work of the Nottinghamshire Motorcycle Forum, a partnership between the County Council and local motorcyclists. In Nottinghamshire, motorcycle use had increased by 20% since 2001, while motorcycle fatal casualties had dropped from 22 to 7. She referred to the Shiny Side Up project, which had attracted regional partners, and the Bare Bones Project, aimed at riders of mopeds and scooters.

Dave Laughton from the Forum described the “assessment ride” events organised at Holme Pierrepont, which encouraged riders to take course through the Institute of Advanced Motoring. Chris Baggaley, Notts Motorcyclists’ Federation, identified a number of key issues for motorcyclists: lack of dedicated motorcycle police, lack of recognition of motorcycles as a green form of transport, confusion between legitimate motorcyclists and unlicensed off-road riders, diesel spillages, and publicity for the Forum.

Councillor Stewart saw training and safety as being key. Much was being achieved, but some communities were upset by activities like Sunday rides on the A614. Councillor Cole said she was encouraged by what she had heard, and observed that rogue motorcyclists got everyone a bad reputation. In reply to Councillor Brandon-Bravo, Ms Rickards stated that she understood that motorcyclists could not at present use advanced stop lines.

The Chair thanked Ms Rickards and her colleagues from the Forum for their contribution.

### **SCRUTINY PLANNING**

Martin Gately, Scrutiny Officer, reminded members of the offer by Mr Wheeldon to show members the difficulties at Kings Clipstone. Mr Gately was preparing a survey of members and would share the draft with members of the Committee.

The next meeting on 12 February would consider the speed management policy, and have a presentation by Norwich Union and the RAC.

Councillor Stewart raised the issue of the lack of budgets for area highways managers, and on behalf of Councillor Owen, lorry prohibition orders and noisy road surfaces.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm.

### **CHAIR**

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