

Draft minutes of the WayaHead meeting of Blackshaw Parish Council held on 13 October 2014 in St James Church.

Present: Cllr. Mick Davies (in the Chair), Cllr. Dorothy Sutcliffe, Cllr. Chris Lund and 22 members of the public.

In attendance: Maggie Boyle (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr. Pat Beechill, Cllr. Steve Hoyle.

2. Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda - none.

3. Traffic and road safety issues already raised at meetings and the Fete:

3.1. Mytholm Steeps – This road is now being used as a commuter route with some drivers commuting from Burnley, by delivery vehicles, by local farmers with tractors pulling trailers, articulated lorries and by large trucks hauling heavy goods such as stone from local quarries. It was suggested that the road was not suitable for the purposes it was now being used for. It was reported that in the last two weeks there had been three accidents but that accidents not involving injury were not recorded by the Police. Although cars are travelling about 20 mph along Glen View this is still too fast for the road. Walls and cars have been hit and damaged many times, cats have been killed (a resident reported that her wall needed to be rebuilt 5 times in the last nine years). Local drivers are beginning to think of using dashboard cameras to record incidents. Maybe residents could mount cameras. There is no signage to warn that oncoming vehicles will be in the middle of the road, that pedestrians use the road way or that the road is unsuitable for heavy vehicles or indicating that width is restricted. Children cannot walk to school as the cars travel too fast, and the footpath disappears further down. There were many suggestions for improving the situation: make Glen View one way, close it to through traffic (some e.g. use of traffic lights, had been considered by CMBC in the past and rejected). A suggestions was made by a member of the public that houses could be built on Gypsy Flats and the developers be required to put in a new road – this could feature in the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.2. Footpaths/pavement along the A646 – There is not a continuous footpath from Sandbed to Hebden Bridge. This causes problems for children wanting to walk to school from Ingle Dene; the bus stop opposite Thistle Bottom (direction Hebden Bridge) cannot be accessed by those with push chairs from Ingle Dene; at Callis Bridge, parents with push chairs (and other bus users and residents) alighting from the bus (direction Todmorden) cannot reach the pedestrian crossing to access Underbank Avenue as pavement disappears. The issues have been investigated by Ward Councillors, some proposals had been made but no progress with the issues has been made.

3.3. Exit from Ingle Dene – 30 children live here, they can't walk to school because of the lack of continuous pavement however cars have great difficulty exiting safely because of a lack of sightlines and the speed of traffic on the A646 (36mph 85 percentile).

3.4. Safe walking routes to school Blackshaw to Colden – There are about 22 children keen on walking to school from BSH. There is no safe walking route all the way to Colden school from Blackshaw Head village although there is a short footpath leading to High Street that could become part of such a route, getting across High Street is dangerous for children; a route across New Delight car park would need to be addressed. It was also pointed out that safe routes were need around the village not just to school.

3.5. Marsh Lane exit – The recent changes to road marking after the resurfacing work done by CMBC have increased the difficulty for traffic emerging from Marsh Lane - sight lines have been reduced even further due to white lines being drawn around parked cars; cars commuting from Burnley speed along Badger Lane at 6am; car parking habits of residents block sight lines and cause traffic along Badger Lane to move into the centre of the road;

- 3.6. Badger Lane width and speeds** – After resurfacing white lines have been drawn wider than previously (under agreement to manage speeds with CMBC) causing traffic to travel faster as the road seems wider and causing narrower space on verges (thito narrow, this is exacerbated by the lack of trimming of verges by CMBC due to financial cut backs so no pedestrians have no space to walk out of the way of speeding cars
- 4. Any other traffic/road issues that residents want to raise?** – It was reported that Chapel Lane is now being used as a short cut with traffic pulling out without due care and attention, signage is needed. The issues of Church Lane intersect with those of Mytholm Steeps (but Church Lane is in Hebden Royd Town Council boundary). The use of Church Lane by commuters causes problems for the school; drivers use Church Lane for parking when accessing Hebden Bridge. Drivers from HB direction turn right into Church Lane not using the turning circle and even use the entrance to Church Lane to make a U-turn endangering children going to school and traffic emerging from Church Lane. It has been suggested that traffic be prohibited from making a right turn into Church Lane, this may reduce drivers using the route as a cut through to Burnley.
- 5. The matrix used by Calderdale Council to decide which projects are chosen** – Cllr. Mick Davies outlined the approach now being used by CMBC to prioritise projects. He told the meeting that numbers of households affected and safety, traffic speeds and traffic impact, were issues that would score points on the matrix. Issues that had been raised more than once and issues supported by petitions could also move up the priority ranking. The Clerk was asked to send out the details of the CMBC matrix to the Google group. A member of the public proposed that the national guidelines for reducing injuries to children be used in support of the case for the road safety issues raised.
- 6. Petitions - a way forward?** – It was agreed to start working on petitions. Cllr. Davies asked for volunteers to organise petitions. A member of the public asked that a Cllr. is involved with each petition.
- 6.1. Ingle Dene and A646 issues** – Cllr. Mick Davies will organise a petition and involve residents
- 6.2. Mythom Steeps** – Donna Goodman will organise a petition and encourage other resident to get involved
- 6.3. Safe Walking to School in Blackshaw Head** – Fiona Gale undertook to start a petition and to engage other parents in this campaign through her links with Colden School.
- 6.4. Marsh Lane and Badger Lane issues** – It was suggested that the first steps were to address the white lining issues with CMBC and for the Parish Council to discuss communication with residents about parking opposite and either side of Marsh Lane.
- 7. The Neighbourhood Plan process and future WayaHead meetings** – Cllr Davies described the process of agreeing a Neighbourhood Plan. It was going to be a useful way of engaging with residents to find out their concerns and to formulate ideas about what developments residents would welcome and communicate these to CMBC and developers. Infrastructure improvements could be funded through CIL payments and a greater percentage was available if an area had a Plan. There would be a referendum to ensure the Plan reflected residents' views.
- 8. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2014** – These were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- 9. Information on matters arising from the meeting held on 16 June 2014** – The Clerk was asked to write to the Inspector about the dates for the site visit for Barley Croft Turbine. :
- 10. Dates and venues of future meetings** – 9 February 2015, Hebden Bridge Town Hall, Council Chamber.