ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

[www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk)

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

Victoria Rutt

11 Highfield Road

Horam, TN21 0ED

Tel: 01323 870212

E-mail: alfristonpc01@btconnect.com

**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL LEAD MEMBER MEETING**

Notes made by Alfriston Parish Council’s Clerk, not the official minutes

Meeting was chaired by Lead Member [ESCC] Cllr Nick Bennett. In attendance around the table were members of ESCC including James Vaks and Andrew Keer, from APC Cllr Savage and Cllr Watkins, on behalf of Conserve Alfriston Mr Bill Rendall, on behalf of SAFE June Goodfield, Caroline Adcock as Co-Founder of SAFE and sits on Conserve Alfriston group and Cllr Stephen Shing. Not around the table but in attendance was the Clerk for APC and 20 Alfriston residents.

Cllr Bennett started the meeting asking Mr Keer to go through the proposal. Mr Keer passed over to Mr Vaks who went through the proposed report. This covered the initial review, the position of the signal heads, the traffic modelling work undertaken and the difficulties with the parking outside the Star Inn not being enforced [as discussed in the stakeholder meetings]. He stated that journey times would not change significantly. The modelling work showed that peak traffic would affect Market Square hence why the 4 week trial has been recommended plus an additional 4 week trial with a 20mph zone.

Cllr Bennett asked who was here to comment on the proposal. It was agreed that the below would speak to the proposals:

Cllr Savage on behalf of APC

June Goodfield on behalf of SAFE

Bill Rendall on behalf of Conserve Alfriston

Cllr Stephen Shing on behalf of ESCC rep for APC

Caroline Adcock as co-founder of SAFE, member of Conserve Alfriston and also an existing Alfriston Parish Council Councillor but not speaking on their behalf.

Cllr Shing stated that he was not against the trial at first but since ESCC have started cutting budgets and need to save money, and the traffic modelling evidence, he no longer supports the trial. The trial is not going to show anything that is not already known, £85k has been put aside for it which is a lot of money and with enforcement it is not going to work so what is the point.

June Goodfield stated that it is not the vehicles that is the problem, it is the people. She is not concerned about the trial but the lack of enforcement. She spoke to Police Crime and Commissioner Katy Bourne and MP Maria Caulfield about Wealden District Council [WDC] looking at Civil Parking Enforcement [CPE]. Cllr Bennett confirmed that WDC voted against CPE. She also asked if ESCC could reconsider siting of the bollards. Mr Vaks explained that you can’t put bollards in the road to prevent damage to buildings.

Mr Vaks reported that the trial is going to be used as a way of seeing what issues and evidence that goes alongside them comes about. Bollards and parking enforcement required will show in the trial.

Assistant Director Karl [surname TBC] stated that you don’t just change things without considering the laws. They must do something. WDC have not gone with CPE but Rother have. Sussex Police are responsible for parking and they have to take action if there are safety concerns.

Mr Vaks stated that they could review the mentioned bollards in the footways, they can review is as part of a traffic management measure. The issue of people reversing out of driveways on the High Street was raised and Mr Vaks confirmed that this has been risk assessed.

Mr Rendall stated that Conserve Alfriston is an informal group. The proposals have been considered for the ‘narrows’ but not the entire length. Those who live in the High Street, Market Square and businesses, 85% will be affected. This is a heavy solution, need a sensitive and sensible solution. It has been stated that traffic lights will reduce safety but there is no safety record. The cameras show that vehicles mount the pavements. The proposals should be considered.

Caroline Adcock reported it is a difficult problem, we need quick wins, not for residents to be hostile and worrying. She stated that before the trial there needs to be gateways, more signs for overweight vehicles, parking restrictions for the whole 8 weeks to show what improvements they could do. She stated that the trial needs to be as similar to any permanent scheme that could be introduced.

Cllr Ray Savage stated that lights are going to increase speed, will increase the danger of turning out of Star Lane as faster Northbound traffic coming towards you and that Star Lane is heavily used not just by vehicles, it is also the South Downs Way. There will be rat running round the back of village and the square will becomes less pedestrian friendly therefore less safe for pedestrians. The northbound traffic will be queuing on a blind bend at Weavers Lane and what will happen when equestrians or deliveries etc are in the traffic light zone still when lights change.

Light will create more problems, such as queue lengths that don’t exist presently, make life difficult/less safe for equestrians, deliveries, bin lorries, moving home, private driveways/garage and those turning out of River Lane (incl tractors) & from Norvetts (behind Business centre) (contractor vehicles)

Alfriston is one of the prettiest and historic villages, it is a gateway to SDNPA and has the one Grade 1 listed Market Cross in East Sussex. The village relies on tourism and the traffic light scheme will destroy special character of village; will destroy tourism in village; hence why overwhelming majority of business owners strongly against ESCC scheme; hence why large proportion of those who live in the village (and especially in the centre of village) strongly against scheme

Alfriston Parish Council would like to work with ESCC to work out other ways to spend the significant sum of money (£85k) earmarked for traffic management in village on 20 mph zone throughout village, gateways and a scheme that will bring an end to some of the divisiveness over this issue. If you decide to proceed to trial we need to know against what criteria will you measure your assessment as to success or failure, this must be published in advance of trial to ensure assessment is fair and it must include pollution monitoring.

Mr Keer and Mr Vaks updated that they have held stakeholder meetings and met with all interested parties prior to this meeting. They confirmed that the trial signal lights would be bulky and there would only be 1 at Star Lane but the permanent scheme would be 2 heads at Star Lane. The trial is an evidence gathering based scheme.

Cllr Shing thanked Mr Vaks and Mr Keer for all their hard work on this and to Conserve for the petition, it is now time to work out a better solution.

Cllr Bennett concluded the meeting by stating that he has considered the proposals and will look at Conserve ones in more detail and work together but the trial should go ahead, 4weeks of lights and 20mph zone with a further 4 weeks of the 20mph zone and gave his assurances on pollution being monitored. Once all evidence is gathered after the trial it will be decided whether the idea is moved forward or abandoned.