ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

Victoria Rutt

33 Swaines Way

Heathfield

TN21 0AN

E-mail: [clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk)

**STAKEHOLDER MEETING – FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2019**

**Present:**

Cllr Claire Dowling [East Sussex County Council]

Karl Taylor [East Sussex County Council]

James Vaks [East Sussex Highways]

Andrew Keer [East Sussex County Council]

Cllr Nick Beechey [Alfriston Parish Council]

Cllr Stephen Rabagliati [Alfriston Parish Council

Cllr Stephen Shing [East Sussex County Council]

Victoria Rutt [Alfriston Parish Council]

Andy Beattie [South Downs National Park]

Neil Parkinson [Conserve Alfriston]

Graham Clarke [Conserve Alfriston]

June Goodfield

Caroline Adcock

Andrew Saville

**Meeting commenced at 10:00**

Mr Karl Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and then went around the room so everyone could introduce themselves and explain why there were present and who they were representing.

Cllr Dowling introduced herself and stated she is new the role. She came into the role in May 2019, however had a period of annual leave so the Lead Member Meeting [LMM] was chaired by her predecessor Cllr Nick Bennett.

The outcome of the LMM held on the 17th June, following the trial in Sept/Oct 2018, concluded that traffic lights successfully prevented vehicles on the footway in the narrows but created more issues elsewhere in the village. The LMM decision therefore was not to proceed with permanent traffic signals. There is now a need to look at traffic calming measures. Mr Taylor said ESCC can’t eliminate risk in the narrows but they can look to reduce it. The solution now needs to be a village wide measure, not just the for the narrows. Mr Taylor proceeded to hand over to Mr Keer who spoke from a power point presentation.

**Slide 1 –**

**Proposed measures for future consultation;**

* **20mph speed limit village wide,**
* **use of existing terminal and repeater posts,**
* **possible roundels on road surface and**
* **coloured surface treatment at entry points**.

Mr Keer confirmed that there will be no street lighting added to the village and there is a desire for no more new signage. Cllr Beechey asked whether the 20mph speed limit would be across the entirety of the village, not just the High Street? Mr Keer confirmed it would be. Enforcement of the 20mph limit was discussed and it was stated that DfT guidance is that 20mph restriction should be encouraged where average speed is already less than 24mph. Mr Taylor stated that the 20mph speed limit is designed to modify behaviour and create a different environment.

**Slide 2 –**

* **Review of High Street/ Market Square – extend double yellow lines and dedicated loading bays.**
* **Improve HGV weight limit signing – work with Highways England to encourage HGVs to remain on principal road network [A27/A26/A259]**
* **Additional enhancements - gateway features**

There was a concern about the loading bays as more signage would be needed and this needs to be avoided. Having parking on the single yellow line prevented at weekends makes a big difference so look to have double yellow along there. Would need to minimise the amount of time people could park in dedicated bays. Cllr Dowling said to report every time a vehicle parks on double yellows to Op Crackdown as something will be done.

Weight limit restriction need to be better signed. Mr Keer stated that Highways England are aware and further discussions with them will be held. Mr Keer said that they want to reduce inappropriate traffic usage in the village.

Cllr Beechey stated that temporary weigh-bridge has been requested a number times as it works by sending a deterrent signal.

**Slide 3 –**

**Next Steps:**

* **Dec 2019 – March 2020. Development of measures to support the 20mph and additional HGV restriction signing. Consultation on potential changes to parking restriction on High Street.**
* **April/May 2020: Public consultation.**
* **Report consultation to LMM.**

Mr Keer said whatever measure is decided this requires a change to the Traffic Regulation Orders which is a lengthy process hence the need for the above timescales.

Mr Taylor said that the APC Traffic Sub-Committee wanted to present a document. He said the slides presented show what is being suggested, not dictated. Whatever ESCC come up with will likely be a compromise.

Mr Taylor handed over to Cllr Beechey who read out key points from the proposal document which has been drafted with the input and agreement of APC, Conserve Alfriston, Maria Caulfield MP, Michael Lunn (WDC), Andy Beattie (SDNPA) and representatives of Cuckmere Valley Parish Council and previously circulated to residents. *Document attached.*



Whilst reading through the report, the below comments were made.

Cllr Beechey asked if ESCC could confirm that the C39 is not viewed as a priority route, as if that is the case then it opens the way for significant traffic calming measures. Mr Taylor confirmed that it is not but stated that we can’t stop people using it as it is a public highway, traffic is not going to decrease, just need to manage it better. He said Alfriston needs to stop being used as a cut through and there are plans to improve the current A27 that may help. A discussion on the poor signage along the A27 was discussed.

Cllr Beechey explained that APC have started looking at sources of funding as APC are aware that ESCC could not fund everything. Mr Taylor said he was happy to hear this as they would not be able to provide everything and had only considered thus far funding for the proposals they had raised.

Cattle grids/open grazing at Hindoever (a previous South Downs Rangers idea) was discussed. Mr Taylor said cattle grids are a wonderful idea, as at Chailey Common however they are noisy. Cllr Beechey pointed out that the proposed location is in the countryside and therefore not near any houses.

Village gateways: There are lots of ideas, if it is a bespoke one it was raised that ongoing maintenance costs would need to be considered. At this point Mr Taylor said that there was nothing so far ESCC would disagree with.

When the change of road surface was discussed, Cllr Beechey explained it has been suggested to change the whole of the High Street, something more appropriate for the environment, Mr Taylor said nothing there is a show stopper.

Cllr Beechey explained that with the upcoming closure of the High Street, it is going to be trialled at the current Dene car park exit to make it an entrance and exit. If this works it could be a foundation for a permanent road change. It was agreed that something also needs to be done about crossing out of the Willows car park on foot.

Mr Taylor asked if this report had the backing of everyone from Alfriston present at the meeting. It was confirmed that it did.

A discussion was had about a convex mirror in the narrows in order to assist with vision round the bend. It is approved street furniture that requires the consent of the Minister for Transport. There was strong support from all Alfriston representatives for this measure which can only assist.

Mr Taylor thanked Cllr Beechey and everyone who worked on the proposal document, clearly a lot of work has gone into it. He said it is ambitious but it is good that it has received support from the village. He went on to confirm that they can’t give any commitment today but they will work with us and reflect on what has been asked for.

Ms June Goodfield gave information of two incidents that have happened in the narrows in the recent months. She said they had been filmed and reported within the hour. Mr Taylor reiterated that traffic lights did help in the narrows but created issues elsewhere. He stated that there is no perfect solution, they can’t remove the risk. He talked about shared space solutions across the county.

Mr Beattie from SDNPA said he supported all the ideas he had heard but does want to ensure that fixing the issues at Alfriston, are not going to then impact other local areas. Mr Taylor confirmed this would be looked into closely.

Cllr Dowling ended the meeting by saying need to manage expectations, ensure they are not too high. All options will be worked on, worked out with costings and a meeting will be arranged at a later date once the information is ready to be presented.

**Meeting ended 11:30**