ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**The Traffic Management Sub-Committee was held on Monday 14th September 2020 at 19:00, held remotely via Zoom.**

**Present:**

Cllr Jen Watkins – Alfriston Parish Council [Chair]

Cllr Nick Beechey - Alfriston Parish Council

Cllr Stephen Rabagliati - Alfriston Parish Council

Mrs Victoria Rutt – Alfriston Parish Council

One member of the public was present.

**Apologies:**

Maria Caulfield MP

Mr Alex Pringle [SDNPA]

**1.Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and checked that everyone had received the report and had time to read it. All agreed.

**2. Public Questions**

Mrs Caroline Adcock said she would listen to the discussions as she has several comments but was sure they would be covered. She would make any further points at the end of the meeting in public questions. Mrs Adcock was present as a member of the public, not as a Councillor.

**3. Discussion on ESCC report**

Cllr Beechey started by saying that he felt disappointed as to the extent of which the report suggests that ESCC are following up on our suggestions. He apologised for the delay in responding to the original report as this may have deferred them. He feels that the way forward should be to modify the previous response that did have Committee sign off which will address the existing report but will also set out everything we hope to happen and show the desire that we would like it to be a valley wide scheme.

Cllr Beechey continued to say that having looked at the limited costings supplied, we should explain that we are still keen to pursue all these options with a safety audit and to see how we go with funding. It was suggested that it would be useful to have a site meeting with Mr Andy Mileham, the writer of the report from ESH, to talk through the issues with him on the ground. One thing that should be stressed upon is the need to hit everything with significant change, not small bits at a time. It requires comprehensive assessment of everything needed and implemented all in one go.

Cllr Watkins agreed with all the above.

Cllr Rabagliati said he felt flattened when he read the report as there are numerous feeble reasons for not doing things i.e. the convex mirror. He feels that we should push forward on items such as the gateways and roundel as there is a need for them. Reasons for rejecting minor items such as planters and road surface treatment are ridiculous, and we should continue to press for these to come to consultation also. Cllr Rabagliati likes the idea of cobbled section especially as cobbling will reduce the number of roads to be painted. He explained that he measured the High Street this morning at multiple points and it is considerably less than the 5m they have based their figures on.

Cllr Rabagliati would like the review of the bollards to be a priority on the response as they would be useful in many areas of the village and they do well to protect the people and buildings. He feels that an overall budget of £250k is not a lot for this sort of scheme and something we should be shooting for as it needs to be done. There are several stakeholders who could be approached to put some funds in.

Cllr Watkins confirmed that we do not know yet how much they [ESCC] are prepared to pay.

Cllr Beechey agreed, a budget of £250k is good for a scheme that is needed to properly address the traffic situation in the village. It is considerably cheaper than the traffic light system which ESCC pushed for, for many years. It was raised that it is interesting that public injuries have come up after years of saying it is not a problem!

Cllr Rabagliati said they have given ridiculous reasons for not doing the painted road surface. Also, the excuse of having no record of accidents at the crossing point near Willows is not a reason not to do something, that crossing is incredibly dangerous and needs something in place.

Cllr Beechey said it is providing a sense of reassurance rather than addressing an injury record.

Cllr Beechey said we need to acknowledge Conserve Alfriston, they have now stepped back as feel effectively we have got to a place which they wanted us to get to. APC want to express their gratitude to Conserve Alfriston for all their hard work and efforts to help us to get where we are and assurance that we will plough on to get to a place which am sure will have their support.

**4. Decision on formal response to ESCC report**

It was agreed that the Clerk will get the minutes out the following day to those present and Cllr Beechey will modify the report by Thursday 17th to give the committee time to review and sign off so full Council can receive the report on Friday 18th ahead of final sign off at the APC meeting on Monday 21st Sept.

**5. Public Questions**

Mrs Caroline Adcock said she is pleased to hear that the level of scrutiny and ambition that the committee are undertaking. She noted that ESCC keep saying why they do not want to do things, but some are ridiculous, particularly regarding the pinch points. We need to give pedestrians a better feel and make it a welcoming place to visit. She agrees regarding the budget and feels personally that we could get more money for the gateways as an example with fundraising. One thing not mentioned in the report that she has been approached about is the width of the pavement outside Singing Kettle and other shops on that road. They feel hemmed in when cars are parked along there.

Cllr Beechey commented on the last section from Mrs Adcock about widening the pavement, ESCC indication is that they are not keen to doing anything as a permanent measure in that area. The issue is enforcement of the double yellow lines, now would be a good time to contact the new Chief Constable of Sussex Police to point out that the parking around the Centre of the village is not only transgressing the law but is also leading to congestion and an unsafe environment of pedestrians, therefore could she instruct officers to do some spot checks. We could also raise the need of a temporary weighbridge for the same reasons. Action.

Cllr Beechey also stated that the problem with narrowing the street is in terms of larger vehicles who are in danger of getting stuck on that corner, this would increase if widened the pavement there.

Cllr Rabagliati said the cobbling idea around Market Square, North Street, West Street and down to the Star is a nice feature and wondered if the committee support this? Cllr Beechey said if done nicely it is a good idea but conscious whether it increases traffic noise. It was agreed it should be taken to public consultation though and Cllr Beechey will add it into the new response.

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