ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

**STAKEHOLDER TRAFFIC MEETING – FRIDAY 27th MAY 2022**

**Present:**

Mr Karl Taylor [East Sussex County Council]

Mr Andrew Keer [East Sussex County Council]

Mr Andy Mileham [ESCC/East Sussex Highways]

Cllr Nick Beechey [Alfriston Parish Council (APC)]

Cllr Jen Watkins [APC]

Cllr Stephen Rabagliati [APC]

Mrs Victoria Rutt [APC]

**Meeting commenced at 09:00**

Mr Karl Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and then handed over to Mr Andy Mileham to start his presentation. Mr Mileham proposed to go through a presentation that would cover 4 key points:

* Village gateway design and the audit process
* Proposed A27 signage
* Stakeholder engagement process
* Next steps

Village gateway design and the audit process

Mr Mileham confirmed that the proposed build out had passed the Road Safety Audit [RSA] carried out by the Road Safety Team *[For clarity, a Road Safety Audit is a review of a proposed highway design carried out by an auditor that is independent of that design. Advice on designs , or changes to design, will therefore be sought from the wider Road Safety Team rather than the auditor.]* There has been some modification to the proposed location due to flooding concerns and vehicle sight lines. This was for both ends of the village. The previous traffic models were looked at and further speed surveys were undertaken, it was ascertained that the buildouts either end of the village would not contribute on delays in and out the village. The proposed buff coloured surface from gateway to gateway has not been included because of a concern that road markings and yellow lines would be less visible.

Cllr Beechey asked why the gateway, speed limit and build outs were not all together in one place/why it was proposed to stagger them? Mr Mileham said that the RSA amended this due to vehicle sight line. Cllr Beechey stated, starting at the Willows end of the village there is sufficient room with the existing grass verge to have it all together and there is reasonable line of sight. All in one place would have more of an impact for drivers entering the village. Cllr Beechey said in the past APC have said they do not want the white gateways [*although it was acknowledged that this design can be amended*], no speed roundels on the road and no red road surface. These are very urban designs which APC are against; Alfriston is a rural village and would like it to remain so.

Cllr Beechey asked whether the RSA had only seen this design? Cllr Beechey asked if RSA had said that red colour and speed roundels were mandatory, and whether RSA had rejected previous design that APC had been consulted on? Mr Mileham stated that there have been 4 designs which have been amended. Cllr Beechey asked for confirmation of what designs had gone to RSA and for the comments made by RSA. Mr Mileham said he can go back through all the comments to see why it has been amended so much and supply this information to APC.

Mr Mileham stated that the first design did not receive RSA approval but he could not remember the exact reasoning.

Cllr Beechey said he could not understand why the gateway and build out could not be together as they are at other places, for example Ditchling, which also does not have red road surface or speed roundels. Ditchling is similar in terms of sight lines and flat road surface. Mr Keer responded that not all places are the same and reasonable distance/flat are loose terms. Cllr Beechey stated that as there is a build out near the old youth hostel, on a blind bend, with only a short sightline to the give way, in a 40 mph zone, with no red road surface, how it could one said this was a requirement at the buildouts. Mr Taylor could see the point that Cllr Beechey was making with other locations, and mentioned Maresfield, and therefore there appeared to be precedents elsewhere for what APC seek, and agreed that these comments need to go back to the Road Safety Team to find out if they are acceptable. Mr Taylor confirmed that he would attend the meeting with Mr Mileham and Mr Keer and agreed that they would find out what is mandatory and explain to the Road Safety Team that the Parish Council do not want speed roundels on the road, no red coloured surface but would accept a buff surface and the gateway/build out/speed limit to be together. Mr Taylor said that there was little point in taking to consultation a design that was not supported by APC.

Cllr Beechey asked whether the proposed ‘road narrowing’ signs are required. Mr Taylor said it would need to be checked whether these are subjective advice or mandatory. Cllr Beechey asked whether the pedestrian crossing sign was necessary if it was to be moved? The proposed location is where people do not cross, the current location is where people cross exiting the Willows car park. It was agreed this sign may well be redundant now, but this will be looked into with RSA.

Mr Mileham confirmed that the give way signs in North Street will be removed and the single yellow lines along High Street will be replaced with double yellow lines. This received approval from all members of APC.

Discussion was had about including in the consultation road re-surfacing along the length of the High St, with setts, granite etc as options. Approximate costings would be required.

Proposed signage on A27

Mr Mileham confirmed that discussions had taken place with Highways about the signage. A proposed sign was presented which would be on the A27 showing the Drusillas roundabout and on the sign, it shows the 7.5-ton vehicle limit. Both Mr Taylor and Cllr Beechey believe that sign has already gone up.

Cllr Beechey asked if the current sign along Alfriston Road showing the 7.5-ton limit could be better, bigger signs on the blue background as this would be more visual. Mr Mileham said these are not dedicated signs, the Secretary of State would need to sign them off and approve and it is believed it would be unlikely to get them through. It was agreed this is not a reason to not ask so Mr Mileham will go back to theRoad Safety Team and ask them

Stakeholder engagement

Mr Mileham stated that he wouldn’t go through the stakeholder process and next steps as these will all change now as there is a need to go back to the RSA on a number of factors which will change the proposed timeline. Mr Taylor asked for Mr Mileham to confirm what the process is without dates.

Mr Mileham confirmed that once a design has been agreed by both RSA and Parish Council, a letter will go out to Statutory Stakeholders (includes emergency services) with a 4-week turnaround seeking comments. Any modifications following these will happen.

It will then go to a public consultation, which will cover the proposed design, with a storyboard and information as to why certain measures have either been included or not included, along with reasons.

Cllr Beechey said it was generous of ESCC to set aside £200k for this project, and asked if that included design costs? Mr Keer said he wasn’t sure of the figure, but it would include all the design cost, legal, consultation and construction costs.

Mr Taylor ended the meeting by confirming that ESCC will go back to the Road Safety Team to find out what is mandatory. If some are not and can be amended, this will need to go back through the RSA process with a new proposed design taking into the comments from APC today which will cause a slight delay. APC will be kept updated.

**Meeting ended 09:45**