

**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of the Highways Committee** held at County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 19 November 2009 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor D MORGAN** in the Chair

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors Arthur, Bainbridge, Magee, D Marshall, Naylor, Shiell, Stradling, L Thomson and Todd.

**Other Members:**

Councillors Cordon and Napier

**Also present:** Mr Turnbull and Mrs Donkin (in respect of item 3 on the agenda: proposed installation of bus shelter: Waldrige Road – Chester Moor Link Road)

**Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hancock, Hugill, Maslin, J Robinson and Woods.

The Chair indicated that the order of items on the agenda would be varied to allow item 6 (C183 Pelton Lane, Pelton) to be considered first.

**A1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**A2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**A3 C183 Pelton Lane, Pelton: Proposed Puffin Crossing**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development regarding the outcome of investigations into proposals to provide a formal light controlled pedestrian crossing (Puffin Crossing) outside the new Pelton Community Primary School and proposed Health Centre/Pharmacy/Library.

It was noted that the provision of this type of crossing was subject to national guidance, national design guidelines and a local policy adopted by the County Council in 2004. The report detailed the investigations undertaken to assess whether or not a crossing could be provided at this location, including a site survey and a public consultation exercise. There were no unresolved objections to the proposal and the police had confirmed their support.

The proposal was also supported by the local members; Councillor Cordon had in fact been seeking to have a formal pedestrian crossing provided for some time and spoke in support of the proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposal to introduce a Puffin Crossing at the location referred to in the report be approved.

**A4 Waldridge Road – Chester Moor Link Road: Proposed installation of bus shelter adjacent to Aberwick Drive**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development concerning objections to the above proposal; a local resident, Mr Turnbull, objected to the proposal and addressed the meeting accordingly. He elaborated on the reasons for his objection, which were outlined in the report, and also referred to his dissatisfaction with responses to a request he had made on the subject under the provisions of Freedom of Information legislation. In the circumstances it was suggested that consideration of the matter be deferred.

Mrs Donkin (Waldridge Parish Council) spoke in support of the proposal and it was noted that local members were also in support.

**RESOLVED:**

That further consideration of this matter be deferred to allow the outstanding Freedom of Information issues to be resolved.

**A5 Proposed removal of traffic calming B1285 Church Lane, Murton**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advising of representations received with regard to the existing traffic calming chicane at the above location.

Members were reminded that the proposal to introduce traffic calming on the B1285 road in Murton in 2007 had resulted in two chicanes being installed. The background to the original proposal was outlined in the report; however, it was noted that one of the chicanes had been the subject of numerous ongoing complaints from local residents, centred on traffic noise, litter thrown from stationary vehicles and difficulties accessing/exiting driveways. Whilst the chicane had been successful in reducing vehicle speeds the police did not object to its removal; although they were disappointed at the loss of a valuable speed reducing feature they acknowledged that this was outweighed by the adverse effect on the local community. Alternative traffic calming features had been investigated but had been deemed unsuitable.

Councillor Napier spoke in support of the proposal; he thanked officers for their support of the local community on this issue and emphasised that the main concern originally had been the volume, not the speed, of traffic.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposal to remove the existing traffic calming chicane on the B1285 Church Lane, Murton be approved.

**A6 Proposed waiting restriction: Unc 19.12 Finchale Road, Brasside**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advising of representations received in respect of the above proposal.

It had been reported that uncontrolled parking along Finchale Road, and in particular close to the junction opposite Frankland Prison, had on occasion caused severe difficulties for HGVs and towing vehicles accessing Finchale Priory. The installation of advisory road markings and the regular provision of police 'no waiting' cones had made some difference but the problems persisted. It was noted that, following consultation, one representation had been received objecting to the proposal; the Council's response to the objection was also noted. It was further noted that local members supported the proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

That the objection be set aside and the proposal to introduce waiting restrictions be approved.

**A7 Transit 15**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development informing members of progress on Transit 15 – a Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2) project to improve the reliability/punctuality of the bus network on seven key bus corridors across the county.

The background to the project was outlined in the report; development of the project had involved a working group including the two main bus operators. Twenty seven separate scheme locations had been identified where delays to buses regularly occurred and design work on improvements had been ongoing since Summer 2009. All the schemes had been programmed for implementation between late 2009 and 1011/12; 10 were proposed for the next few months and the first scheme, at the A693 Stanley Roundabout, had recently been completed.

It was noted that consultations were being carried out with people likely to be affected by the proposals and that local members were being kept informed. It was further noted that some of the schemes would require a Traffic Regulation Order and these cases would be reported to the Highways Committee in accordance with normal procedure; reports on schemes not requiring traffic orders would also be reported to the Committee for information.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and that the progress made to date on implementing the Transit 15 project be noted.

**Before the meeting concluded, the Chair and members asked that their appreciation be conveyed to all those who had been involved in maintaining the road network during the recent extended period of severe weather.**

The meeting closed at 11.15am

**CHAIR**