

Minutes of the Roads Committee meeting held Friday 9th February 2024 at 2pm at the Town Hall.

Present Cllrs; Beavan (DB) – Chair, Davy (PD), Jarvis (RJ) and Sutton (JS),

Also present, Town Mayor Cllr Flunder (SF) (ex officio) and Town Clerk (LB). Also, SCC Ward Cllr M Ladd (ML).

Also present a member of Reydon PC and 4 members of the public.

Agenda

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – Cllr Palmer.
2. **Declarations of interest:**
 - a. To receive any declarations of Non-Registrable Interest regarding the agenda. Nil
 - b. To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest/ Other Registrable Interest regarding the agenda. Nil.
3. **Public section** - for members to speak on matters relating to the agenda items under consideration. Max of 30 minutes will be given to this section. Discussions at the discretion of the Chair of the Cttee.

Comments from public related to the questionnaire.

A Member of public asked why the consultation had taken place, and what data was held to suggest the need for improvements.

A member of the public spoke re drop in 22nd/23rd September. What was the outcome?

The Town Mayor explained that the drop in was in relation to a one-way system and the majority of people were against this so no further action will be taken on that.

However, at the drop in members of the public said that there were lots of concerns and that change is needed.

A query was raised as to the suggestion of a pedestrian crossing outside Tesco. Where did that suggestion come from? A member of the public advised that there is a need to preserve parking spaces as there is more parking in other towns – so if parking is lost there could be a drop in footfall.

Cllr Beavan advised that many other businesses commented the same as above and the cttee would therefore be looking where to put any crossings, whilst preserving parking.

Discussion re how representative the response was - 476 responses were received. STC hand delivered to all homes in Southwold, Reydon carried out limited hand delivery in Reydon although the questionnaire did go online.

Q re the ability to make any changes being recommended. who has jurisdiction to do anything. It was confirmed that any recommendations would go to STC then to SCC Highways for further response and comments.

SCC Cllr M Ladd advised that any Highway requests will be assessed through SCC generic criteria to assess whether anything can be done.

Overview from Reydon PC - although they did not discuss because their meetings did not align.

1) 20mph = ok, 2) car parking = 50/50 thoughts, 3) loss of parking – concern i.e. 4 crossings = too many.

Q re enforcement for 20mph – how could this be done? Discussion re CCTV for anti-social behaviour. Maybe 2 cameras at Town Hall balcony to assist with anti-social behaviour police evidence – but they would not have ANPR.

SCC Cllr Ladd explained what a “courtesy crossing” is and that it is also known as a “pedestrian priority crossing”. SCC Cllr Ladd explained how these work and how they look. SCC Cllr Ladd advised that they do work well in other places.

Q re signage for a pedestrian priority area - signs would be advisory people entering the town. Mention was made that the low yes’s re Q3 was to do with the numbers of crossings being proposed. Some people just wanted 1 or 2.

The Town Clerk presented the consultation responses to all present – see attached.

4. **Update from SCC Ward Cllr Ladd** re local Highways matters, including Milestone maintenance programme, Potters Bridge and Quay Lane.

SCC Michael Ladd

Milestone – getting good feedback about repairs.

Potters Bridge – various joint meetings taking place to try and get a resolution to the clearance of the drains, culverts on an ongoing basis.

Quay Lane – meetings taking place to discuss the future of Quay Lane.

b) Safety matters – Cllr Palmer carried out a street audit last year – there are pinch points on A Boards/pavement furniture. Clerk to send A board/street furniture letter out to all businesses now to remind them of the regulations.

East Street width of highway

York Road doctors’ surgery = working well.

East Street – the recommendation is for the removal of 2 parking bays. There has been some objection from local businesses as parking will be lost – but highway and pedestrian safety will be improved. SCC Cllr Ladd Highways would recommend the taking out of both bays to make sure East Street becomes wide enough as per highway regs. All agreed to take 2 of the bays out as originally recommended by SCC Highways in view of the safety concerns along this stretch of road.

5. **Consultation**

a) To receive information from the analysis of the consultation – analysis received and presented as above.

Cllr Beavan has also looked through the responses to assess the views of those who live permanently in Southwold.

Q1 = approx. 70% support

Q2 = approx. 70% support

Q3 – 30% = yes to all those proposed. Cumulatively 70% were in support of at least 1 crossing, 50% - 2 crossings, 30% - 3 crossings.

Q1 – 20mph. Discussion.

Where to start it? Start at mini roundabout? North Road to remain at 30mph?

Have signs up to remind you how fast you are going? Could have some of these?

SCC Cllr Ladd advised that he had spoken to SCC Cabinet re their 20mph policy - 20mph is an exception rather than a rule. SCC Cllr Ladd would need to support the application from the town council and SCC will need to assess the request against their policy.

If the start point is as per the above suggestion, the Millennium car park entrance would be included within the 20mph on way out of town, and a school bus stop would also be inside it, so the application should stand a good chance.

Recommendation - To ask that SCC Implement 20mph for Southwold from North Road – unanimous.

Agreed by all to request that the start of the 20mph be after North Road and after the Millennium Hall. Agreed for recommendation by all.

Q2 Resident parking exceptions. Discussion.

Cllr Beavan advised that there is no resident car parking scheme in Southwold/ESC.

Q2 explanation means that people could apply to overstay in a limited car parking bay.

Cllr Beavan advised that this would not affect many spaces and person/car has to be registered here. This was supported by 70% of Southwold residents. Could develop this further to include possibly carers etc.

It was asked whether a traffic regulation order for time limited bays is needed. Yes, it is.

After discussion it was agreed by all to recommend that there be a request to ESC to provide an extension of the existing residents parking arrangements in limited time bays as per the consultation suggestion, on the terms as presently required.

Q3 re pedestrianisation safety crossings. Discussion.

1) Sutherland House area would be favoured first as it has no parking spaces to interfere with.

2) Town Hall – entrance to East Street could be a second priority area as this a dangerous part of the High Street where motorists/ pedestrians are unsure of each other's movements.

Discussion re the place for raised areas. SCC Cllr Ladd explained that there are criteria at SCC about these – might need to be outside No 51/not Sutherland House as does not take parking place. SCC Cllr Ladd – cost of 1 approx. £100k.

It was suggested that 1) be around the Sutherland House area and one around Queen Street as this will bookend the High Street.

Discussion re Market Place accidents and people turning into East Street. Need to take safety on board with a duty of care for visitors. Discussion re change of road colour cobbles for Market Place area. It was suggested that the Highways safety team look at Market Place/Town Hall/East Street area as a separate piece of work.

Agreed the priorities for Raised Priority Crossings be as follows.

1) No 51/Sutherland House area.

2) Queen Street area

Recommendation – No. 51/Sutherland House, Queen Street to be costed. All agreed.

6. Safety matters

- a) Consideration of STC survey of pavements throughout the town with regards to width for prams/ mobility scooters etc – to consider and if agreed, to recommend the next steps. See above.
- b) East Street – width – to consider and if agreed, to recommend the next steps. See above.

7. To receive update on new Electric vehicle charger installations and Plug in Suffolk next phase of roll out.

Fast charger is being installed today in Gardner Road car park.

8. To consider the Nov 2023 Suggested Priority actions and to received updates as appropriate.

- a) signage discussions – these will be revisited and put to SCC for costing.
- b) permits for care workers – Cllr Beavan taking forward.
- c) Disabled Bays - Clerk to complete application for a parking bay on the High Street. Apply for disabled bay for the parking area outside URC and release the 2 on the cobbles (as this = difficult for wheelchairs).
- d) East Street – as above.
- e) Old Surgery – as above.

Cllr Flunder spoke re deterioration of surface outside Kings Head.

SCC Cllr Ladd has put this area forward for resurfacing.

f) Overnight parking on North Parade. SCC Cllr Ladd advised that ESC has money for a North Parade scheme. 4 hours = suggested timescales. Recommend ESC to action.

g) Common Trust – York Road to Water Tower – got Common Trust next week.

h) Blyth Road parking to come to next STC meeting.

9. **To receive feedback from Suffolk Enhanced Bus Partnership meetings.**

Cllr Jarvis has attended. Spoke about bus service being poor but the bus companies are struggling for drivers and can only do the routes they have and the need to join up with train stations.

Darsham is to become a hub for Sizewell, so it was suggested that STC pressurise Sizewell to improve the Darsham service to Southwold.

Cllr Davy – parking of buses/coaches outside shops at the Kings Head. Discussion re how to rectify. SCC Ladd – need to write to the coach companies/bus companies to suggest they stay at the Pier.

10. **To receive update regarding Easton Bavents car park** – car park is closed at the moment. The parking operator got a very bad reputation as many people were fined.

SCC Cllr Ladd – advised that the public cannot now get into the Easton Bavents car park area.

Ringo – provision of a card payment back up. Cllr Beavan has taken this to ESC.

11. Date of next meeting – mid/late March (do a doodle poll) for after 18th March.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.30pm.

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20mph in Southwold – Recommendation - To ask that SCC Implement 20mph for Southwold from North Road – unanimous.

Agreed by all to request that the start of the 20mph be after North Road and after the Millennium Hall. Agreed for recommendation by all.

Resident parking in timed bays - It was agreed by all to recommend that there be a request to ESC to provide an extension of the existing residents parking arrangements in limited time bays as per the consultation suggestion, on the terms as presently required.

Recommendation re priorities for Raised Priority Crossings be as follows.

1) No 51/Sutherland House area.

2) Queen Street area

Recommendation – area by No. 51/Sutherland House, Queen Street to be costed. All agreed.

Recommendation - that the Highways safety team look at Market Place/Town Hall/East Street area as a separate piece of work.