

Notes from the Southwold Highways/Footpaths/Police Working Group meeting held on 16th October 2018 at 10am.

Rep H and F 2/18

DATE & TIME	16 th October 2018 at 10am
PLACE	Town Hall
CHAIR	Cllr Tucker
Also PRESENT	Cllrs; Betts, Bradbury. SCC Ladd, PCSO Ben Hedley Lewis, Volunteer police – Chris Cardwell

- 1) *Apologies* - were received from Cllr Doy
- 2) *Chairman of Highways and Footpaths group for 2018/19* – on the proposal of Cllr Bradbury, seconded by Cllr Betts, it was agreed by all that Cllr Tucker be Chair of the group for 2018/19.
- 3) *Volunteer policing role* – Mr Cardwell attended to advise the group on the role of the volunteer. Following the pilot and the role out across Suffolk, volunteers undergo a lengthy application process which, if successful, is followed by online and practical training.

Volunteers cannot; detain, enforce or investigate but are available to be the eyes and ears for two-way information and intelligence between the police and the public. The role allows for up to 20 hours per week of volunteer time to be provided per volunteer.

Mr Cardwell has introduced himself to local businesses and shopkeepers.

Mr Cardwell advised that the police hi viz jacket can deter – especially with regards to the timed parking regulations.

Mr Cardwell is spending time with the PCSO to assess how his volunteer role can be of assistance in Southwold.

It was suggested that a copy of the Southwold PCSO priorities be provided to Mr Cardwell.

- 4) *Police matters* – PCSO Ben Hedley Lewis
 - Parking* - the PCSO advised that parking issues have increased over recent months and advised that the weather and the popularity of the staycation certainly increased the parking issues over the summer months. PCSO advised that the number of tickets issues was significant with key areas being; a) St James Green (across the triangle junction), b) North Parade (across the white lines), c) North Parade (motor homes).
 - a) St James Green - SCC Ladd advised that St James Green area is being considered by SCC for increased restrictions.
 - b) North Parade – white lines - with SCC for confirmation.
 - c) Re motor homes – it was agreed that this does need further consideration – WDC has marked bays for motor homes available in the Pier car park but whilst they can park throughout the town for free there is no incentive to park in chargeable car parks. Other towns to be contacted to see how they provide for motor homes. Discussion re how to improve the parking provision for motor homes at day/ night to allow the North Parade area to be available for smaller vehicles.

Discussion re 'no camping or cooking' signs along North Parade – Clerk to try and find out more about this restriction and what enforcement is available.

Subsequent to meeting SCC advised as follows; *Camping and cooking is not defined, however, having reviewed the original Order (Suffolk County Council (Various Roads, Southwold And Reydon) (Prohibition And Restriction Of Waiting And Additional Measures) Order 2009), my guess is that these restrictions were implemented to prevent people pitching up and camping for free in a seaside resort and staying for an excessive period of time, as the clause introducing these restrictions reads as follows:*

- (2) *No person shall use any part of a parking place or any vehicle left in a parking place:*
- (a) *for overnight sleeping;*
 - (b) *for camping or cooking; or*
 - (c) *for the purpose of servicing or washing any vehicle or part thereof other than is reasonably necessary to enable that vehicle to depart from the parking place.*

Enforcement will be by Suffolk Police until Civil Parking Enforcement starts, and then it will be the responsibility of East Suffolk Council.

Improved explanatory signage to be requested from SCC and police to be asked to enforce the above.

Timed zones - PCSO Hedley Lewis advised that some of the High Street traders have expressed a preference for the traffic limit in the High Street to be increased to 60 minutes to enable shoppers to have sufficient time to visit the shops/ businesses/ services required (although the police are aware that shopkeepers are also parking in the timed bays for an excess period of time).

It was suggested that Mr Cardwell could liaise with the business owners to ask them not to park in these timed bays as these are intended for those wishing to access the shops/ businesses/ services. Subsequent to meeting Mr Cardwell carried out a verbal survey with 50 shopkeepers/ businesses asking for their views on increasing the timing period of the bays along the High Street to 60 minutes. The results were not conclusive with Yes - 29 (58%), No - 19 (38%), Don't know - 2 (4%). Mr Cardwell advised that 'only a minority had firm views, most found it difficult to answer - on the one hand etc, many approved strongly of enforcement.'

Further consideration to be given to SCC/STC carrying out a formal joint survey.

Anti-social behaviour - The police advised that they had been asked to assess anti-social behaviour that had been reported in North Road – of the 50 questionnaires handed out to local properties only one had been returned.

CCTV - Police advised that the CCTV is extremely useful and provides good quality images and has been used in many of their investigations. The police asked that the branches overhanging the pavement by the CCTV camera be cut back to ensure camera has unobscured view of vehicles crossing over the bridge. Millennium Foundation to be contacted. SCC to also be asked to clear the drains of leaves in this vicinity to prevent water build-up, flooding.

PCSO Hedley-Lewis and Mr Cardwell left the meeting.

5) *SCC matters* – SCC Cllr Ladd.

Online reporting tool - SCC Cllr Ladd advised that use of the Highways online reporting tool should continue to be encouraged as an incident reporting method, as SCC and Kier use this to track works required and to provide feedback to the public on matters reported through the software. SCC are now dealing with potholes in a more timely manner although they still have criteria to assess whether a pothole is large enough to warrant repair. Engineers have assessed the potholes on Park Lane at least twice in recent months but as these do not meet the minimum criteria they are not deemed as requiring action – although they are a concern

to a resident who is concerned about the use of a mobility scooter in that area. Cllr Ladd has met with the resident and is pursuing the matter within SCC.

SCC Ladd asked the H and F group to provide information for any new line markings requests, as an application for TRO will shortly be submitted. Police have already provided details of those that they feel should be considered.

Bus shelter by Kings Head- despite the agreement last year that the Town Council would be contacted prior to installation this bus shelter has already been installed. Town Clerk to write to SCC to request meeting to discuss its correct positioning.

Protection of greens from vehicles – options for this were discussed. SCC Cllr Ladd advised that there had previously been 3ft black railings around both St James Green and East Green – photographs to be provided. Cost to be ascertained for the replacement of railings. Other options discussed included bund/ signage / posts – each green to be considered individually. Trees to be Considered for the area of parking along Marlborough Rd/ Hotson Road to deter larger vehicles in this area.

SCC guidance - Revised Grit bin guidance noted, together with the new Highways licensing requirements for cherry pickers, and the SCC requirements for items across the highway.

The meeting of the Highways and Footpaths working group closed at 11.30am.
SCC Cllr Ladd left the meeting.

Parking sub group

Following the research carried out by the parking group, the full Town Council is now considering the parking strategy for the town and a questionnaire, agreed by full council, has recently been distributed to all households.

Analysis of the responses - closing date for responses is 26th October and the data sets will be collated by the sub group during the week of 29th October. The data will then be provided to all members. The Town Mayor, Cllrs Windell and Cllr Tucker will meet to discuss the format of the public meeting to be held on 12th November 2018.

It is considered that following the work above, the parking sub group will have completed its original research role and that any future parking matters can be dealt with at Full Town Council (strategy/policy), or within the Highways and Footpaths meetings as appropriate.