

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKING GROUP
VIA TEAMS**

2ND DECEMBER 2021

PRESENT

Councillor Bernie Bentick, Rosemary Dartnall, Kate Halliday Alan Mosley & Rob Wilson (Chairman)

APOLOGIES

Councillor David Vasmer

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk) – Shrewsbury Town Council; Rose Dovey (Active Travel Manager) Shropshire Council

08/21 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Twin hatted Councillors declared an interest in matters affecting Shropshire Council & the Town Council combines

09/21 NOTES OF THE MEETING

The Notes of the Active Travel Working Group Meeting held on 21st October 2021 were circulated ahead of the meeting.

It was AGREED that:

The Notes of the Active Travel Working Group meeting held on 21st October 2021 be signed as a true and accurate record

10/21 MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Wilson enquired whether any decision nationally had been made regarding the Mini-Holland Expression of Interest. It was understood that there hadn't yet been an announcement. The Town Clerk was asked to contact the MP to seek his support for any lobbying of the Department for Transport.

11/21 LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS CONSULTATION

Rose Dovey gave an update of the recent Liveable Neighbourhoods Consultation in the Porthill and Copthorne Wards. The consultation ran from 4th October – 1st November and received 999 responses to two separate surveys (i) a Short General Survey which attracted 746 responses and (ii)

Commonplace Interactive Map which attracted 253 responses. Generally the appetite for a Liveable neighbourhood was an even split with a slight majority not in support of proposals. Issues raised included:

- -ve - Increased traffic
- -ve - Difficulty in accessing properties
- -ve - Difficulty in accessing the school
- -ve - Difficulty in parking
- -ve - An overall negative impact in the area
- +ve – Reduction in volume and speed of traffic in the areas
- +ve – Better environment from stakeholders

The next step was to look at an alternative approach possibly including a 20mph zone, School Street, Travel Plan and additional crossings. This will be considered at the Travel Board on the 21st December.

The following comments were made by Members of the Working Group

- The overriding need was to reduce car journeys to address the carbon emergency – how can that be reframed without radical interventions
- Initial experience of the School Street initiative in Coleham had attracted some negative response but generally speaking the initiative had addressed the need to reduce volume of traffic
- Was there an active group that were against the proposals in the area and was that skewing the results
- There was still a public appetite for some interventions
- There seems to be a wish to implement initiatives a bit at a time rather than in one big hit
- Such strategies like Bus Back Better, the Big Town Plan Movement Strategy and LTP4 are likely to have more of the carrot initiatives that will allow the stick initiatives to be accepted
- There were reference to other stick initiatives like stopping smoking in restaurants; there was much resistance at the time but is now generally accepted
- Was there possibility of giving the public tasters of initiatives like temporarily closing a road for a cycling event

12/21 LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

City Science has been appointed to develop the LCWIP with specific sections for Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Ludlow, Whitchurch, Oswestry & Market Drayton. There was to be an inception meeting for Stakeholders and the Town Clerks of the various towns involved on the 13th December with more detailed workshops for a wider audience in January and February. Members stressed the need to involve all ward members and Town & Parish Councils.

13/21 TOWN CENTRE PEDESTRIANISATION TRIAL

It was reported that the Pedestrian Trial had been well received by the business community and those who used the town centre for shopping as the ambience of the High Street had changed dramatically. There was still the need to address the issues of displaced traffic along Town Walls and concerns were expressed around the delays in developing the Low Traffic Zone for the town centre. Many had expressed a wish to see the lane closure along Castlegates reinstated.

Members discussed the usage of the Vehicle Messaging Signs; these had recently been used to notify the wider road network of road closures for events like Remembrance and the Christmas Lights Switch on and there had been a noticeable reduction in traffic.

Aligned to this was the development of the Movement Strategy and the need to engage with the wider hinterland. Within that the Strategy needed to address traffic movement both with and without a North West Relief Road.

14/21 NORTH EAST SHREWSBURY CONNECTIVITY PLAN

Members discussed the recent consultation on a suite of connectivity plans for the north of the town. It seemed an eclectic mix of initiatives and was predicated more on having shovel ready schemes in the event of funding availability

It was reported that the Sustainable Transport Shrewsbury Group had made excellent commentary on the proposals. Councillor Mosley offered to forward them to the Working Group.

The Town Clerk was asked to identify the lead officer with a view to inviting them to a future meeting of the Working Group

15/21 NEXT MEETING

20th January 2022 at 4.00pm