

Meeting of NP Steering group to discuss Traffic Management

Date: 9th August 2021

Present: Hugh Farey, Pete Jones, John Hulse

Apologies: Peter Kirk, Ronnie Leighton & Vicky Hancock

JH explained the remit which had been presented to the Steering Group (SG) by the full Parish Council. All present plus those who sent apologies have confirmed their interest in participating on this project.

Simon Hobbs, of Herefordshire Council who is responsible for Road Safety had met with Vicky Hancock, Pete Jones and John Hulse previously. Simon had encouraged us to produce an “Aspirational Traffic Management Plan” which would be used as evidence of improvements which are both needed and supported by the community. He had explained that verge management and planting can be as effective as road signs in calming traffic. His main observation being that there is no appearance of occupation throughout the settlement. Simon offered alternative ideas to Village Gates such as hedges or planting as clear indications of “entrances”. He also pointed out the verge opposite the Barneby Inn and the fencing around the school as possible areas for attention. With regard to the road signs and surfaces, we discussed the possible removal of centre lines, the replacement of the existing red speed markings by longer stretches of beige road surfacing and the introduction of mini-roundabouts at the junctions with minor roads as effective measures.

Finally, as we had recently heard the TRO to introduce a 30mph speed limit along the upper part of Harp Lane had been approved, Simon inspected this stretch of the lane and suggested that road surface markings including 30mph roundels as well as white lines along both sides of the road would be useful additions. He confirmed after this meeting that he could support the costs for these measures and that he would introduce them into the work plan.

While final plan would cover all public roads within the 3 parishes, the group agreed that the initial focus should be upon the main A44 between Grendon Firs and the South Lodge of Bredenbury Court including its junctions with both Harp Lane and Wacton Lane plus the upper stretches of these 2 side roads. This would then be presented to the full PC for approval and subsequent public consultation.

Initial ideas were as follows:

- All year round planting along roadside verges (daffodils plus other seasonal plants)
- Planting in the “tunnel”
- Reinstate drainage pipes in verge opposite pub so that this area could be planted and maintained
- Discuss removal or trimming of vegetation next to school fence at A44/Harp Lane junction

ACTIONS:

- Hugh to investigate who owns land alongside the A44 in the focus area
- Hugh to prepare large scale maps which could be used to identify specific improvements
- John to discuss possibility of funding with Vicky.
Herefordshire council? Police and Crime Commissioner's Office? 3rd party sponsorship?

Next Meeting: Date not set