



TRANSPORT AND PARKING WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY 30TH JUNE 2022 (amended 06/07/22)

LOCATION: NORTH TAWTON RUGBY CLUB

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors

Colin Lee (Lead)
Steve Whiteley
Christian Martin
Kevin Hodge
Mark Kennedy

Public Representatives

Sara Luck
Peter Hawkes
Kay Caldwell
Nicola King

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ruth Testa, due to other commitments

2. Yellow lines and Parking Spaces

The proposals were published by DCC and notices put up around the Town detailing the proposed changes, which are basically what was agreed with DCC in November 2019. This has been chased with DCC in May 2022 but no information has been received.

Sara Luck raised the proposal by Devon Highways to introduce double-yellow parking restrictions in Fore Street from Gregorys Transport to beyond the Taw River bridge, pointing out that this would further restrict the already limited parking in this area. There is considerable confusion over this proposal as Devon Highways have not contacted the Town Council and the period for public comment has now passed.

It is understood that this proposal is on the Agenda for the 'West Devon Highways and Traffic Committee' meeting planned at Okehampton Town Hall on 11 July. This gives the justification as **to prevent obstructive parking** and (extract from the Agenda):

The proposals rationalise existing parking arrangements within the HATOC area by: • Enabling enforcement to be undertaken efficiently. • Encouraging those working in the town to make more sustainable travel choices e.g. Car Share, Public Transport, Walking and Cycling. • Assist pedestrians and other vulnerable road users in crossing the highway. The proposals contribute to the safe and expeditious

movement of traffic in the area and therefore comply with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Meg Booth Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

The Group expressed concern that there has been no consultation with North Tawton Town Council on this matter and it appears that not even the County Highways Traffic Team are aware of either the proposals or the meeting on 11 July.

It was agreed to ask the Town Clerk to register our concern with both the West Devon Highways and Traffic Committee and our Devon County Councillor, James McInnes, with a view to getting this proposal paused for more consultation.

Action: Cllr C Lee and Town Clerk

3. HGVs through the Town

We have previously requested a 7.5 tonne weight limit to stop HGVs using the Town as a 'short cut' to Gregorys Transport and Arla Dairies. The Council have been previously informed that North Tawton 'did not meet the criteria'. However, there has been a recent change in DCC personnel so it may be worth raising this again and also seeking a meeting with Gregorys Transport.

Action: Cllrs C Lee/S Whiteley

4. Electric Vehicle Charging points in North Tawton

The full Council (Minutes of meeting on 7 June) voted to delegate the question of providing Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points to the Traffic and Parking Group.

After discussion it was agreed that we will need to research:

- Establishing the demand – how many EV drivers are there in North Tawton?
- How many drivers would like to own an EV but have concerns about how they would charge it i.e. they don't have their own off-street parking?

Members decided that a public survey on these points was not necessary as the demand for public EV charging will grow as more electric vehicles are sold and North Tawton should be prepared to take a positive lead.

- The 'Co-Charger' scheme, where private householders with a charging point rent out their parking space and vehicle charging point. There is a Community App to match drivers with charging point owners (www.Co-Charger.com)

Research: Cllr C Lee

- The potential for asking local businesses such as Arla, Gregorys and North Tawton Surgery, if they would be willing to have EV chargers installed (or share if they already have them)

Draft approach: K Caldwell

- The potential for 'on street' EV charging. Note that NTTCC do not have the powers to provide this and we would have to approach Devon Highways.

Cllr Lee suggested the space outside No. 14 The Square is already identified for removal of the current parking restrictions and could provide an EV charging bay. It was agreed to approach Devon Highways.

Action: Cllr C Lee

- The potential for NTTC to install public EV charging points in Council-controlled car parks
- Charging schemes – types of charger and how drivers pay for the energy
- Getting information and quotations from EV charging point suppliers
- Availability of grants to install EV charge points

Action: Cllr C Martin

- Power supply considerations

There is a requirement to contact the network operator (Western Power Distribution) about the availability of power supplies.

Action: Cllr C Lee/P Hawkes

Once this research is completed the Group will prepare a report with recommendations to the full Council. Members noted that no expenditure can be incurred without approval of the full Council.

5. North Tawton Speedwatch

There have been previous concerns about drivers exceeding the 30mph speed limit in North Tawton and we have set up the North Tawton Speedwatch Group, which is promoted and controlled by the Police.

Although the Group has been set up we have so far been unable to recruit enough volunteers – the Police require a minimum of 4.

Members are invited to consider if this Group should continue and, if so, if any member is prepared to volunteer.

(Cllr C Martin has subsequently volunteered so this gives enough volunteers to proceed)

Action: Cllr C Lee**6. Any Other Business**

Cllr Lee reported that the Town Clerk is to recommend to the Council that the Traffic and Parking Group should become a full Council Committee. The reasoning is that a 'Working Group' is normally set up by the Council to deal with a specific issue, then report back i.e. task and finish. A Working Group does not have to meet in public but has very limited powers without consulting the Council on important points.

A Council Committee can have significant powers, as delegated by the Council, including the authority to approach outside bodies and make representations. It can also carry out other tasks within its Terms of Reference, allowing other work such as on public transport. However, a Committee can only incur expenditure if granted a specific budget by the Council.

Council Committees have to be open to the public (a Working Group does not), all meetings have to have a published Agenda and Minutes taken by one of the Town Clerks. Public Representatives can be on a Committee and can have voting rights provided they are willing to sign up to Council Standing Orders (Councillors have already done so).

Votes: 9 in favour, 0 against – motion carried, although 2 Public Representatives expressed concern over signing Standing Orders. Cllr Lee suggested they are provided with a copy for consideration.

7. Date for next Meeting

No date was fixed but the Group (or Committee) will meet again once the EV research has been completed.

Minutes by Cllr C Lee
5 July 2022