

Notes of the first Highways Quarterly Meeting for Parishes in the Fulbourn Division

The meeting took place on 14th October 2024 in the Wilbrahams Memorial Hall, Great Wilbraham at 1.00pm.

Parish Representatives present: David Smith and Emily O'Sullivan from Fulbourn; Hilary Burton and Christine Page from Great Wilbraham; David Gill from Little Wilbraham/Six Mile Bottom; Mark Hughes from Quy; Alison Macfarquhar from Teversham.

Officers present: Oliver Ayto (Public Rights of Way) Simon Burgin (Highway safety), Michael Martin (LHI and 20mph schemes) Stuart Rushby (capital schemes: paths, roads and drainage) Bradley Southwell (Local highways officer: maintenance issues across the Division).

Councillor representative: Claire Daunton, County Councillor Fulbourn Division. Claire Daunton is also a member of Little Wilbraham/Six Mile Bottom parish council but David Gill spoke for this PC, as its chair.

Thanks were extended to Great Wilbraham parish council for covering the cost of using the meeting room.

Mark Hughes declared, for transparency's sake, that he was employed by the Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government. All thanked him for the declaration but agreed that there was no conflict of interest since no decisions of any relevant consequence were being made.

Due to technical problems, it proved to be impossible to enable contributions from Sharon Piper, The County Policy and Regulations Manager and from Sam Chambers-Turner, the Parish Clerk for both Quy and Great Wilbraham; both had hoped to participate in the meeting via MS Teams.

Officers Jonathan Clarke and David Crowther were unable to attend, as was Allyson Robinson from Teversham.

The purpose of the event was to meet each other, exchange information and help each other work more effectively together for benefit of parish residents.

Following a series of introductions, allowing participants to give details of their areas of work and responsibility, more details were provided of various local schemes:

- **Footpaths.** Paths would be resurfaced in various parts of the Division, including Fulbourn and along the A1303;
- **Public Rights of Way.** Ollie Ayto noted that repair work on PROWs was assessed according to Criteria 1-5: 5 being the most urgent. He was responsible for all the PROWs in South Cambs and was active in dealing with the various reports of work needed, of which there were many. He gave some examples. He encouraged reporting online so that work could be logged, traced and reports acted on systematically.

- **Drainage.** Investigations were being undertaken in Great and Little Wilbraham and in two areas of Fulbourn; it was possible that further investigation might be needed in Quy. Parish colleagues wanted to be kept up to date on these, and officers would be grateful to have any local knowledge:
Action: CD to provide contact details for Stuart Rushby
- **Safety issues.** Discussion focussed on speeding, collisions, the importance of white-lining. Emphasis was also put on the collection and use of data and data-driven actions by the Police and others associated with safety;
Action: Simon Burgin would help with local schemes involving safety concerns
- **White-lining.** This is to be done across the Division in the near future, some related to LHI bids, depending on the possibility of booking road space. Various examples were discussed including Airport Way, Teversham.
Action: Bradley Southwell and Michael Martin are working on this.
- **HGV traffic.** This issue affected all villages in the Division. Agricultural and light-industrial site access made it very difficult to resolve; weight limits were barely enforceable unless there was a concerted and sustained effort to match up data with companies. It was agreed that all the parishes in the Division needed to work together on this. There were national and local policies to cover what can and cannot be done.
- **Policies and regulations.** It was agreed to have a more wide-ranging session on this subject at the next meeting, particularly relating to housing and infrastructure development.
Action: CD to ensure that Sharon Piper and other relevant officers can attend this meeting
- **LHIs.** It was noted that there was support for parishes in the preparation of bids but also in respect of feedback on bids that did not quite make it over the line for funding. Michael Martin would lead on this.
Action: CD to pass on contact details
- **Larger capital schemes.** A step-by-step approach was recommended for larger schemes, such as the Mill Road/High Street 'triangle' in Great Wilbraham. Parishes should take a 'long view' and develop a case for change based on data relating to safety, road use etc. Officers could help with this.
Action: CD to arrange a relevant meeting.
- **Fault reporting.** All present noted the importance of reporting faults: overgrown verges, potholes, footpath breaks, trees fallen over, spillages on roads, bollards damaged etc, using the 'Report a Fault' online tool. The current tool is not ideal and will be replaced by a better system in 2025, however until then it was important ask everyone to use it.

It was agreed that the meeting had been useful and that the group should meet again in January (date and venue to be agreed) with an emphasis for this next meeting on policy and regulations generally and HGV traffic in particular; with an update on progress of drainage projects. Officer attendance would be agreed once the proposed agenda had been decided.

Action: CD to arrange