

## Transport, Access, Housing and Parking Focus Group

### Meeting 4

**07th November 2012 7.30pm**

Present: Andrew Grimes (Chair), Maureen Erdwin, Luis Mendiz, Mike Knowles, David Syrad, Ray Sharp, Ian Young, Marjory Bisset, Jeff Curtis.

Attending: Katy Hughes (SPC Meeting secretary).

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Andrew Grimes thanked all those present for attending the meeting.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed and approved as a true reflection of the previous meeting

**3. Issues Log review and comments**

41 items from the issues log were discussed, and 4 new items added.

Issue ref.	Category	Description	Comments:
<b>TAH03a</b>	FC	Shared use of bridleways by foot, horse and bicycle making footpaths unsuitable for walkers in ordinary footwear.	Local authority should be asked to improve the quality of the bridleway surface. Should not be trying to segregate users.  Bridleway surface should also be suitable for users of wheelchairs and pushchairs.
<b>TAH03b</b>	HR	Shared use of bridleways by foot, horse and bicycle making footpaths unsuitable for walkers in or-	Local authority should be asked to improve the quality of the bridleway surface. Should not be trying to segregate users.  Bridleway surface should also be suitable for users of wheelchairs and pushchairs.

		dinary foot-wear.	
<b>TAH05</b>	EM	Providing access to employment.	It was felt that this item was a duplication of other items regarding roadways and public transport. A decision was taken to REMOVE this item.
<b>TAH06a</b>	DF	Providing access for freight  (i) distribution depots  (ii) Retailers and suppliers  (iii) New village centre  (iv) Science park	It was noted that access to the village centre would be required by large lorries in order to serve the planned new supermarket.  Mike Knowles highlighted plans to add an additional 'arm' to the School Green roundabout to provide access to a service area for the new village centre.  Attendees discussed the potential for restricting access to areas for HGVs if the new Eastern Relief Road goes ahead, and item TAH82 was added to reflect this.
<b>TAH07</b>	DF	Providing access for deliveries to housing e.g. refuse, home shopping deliveries, which permits access to be maintained to all householders during deliveries.	Attendees discussed road width and issues regarding developments where residents get blocked in by refuse or delivery vehicles. It was noted that this was closely linked to parking standards, and that sufficient off road parking provision would alleviate the problem in many cases.
<b>TAH08</b>	FC	New foot ways parallel to Hyde End Road and Arborfield Road to provide safe walking and cycling routes.	Ian Young reported on a meeting with Mike Davies and Allan Tiplady (WBC) who had requested input from local residents regarding new foot ways.  Ian Young and Ray Sharp agreed to provide detailed plans and maps for new and requested changes to existing foot ways to the developers for consideration.
<b>TAH15</b>	FC	Providing signage of the footpath network from the main road to establish existing footpaths as alternatives to highway	It was noted that there was insufficient signage at present for the existing foot ways.

		routes.	
<b>TAH19</b>	FC	Impact on walking and cycling routes using Cutbush Lane from development of Science park.	Attendees expressed a wish to see a suitable crossing for the proposed Eastern Relief Road, to facilitate foot and cycle access to the proposed new Science Park.  Mike Knowles confirmed the developers' plans to provide a 'tou-can' crossing.  It was determined that this item could be merged with TAH20 but made more generic, to state "We require provision of quality cycle and pedestrian crossings of major routes / main roads".
<b>TAH20</b>	FC	Provision of crossing points to enable walking / cycling to Chalfont Way district centre.	It was determined that this item could be merged with TAH19 but made more generic, to state "We require provision of quality cycle and pedestrian crossings of major routes / main roads".  As such, this it was agreed to be REMOVED.
<b>TAH24</b>	FC	Bike racks at bus stops.	Attendees agreed that these were an undesired urbanising feature. It was agreed that this item would be amended to state that bike racks should be provided at the Mere oak Park and Ride facility, if it goes ahead.
<b>TAH25</b>	FC	Bike hire scheme within parish.	Attendees agreed that the parish is too rural to sustain a bike hire scheme and therefore this item was agreed to be REMOVED.
<b>TAH26</b>	FC	Biking / walking routes with easy gradients to Green Park, Reading town centre, station, university and hospital.	Ian Young reported that this has been achieved from a Reading perspective, with comprehensive foot and cycle ways (and signage) now provided.  Mike Knowles reported that as part of a successful outcome of the Manor Appeal, provision would be made by the developers to update the foot crossing over the A33 between Church Lane and Whitley Wood Road, to provide improved cycle access.  It was determined therefore that this items was complete and could be REMOVED.
<b>TAH29</b>	EM	Provision of broadband to all houses.	Ian Young reported that fibre optic cabling had been completed in the parish, and that, excluding properties directly linked to the exchange, householders could access broadband speeds averaging 15.0 Mbs and most properties can now access BT Infinity.  Residents can view their broadband speeds using the following link:  <a href="http://www.samknows.com/broadband/broadband_checker">http://www.samknows.com/broadband/broadband_checker</a> It was agreed therefore, that this item is complete and can be REMOVED.

<b>TAH31</b>	HR	Segregation of horse riding routes / crossings with increased road traffic.	Attendees discussed the wish to retain horse riding groups and facilities for local users in the area. It was agreed that amongst the group there was insufficient knowledge of the needs of local horse riders, and it was determined therefore that the group should make contact with stables / horse riding groups within the parish to ask them for their input into this.
<b>TAH37B</b>	CP	Ensure car parking is away from carriage-ways.	Attendees agreed that this was a duplication of item TAH39 and therefore it was agreed that it be REMOVED.
<b>TAH38</b>	CP	Ensure parking at housing is not visually intrusive.	Attendees noted that whilst 'hidden' parking is more aesthetically pleasing, people generally like to park close to, or in front of their properties. Attendees agreed that it was more important to request sufficient parking facilities in general, rather than to specific where they should be located. It was agreed therefore, that this item be REMOVED.
<b>TAH39</b>	CP	Ensure parking does not encroach on highways.	Concern was flagged regarding access for emergency services.  It was agreed that this item should be amended to state a preference that any 'on road' parking provision be located in lay-bys so as not to encroach on the flow of traffic.
<b>TAH41</b>	CP	Ensure sufficient off road parking at new housing for residents and visitors.	Attendees noted that, as a rural parish, there is likely to be a higher than average car ownership.  Sufficient parking provision is significant to a number of other issues with regard to the look and feel of a development.  WBCs parking standards document can be downloaded using this link:  <a href="http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planningcontrol/planning/planningpolicies/parking-standards/?locale=en">http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planningcontrol/planning/planningpolicies/parking-standards/?locale=en</a>
<b>TAH42</b>	HD	Minimise use of 3 storey housing.	Attendees expressed concern with overlooking from properties over 2.5 storeys. Concerns were expressed over the need to protect the village feel, and the general view that 'town houses' are less appropriate in a village setting.  There was some acceptance of the need for housing density, and it was agreed that there was a preference that anything in excess of 2.5 storey buildings be located near the centre of developments rather than around the edges, so that the impact of the development on the surrounding area is more subtle.
<b>TAH43</b>	HD	Maintain openness of new housing to	Attendees noted that development such as Deardon Way should be used as a guide for creating a sense of openness, where the use of pockets of green space break up the visual impact of the devel-

		be similar to existing housing, including where it is high density.	opment.
<b>TAH44</b>	ES	Ensure standards of development meet environmental standards.	It was noted that the developer will be require to meet necessary standards. Attendees questioned whether flooding should or will be included in this.
<b>TAH47</b>	CP	Identify where public car parks may be required / shared with businesses or clubs at different times of day.	It was noted that in the proposed new village centre there is an opportunity for shared use of parking, where residential and retail units are mixed.  It was noted that existing agreements for parents at school drop off to utilise parking spaces in neighbouring public houses eases the traffic congestion, and that these should be encouraged where possible / practical.
<b>TAH52</b>	HD	Minimise street signage.	Ian Young reported that WBC is very strict on street signage and the removal of old / unnecessary signage. It was agreed therefore that this issue could be REMOVED.
<b>TAH53</b>	ES	Minimise light pollution with good lighting design.	Attendees noted that this related to street lighting. It was agreed that in a rural environment, developers should be encouraged to make use of good lighting design to avoid unnecessary light pollution. Mike Knowles reported that the developers have guidelines for this that they are required to meet.
<b>TAH54</b>	HD	Protect and enhance the setting of cultural and historic sites and areas such as Shinfield St Mary's Church and School Green.	Attendees noted that in order to protect and enhance these settings, a list of settings is required.  Attendees are requested to add comments to a drop box file which will be set out for this. <b>[PLEASE SEE 'LISTED BUILDINGS IN SHINFIELD PARISH' IN DROPBOX AND ADD ANY COMMENTS / ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO THIS LIST]</b>
<b>TAH55</b>	HD	Enhance the identity of the constituent villages.	It was agreed that this would be REMOVED.
<b>TAH56</b>	HD	Reduce the visual intrusion of waste bins through proper	Attendees noted that suitable storage for bins was preferable as bins stored outside the front of properties are an eyesore. It was noted that WBC provision of green waste wheely bins was on the basis that the householder had a suitable storage site for the bin.

		single and group bin storage designs.	It was noted that this was a bigger issue for terraced properties and attendees expressed a wish to see all terraced houses having alternative access to rear gardens, for both bicycle and bin storage.
<b>TAH57</b>	ES	Minimise loss of trees.	It was agreed that this item was covered by the Natural Environment focus group and could therefore be REMOVED.
<b>TAH58</b>	ES	Maximise planting of new trees.	It was agreed that this item was covered by the Natural Environment focus group and could therefore be REMOVED.
<b>TAH59</b>	HD	Plan layouts of estates to avoid tall buildings at edges of developments / communities.	It was agreed that this was a duplication of the updated TAH42 and could therefore be REMOVED.
<b>TAH60</b>	HD	Maintain building heights similar to existing villages.	It was agreed that this was a duplication of the updated TAH42 and could therefore be REMOVED.
<b>TAH61</b>	HD	Chose building finishes in a coordinated way across the villages to avoid similar designs / finishes across all locations.	After discussion, it was agreed that this item be REMOVED.
<b>TAH62</b>	HD	Enhance village gateways.	Attendees expressed a wish to see better village signage, similar to that seen in other areas. It was noted that a village sign also gave an opportunity to clearly display the speed limit.
<b>TAH63</b>	ES	Provide local recycling facilities.	It was agreed that this items should be amended to read "Provide local recycling facilities in village centres (Shinfield, Shinfield North, 3MX, Grazeley & Spencers Wood).
<b>TAH64</b>	FC	Provide benches where people congregate.	It was determined that this was desirable, but that provision may come from within the community (e.g. memorial benches). There was some discussion of the use of seating without backs.
<b>TAH65</b>	ES	Use of silent road surfaces.	It was noted that there was concern over the conditions of these types of road surfaces in winter during a freeze and the greater risk of black ice. Concern was also expressed over the use of these road surfaces near children's play areas or open spaces due to the increased accident risk if children cannot hear approaching vehicles.

			It was decided on balance, that this item should be REMOVED.
<b>TAH66</b>	HD	Provide accessible bike storage in homes.	It was agreed that this was a desirable aim. It was noted that this could be combined with suitable bin / recycling storage space.
<b>TAH74</b>	FC	Join Shinfield footpath 5 with 6 inside the field alongside the A327.	Ian Young and Ray Sharp agreed to provide detailed plans and maps for new and requested changes to existing foot ways to the developers for consideration.
<b>TAH75</b>	FC	To make the permitted footpath from Shinfield 7 to 6 a definitive right of way and, should the eastern relief road be built, create a crossing point.	Ian Young and Ray Sharp agreed to provide detailed plans and maps for new and requested changes to existing foot ways to the developers for consideration.
<b>TAH76</b>	FC	Extend Shinfield footpath 15 to the river Loddon.	Ian Young and Ray Sharp agreed to provide detailed plans and maps for new and requested changes to existing foot ways to the developers for consideration.
<b>TAH77</b>	FC	Create a footpath along the river Loddon between the A327 and the old Basingstoke Road or within the parish boundary to link with footpath 22A.	Ian Young and Ray Sharp agreed to provide detailed plans and maps for new and requested changes to existing foot ways to the developers for consideration.

The following new items were added:

<b>Issue ref.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
<b>TAH82</b>	<b>DF</b>	Restrictive routes for larger vehicles	To be considered: Restricted access to HGV's on Hollow Lane / Hyde End Road if the proposed relief road goes ahead.

<b>TAH83</b>	<b>FC</b>	Footway and cycleway through the development to the east of Three Mile Cross.	
<b>TAH84</b>	<b>HR</b>	Do we seek additional / replacement spaces for horses / additional or new bridleways.	Attendees discussed the wish to retain horse riding groups and facilities for local users in the area. It was agreed that amongst the group there was insufficient knowledge of the needs of local horse riders, and it was determined therefore that the group should make contact with stables / horse riding groups within the parish to ask them for their input into this.
<b>TAH85</b>	<b>PT</b>	Determine design / style for any new bus shelters to avoid 'Ad-shell' style bus shelters which would be an urbanising feature in a rural area.	

Attendees thanked Andrew Grimes for a productive meeting.

#### **4. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at Shinfield Parish hall, at 19.30 hrs.

The meeting ended at 22.15 hrs