

Present:-

Representatives from the following Parish/Town Councils/Meetings:

Badby	Pitsford
Barby	Preston Capes
Braunston	Staverton
Brixworth	Stowe-IX-Churches
Byfield	Weedon
Daventry	Welford
Everdon	West Haddon
Hollowell & Teeton	Whilton
Kilsby	Yelvertoft
Long Buckby	

Panel:

Councillor Chris Millar – Leader, Daventry District Council
Maria Taylor- Daventry District Council
Ian Smith - KierWSP
Sam Dobbs – Northamptonshire Police

1. Welcome and Introduction

Councillor Chris Millar opened the meeting and introduced the panel and speakers.

2. Highways

Q.: Weedon - DDL meeting between Highways and Weedon PC, and likely completion of landscaping works

- A. IS confirmed the DDL road was now open and landscaping will be completed once the contractor has vacated site. There has been some discussion between DDC and NCC Highways regarding the planning consent. IS expected planting to take place during the spring. IS also confirmed that Ian Boyes is in the early stages of discussing traffic measures on the old A45.

Q. Byfield - Clearing footways of weeds and leaves, clearing of roadside grips, gutters and drains

Rights of Way enquiries

Road sign cleaning

HS2 construction traffic increase

- A. IS drove the route prior to this meeting and accepted that road signs in the Byfield area were not in the best condition, and he will therefore arrange some cleaning and tidying up.

IS confirmed that NCC carry out highway maintenance and DDC are responsible for highway cleansing. IS advised that there have been cuts made to the routine maintenance budget, with the main focus on repairing potholes. There is no routine

maintenance of grips, however he agreed to arrange for an officer to assess the conditions in Byfield. The budget for footpaths concentrates on areas with high usage, however areas of concern will be assessed.

Leaf clearance falls within the remit of DDC who provide a reasonable level of staffing and equipment to clear leaves, but obviously it cannot clear all areas immediately, given the amount of leaves that fall in the autumn. If there are particular problem areas, please report through the self-serve function on the DDC website, or via the call centre.

The Rights of Way Technician for Daventry District is Nick Wedgbrow and he can be contacted on nwedgbrow@kierwsp.co.uk (*for parish councils representatives only*), or via Northamptonshire Highways Switchboard on 01604 883400. In case of difficulty contact IS or IB who are also available on the above number. Queries from the general public should be directed via Street Doctor in the normal way.

Regarding HS2, IS reported there is funding available to look at traffic calming measures, however this is not for maintenance works. NCC has a proposal for works on the A361 through Byfield, however IS was unable to comment further at this time.

CM advised that as far as DDC are aware, it has not been approached by HS2 about these issues, and only recently by parish councils. Realistically, the measures involved do seem to be those for which NCC is the right body. However, if there are community concerns which DDC can help address with HS2 please advise Simon Bowers and he will assist where possible.

Q. Yelvertoft – Footpath conditions and dropped kerbs to assist wheelchair users

A. IS suggested that AC report this to him via the Parish Clerk and IS and IB will investigate further.

Q. Preston Capes - HS2 impact and traffic through villages

A. IS confirmed his view that this area of the county will be affected by additional traffic flow and will require monitoring by residents and relevant authorities.

Q. Badby – Traffic safety issue on entering village, particularly during school hours with potential tailbacks onto A361 when traffic flow increases with HS2 traffic

A. IS advised the Parish Council discuss their concerns with IB.

Q. West Haddon – Why are NCC not engaging with directly parishes affected by HS2?

A. IS confirmed NCC are liaising with HS2. The villages more local to HS2 are involved, however IS advised concerned parishes to contact IB for further information.

HS2 is nothing to do with NCC – it is a high speed rail link through part of the county, and as a county, Northamptonshire have no real involvement. NCC await information from HS2 informing them of proposed works.

IS agreed to liaise with colleagues to discuss concerns from the parishes affected and make will direct contact with them.

Q. Everdon – Street sweeping schedules

- A. Where available, information will be supplied by Norse to assist the Parish Council in notifying residents in advance not to park when a sweeper is due.

Q. Long Buckby - Street sweeping in kerbsides and footpaths

- A. MT advised the parish council report such issues via self serve on the DDC website.

3. Police

Sergeant Sam Dobbs provided a policing update to the meeting.

SD reported he was proud of engagement between local communities and the Police with particularly good results from information provided via neighbourhood watch schemes.

It was noted that levels of violence are increasing, particularly from criminals originating from out of the area with 11 homicides reported this year so far.

Positive work is being produced through liaison channels with the Town Ranger, CCTV, DDC and DTC.

It is anticipated that Operation Lapland (retail crime operation) will be far more effective than before due to improved work with retailers.

Nick Adderley, the new Chief Constable, has outlined his commitment to neighbourhood policing and returning proactivity to these areas.

Travellers have caused significant issues this year which have been overcome with joint working between various agencies. Work continues between the Police and DDC on how to manage unauthorised encampments going forward.

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) are currently scrutinising Northamptonshire Police.

Crime statistics over the last 6 weeks can be found on www.police.uk for your local area.

Q. Preston Capes – Parish Liaison Representatives

- A. SD advised he is still attending parish meetings where possible, please invite him if you would like him to come along.

Q. Yelvertoft – Neighbourhood Police Officers use of Taser

- A. SD confirmed that a Taser would only be deployed for something that would ordinarily attract an armed officer. It is up to individual officers if they wish to be trained in Taser use. Their deployment as a Taser officer would have to be approved by Police HQ in line with the threat, harm and risk presented.

4. Local Government Reorganisation

CM provided an update on the Local Government Reorganisation and confirmed that regular updates are provided to parishes.

A negative order for postponement of May 2019 District and Parish elections is now in place (subject to 40 day call-in period).

Government consultation on the seven Council's proposal will run until 25 January 2019, and the Secretary of State will make a decision following this.

Officers and Members of the District Council continue to work in the best interests of Daventry and its District.

Q. Daventry – District Council policy on the transfer of assets and devolution of services

A. At its meeting on 16th May 2018 the Council considered the likely need to move to unitary local government and made a series of decisions. One of these, item 8, was that:

“The Council shall conduct its affairs with a view to securing an orderly transfer of its functions, assets and liabilities to the new unitary council and securing the best outcome for the people and communities of what is currently Daventry District under the new arrangements.”

It is in that context the Council would consider proposals for transfer of assets and devolution of services to parish councils or community groups.

There are, of course, already offers of service devolution. Eight parish councils have taken up litter picking in their villages, and more are welcome to do so. One parish council, so far, has taken up maintenance of its closed churchyard. The offer remains open for the others. Specifically in the case of Daventry Town Council, a list of items has been discussed at Officer level and a further meeting, involving senior Members, is being planned.

Q. West Haddon – How can West Haddon engage and establish if DDC hold any assets in the parish?

A. *Post meeting update: DDC do not own any built assets in West Haddon. Our land ownership in this parish is limited to highway subsoil.*

If your Council is interested in looking into options for providing more services for the community in West Haddon parish, please let MT know what you have in mind and she will signpost you to relevant sources of support and information.

Q. Stowe IX Churches – What is the advantage for parishes to take on services for themselves, such as litter picking?

A. Parishes are given the funding from DDC to spend on the service as they wish, and passes control of a service more locally.

Q. Stowe IX Churches – Grit bins

A. Following a review of the winter maintenance budget IS confirmed that changes had been made to gritting routes and grit bins in the county have been reduced from 2500 to approximately 1700. Parish Councils were given the opportunity to take over responsibility of some grit bins. Noted grit bins are for self-help for highway usage (not

resident's driveways!).

5. General Questions and Answers

Q. Kilsby – Community grants availability

A. MT confirmed that half of the additional money that was set aside this year has been committed and all revenue funding has been awarded. Capital funding remains available, however it has recently come to light that Members were concerned that that grant criteria was disadvantaging some of the projects that parishes were keen to see. A report was presented to December's Full Council meeting to tweak the grant funding criteria, so any applications that were already being processed will now be assessed in January. Applications are welcome, including applications that have previously been turned down and improvements have been made. Please contact Katie Arnold for further information and advice.

Q. Preston Capes – DDC Speedwatch update

A. Sergeant Mick Stamper has confirmed to DDC that he will be raising this at the next County Safer Roads Alliance to agree how this is carried out across the county.

Q. Everdon – Speed indicator device (SID) recently purchased by the parish council, can parishes buy an ANPR camera?

A. SD advised there is an issue with who the collected data belongs to. There needs to be an operational requirement and proportionality, and requires someone to run it. There is no funding available within Northamptonshire Police to do anything further than it does already with ANPR. If the parish council wants one and it fits the strategic need, the rural crime survey can be used to identify problem areas. Further consideration is being given to this by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Q. Byfield – Can the parish council fit speed strips?

A. IS advised the parish council to discuss this with IB.

Q. Byfield – Clearing of litter from beside roads and slips roads (i.e. A45 and A361)

A. The removal of litter from all roads in the District except motorways is currently the responsibility of Daventry District Council. Motorways, including their slip roads from the blue motorway sign, are the responsibility of Highways England, the Government company which looks after motorways and other major national roads.

On the roads the Council is responsible for, it allocates a reasonable level of resource to removing litter. However, there are over 1,000 km of roads in the District, not counting separate footpaths and cycle tracks. So it is not possible to keep everywhere clean all the time. There are also safety issues about litter picking on or near fast roads, which can make it hard to keep those verges in good condition.

The Council prioritises areas of heavy pedestrian use, such as high streets. However, if there are areas of particular concern, it would be helpful if those were reported through the self-serve function on the Council's website or the call centre. This will

help us plan the use of resources to best effect.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 13 June 2019, 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Daventry District Council.

Apologies:-

Apologies were received from the following Parish Councils: Boughton, Catesby, Kelmarsh,