

Report on the Meeting of the South West Wiltshire Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group

The quarterly meeting was held on Wednesday 31st May 2023 at the Nadder Centre.

David Button and Paul Shaddock, local highways engineers, were present and the meeting was chaired by Councillor Bridget Wayman.

Two reports were noted for Tisbury which were:

- i. Request to convert a limited waiting parking bay in the High Street to a disabled parking bay – The Traffic Regulation Order consultation is provisionally scheduled to start on 13th July 2023 as Ringway were not able to schedule this before its contract with Wiltshire Council ended.
- ii. 20 mph speed limit project - The Traffic Regulation Order consultation was held between 4th and 29th May 2023 with an advert also being placed in the Salisbury Journal. 2023. The estimated cost of introducing the 20mph speed limit extension on the ground is £18,125 (LHFIG contribution £13,593.75 / PC contribution £4,531.25. [Note: Figure includes a 25% contingency].
- iii. TPC has an Earmarked Reserve of £9,622 for these projects.

Initial discussion was held on the budget for the coming year which is £37,625.86 and whether parishes and Wilton TC would consider contributing a higher percentage contribution than the current level which is 25%.

Smaller parishes thought that the larger villages have larger, more expensive projects which use up larger amounts of the budget. I was asked whether TPC would be able to contribute a higher percentage contribution to this project and if Councillors wish to consider it, an item can be added to the next agenda. The Chair asked councils to think about it and bring a response to the next meeting. Without a higher contribution from parishes, fewer projects could be completed in the coming year as most of the budget was allocated for the current year already and it is only month 2.

David Button provided a Highway Maintenance Update to the meeting which included the following:

- Milestone, Wiltshire Council's new contractor, had made a slow start and David had not been impressed with how far they've progressed so far. They were having trouble with recruitment and had had to sub-contract work out to other contractors.
- The Highways team itself was down to a skeleton staff with 1 engineer and 2 technical officer vacancies. He asked that parishes don't email issues to officers but report issues on the MyWiltshire App as they do not have the staff to respond to individual parishes.
- He said there was a new number for Highways and this had been sent out with the steward schedules. However, all present said that this had not been received so he agreed to chase it and request that it be sent to all clerks.

- The hot materials gang was able to complete 60 sq metres of tarmac in a day but it has not yet been to West Wiltshire.
- Gulley tanker was very delayed and the Vactor had a big list of tickets to complete.
- He had been pleased that work had been completed in Hindon Lane and The Avenue in Wilton both of which were long overdue.
- The long term plan for highways usually extended to 7 years but at the moment this was not possible because of the inability to predict what budgets would be available that far ahead.
- The traffic signing and lining team had been given an additional £500k this year as councillors were keen to address the number of damaged signs and faint lines across the county. However, again finding contractors may be a problem.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6th September 2023.

Bev Cornish
3rd March 2023