

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL

7:T02
FINAL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES TRAFFIC COMMITTEE HELD AT LONDON HOUSE, HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2007 AT 09:00 HOURS

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- NCN21 consultation meeting re-scheduled
- Community Speed Watch
- Training commenced
- Speed Restrictions Policy discussed
- Mayfield 20mph limit requested for urgent attention
- Safe Lanes project discussed

ATTENDANCE

Peter Deller (Chairman)	(PD)	Present and Voting
Graham Playfoot	(GP)	Present and Voting
Catherine Swingland	(CS)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present and Voting
Tony Lay	(TL)	Present and Voting

Present and voting 5	Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 0	Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

REPRESENTATIVE AND ADVISORS

Helen Pain	(HP)	Present	ESCC
Michael Oates	(MO)	Present	ESCC
Mark Dunn	(MD)	Present	Sussex Police/Traffic Management
Steve Etherington	(SE)	Present	Supervisory Community Police Officer
Tamara Bennett	(TB)	Present	Sussex Police/PCSO
Annette Nabavi	(AN)	Present	Right Route 21

Also Present

D Thompson	(DT)	Present	Parish Clerk
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MINUTES

1. COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26th APRIL 2007 (7T01)

- 2.1. The minutes had been approved by the Full Council at the Annual Meeting on 9th May 2007.

3. ACTIONS

- 3.1 Actions progress was as follows:

7T1/3.4	Mayfield Roundabout – Action on planting to be taken by ESCC No further advice received	OPEN
7T1/4.1	TB to report on availability of community speed watch equipment Done	CLOSED
7T1/	CS request that lay-bys in Newick Lane be rationalised to prevent rubbish dumping	OPEN

4. COUNTY OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE PARISH

4.1 National Speed Guidance

MO reported that national guidance had been received from central government in August 2006. The county policy has been reviewed by Councillor Lock and had been approved. The new policy was now being applied.

- Local Traffic Authority to review speeds on all A & B roads and make changes by 2011
- 30mph to be the norm in villages where appropriate
- Heavy workload because there are 400 sites to review and prioritise for action
- 100 sites already had 30mph limits
- 300 still to review
- It would take five years to work through the sites
- The budget was £400,000 per year

4.2 MO reported criteria for prioritisation

- Settlement = 20+ houses clearly visible for 600m situated on A & B roads
- Speed review by number of crashes at the location

4.3 TL enquired as to the status of C class roads in the review. It was noted that government policy was on A/B roads and C roads were not included unless in a village. AN noted that the guidelines had been dropped on high speeds in other areas.

5. PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REVISIONS-M&FA

- 5.1 It was reported that many of the Mayfield and Five Ashes proposals had been turned down, but some had been adopted.
- 5.2 For the core of Mayfield, a 20mph speed limit on all roads had been agreed under stage 2 of ESCC plans. It was further requested that Newick Lane be included in the proposals. ESCC said that only the core village roads would be addressed at this time and that measurements taken on Newick Lane, within the Mayfield 30mph limits, indicated speeds of higher than 24mph and traffic calming would be difficult to implement. In general, Newick Lane would have to wait the outcome of the NCN21 study decisions.
- 5.3 CL wanted to know the ESCC justification for its speed policy and its criteria for reduction from 30mph to 20mph because the general feeling was that the character of the village was such to justify a 20mph limit.
- 5.4 HP reported that all they would be doing was measuring and carrying out proposals. They would not be making decisions. MD noted that any items to be considered with the Police were easy to action quickly with a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).
ACTION HP
- 5.5 PD recommended that ESCC should set firm dates for an early review of the Mayfield 20mph limit.
ACTION MO

6. GENERAL TRAFFIC CALMING ISSUES

- 6.1 TL asked to what extent traffic calming was difficult to impose. The general view was that where speeds were 20mph it was reasonably easy. The Police noted that if a traffic calming measure did not work then it created more problems. 20mph speed restrictions should be self enforcing. It was ESCC policy to get any traffic calming scheme right first time. MO noted that for speeds over 20mph signs alone will not enforce the restriction.
- 6.2 CS pointed out that roads were used by people and horses as well especially where there were no footways and wished to know why these important elements were excluded from calculations. MO stated that all road projects applied to motor vehicles only. Over time it was agreed that resurfacing had taken away many footpaths. However, when a road is examined people are taken into account and the ESCC policy has been revised to reflect this. They will re-instate footways and place traffic calming measures where footway severance has occurred on narrow roads.
- 6.3 It was noted that an on-site assessment of Five Ashes would have to be considered in the general order of priorities.

7. ATKINS REPORT PROGRESS

- 7.1 It was reported by ESCC that:
- A meeting had been set up with Councillor Lock for August 15th 2007
 - The final version of the report had been released
 - It was noted that Councillor Lock does not take part in debate at consultation meetings. He will listen to what is said and will take this into account when making a decision
- 7.2 AN reported that she had been concerned with the NCN21 for over 15 years and requested that the meeting be re-scheduled for an evening. Heathfield had a September meeting. It agreed to try to re-schedule the timing of the meeting.
- 7.3 The Clerk undertook to:
- arrange an evening meeting in September or early October
 - try and change the Yellow Pages article, which had already been submitted

ACTION DT

- 7.4 MO was requested by the Clerk to expedite the 1st draft of the Atkins Report as agreed by ESCC.

8. SUSSEX POLICE – SPEED LIMIT ENFORCEMENT

- 8.1 Sussex Police reported that training with the new speed watch equipment was progressing and experience was showing the need to have a three person team because of the approach speed of the vehicle and the need to ‘aim’ the device at the vehicle. The new equipment had been received on 27th June 2007 and had been trialled in a number of places such as Hadlow Down, Nutley, Maresfield and Buxted.
- 8.2 SE reported that in areas where ex SID operators were using the new equipment, training was easier. So far no indication had been given to motorists and no records had been kept.

9. LOCAL SPEED WATCH

- 9.1 SE reported that they were awaiting developments from the trials which were being carried out. The machines had to be calibrated and handled with reasonable care.
- 9.2 MD reported concern from the Police over the amount of time spent by the Police on additional work involved.
- 9.3 TL thanked the Police for their help during his SID activity in the Newick Lane.
- 9.4 It was requested that ‘Slow Down’ signs be placed at the Carpenters Arms and other ‘hot spots’. Inspector Allan was keen to enforce speed limits and the village was keen to see a Police presence.
- 9.5 TB reported that the laser gun would be kept at Uckfield Police Station for local use.

10. NORTH WEALDEN ROAD SAFETY GROUP

- 10.1 There were no new developments.
- 7:T02 FINAL

11. LOCAL SID PROJECTS AND OTHER ISSUES

11.1 There was nothing extra to report.

11.2 Newick Lane would be included/discussed amongst ongoing issues.

11.3 With reference to Safe Lanes, AN reported that the project had been refreshed and discussed with interested people. It could have a short term effect and could be resurrected as part of other projects. Mayfield and Five Ashes schools could be consulted on road safety work.

11.4 PD explained to MO the background to the roundabout project and the current proposals. MO stated that he was not aware of any specific progress.

11.5 TL noted that a safety sign had been erected at the south end of Newick Lane and that there was a need for more. MD reported that they were short term measures.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:25

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT:

VENUE: LONDON HOUSE

DATE: THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2007

TIME: 10:00