

Report from LHFIG Meeting of 3rd February 2023

A4 Speed Limit Review

There were three items on the Agenda relating to Speed Limit Reviews:

- A3102 at Goatacre – requested by Hilmarton PC
- C15 at Compton Bassett – requested by Compton Bassett PC
- A4 Forest Gate through to Calne – requested by us.

All three of these had not resulted in the desired outcomes.

Cllr Ashley O'Neill requested that these items be deferred to the next meeting, to give him the opportunity to escalate with the new cabinet member for Transport, Cllr Caroline Thomas. Cllr O'Neill is seeking a process through which the technical recommendations might be over-ridden where there was strong community support.

I made the point that, while we welcomed the recommended reductions to 50mph on either side, we still considered that a reduction to 40mph through Studley Crossroads was necessary, due to the high incidence of collisions at this location, the presence of hazardous uncontrolled road junctions, the presence of a Toucan crossing and the high volume of pedestrians and cyclists crossing the road.

It was agreed to defer these three items until the next meeting.

CALW65 Derry Hill to Studley Shared Use Footpath/Cycleway

The topographic survey has been completed, but design is on hold whilst discussions continue with the Council's legal team over the issue of land ownership. Whilst the right to cycle along the former Right of Way has been established, this only covers the width of the old path and does not extend the full width of the desired construction area, to meet current standards.

A search with Land Registry has revealed a number of owners of pockets of land alongside the path, and Wiltshire Council believe that they will need to negotiate transfers of land (hopefully by free dedication) in order to move this forward.

There was some discussion about what was legally required. A briefing note will be circulated once the exact position has been clarified with Wiltshire's legal team.

I requested a copy of the topographical survey and also asked whether Wiltshire Council could progress the design in parallel with the land negotiation. They were resistant to this due to staffing restrictions and the risk of abortive work.

A3102 Mile Elm Improvements

Works are expected to be undertaken in mid-March.

CALW56 Abberd Lane

Wiltshire Council confirmed that they were happy for the two national speed limit signs at the start of Abberd Lane to be removed. They also advised that they would be happy for Hills to do this; otherwise it would have to be instructed through the new framework contract due to start in April.

Requests for on-street parking reviews

Responsibility for on-street parking reviews has transferred from the Network Management Team to the Traffic Engineering Team, with new requests to be filtered through the LHFigs. It is proposed that requests are collated by Town & Parish Councils and submitted to the LHFig for consideration for the first meeting of each new Financial Year (in our case 28th April). Lists will need to be submitted using a Highway Improvement Request Form.

Sustrans Route 403 Working Group

I updated the meeting on progress with the Working Group. I raised the concern of the Group that Wiltshire Council had engaged Sustrans to seek alternatives to the current alignment along the disused railway line between Calne and Chippenham, and requested that the Area Board should be aware of this ongoing Feasibility Study.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 28th April at 10am. The deadline for papers will be 14th April.

Cllr John Barnes
6th March 2023