**FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting**

**held on Friday 6 June 2014 at 9.30 am in the Old Town Hall, Market Place, Faringdon**

PRESENT: C/Cllr Mrs.J. Heathcoat (Chairman)

D/Cllr R. Cox

C/Cllr Mrs Y. Constance

D/Cllr R. Sharp

Cllr A. Marsden

Mr D. Williams, Magistrate

Mr C. Hulme, Thames Valley Police

Ms L. Hutchins, OCC, Environment & Economy,

Vale Area Steward

Mr D. Clack, OCC Area Steward and NR Liaison Officer

Mr K. Booth, Chamber of Commerce

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Billson, Town Clerk Assistant

Cllr Mrs J. Boulton

Cllr A. Meredith

Kirsty Dixon- Communications Officer, Network Rail

Don Hughes- Consents Manager, Network Rail

PCSO

1 member of the public- Mr J. Holden

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat opened the meeting by welcoming Ms L. Hutchins back after her absence.

**1.** **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr D. Price.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting- 7 March 2014**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising**

Wicklesham Quarry

No update was available, Ms L. Hutchins will keep C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat informed as to progress.

Tesco footpath

Cllr A. Marsden has undertaken to write to Ed Vaisey, asking him to intervene in this matter. He will copy his letter to C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat and D/Cllr Cox. D/Cllr Cox will also pursue the matter with the Enforcement Officer at the Vale.

Stallards Close

The speed limit is now legal and enforceable.

Access on to the A420 at Great Coxwell

A traffic island with sequenced traffic lights have now been included in the planning proposals for the Fernham Fields and Steeds Farm developments.

Eaton Hastings junction

Most of the potholes have been filled. Ms L. Hutchins was asked to monitor this situation as there is no alternative route.

A4095 Witney Road

The potholes on this road are also in the process of being filled. They are repaired in order, according to the size of the defect and the amount and speed of the traffic, and therefore not all adjacent potholes are done at the same time. Safety overrides any other criteria. (Yellow marking currently on this road indicate utility work to be undertaken).

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat stated that 37,500 potholes had been repaired across the County.

**4. Election of Chairman**

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat was proposed by D/Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Marsden. There being no other nominations, C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat was duly elected for a further year.

**5. Election of Deputy Chairman**

D/Cllr Cox was proposed by C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat, seconded by Cllr Marsden. There being no other nominations, D/Cllr Cox was duly elected for a further year.

**6. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

The constitution was read out by C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat and is to be copied to all FATAC members, as requested).

**7. Public Speaking Time**

Mr Alex Meredith clarified that he was speaking as an individual, not in his capacity as a member of the Town Council. He expressed his concern that Network Rail were proposing to close the A417 for 4 months in order to carry out work on the bridge at Challow. He had collected over 300 signatures on a petition requesting that the road be kept open for the benefit of the 6,000 people who use the road every day. He expressed his concern at the lack of public consultation.

The representatives from Network Rail explained that discussions were ongoing between OCC and themselves, but that closing the road was the only option due to lack of availability of land to construct a second bridge alongside the existing one. Public drop-in meetings will be held to enable members of the public to raise concerns.

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat read out the following statement:

Discussions regarding works to be done on the rail bridges at A417 Challow Road and B4017 Steventon High Street as part of the Network Rail Electrification Project have been on-going between Oxfordshire County Council and Network Rail for some time, with officers pushing back robustly against Network Rail’s proposals given the duration of road closures these would entail.

A high level meeting between Cabinet Members / OCC Senior Officers and Senior Managers of Network Rail was held on Tuesday 20 May with the aim of reaching an agreement on this issue so as to allow preparations for the work to progress. At this meeting OCC’s representatives again pressed the case for an off-line solution similar to that to be implemented on the A338 at Grove, however practical considerations including a lack of availability of land mean that regrettably a solution involving the construction of a second road bridge alongside the existing one is not possible at either Challow Road or Steventon High Street. The works at these locations will therefore involve road closures but as far as is possible overlap of these closures with other schemes will be avoided and it will be ensured that A417 Challow Road and B4017 Steventon High Street are not closed simultaneously.

The A417 Challow Road bridge will be closed from September to December 2014 whilst the B4017 Steventon High Street bridge will be closed from January 2015 to August 2015. Network Rail have undertaken to meet the additional costs incurred in maintaining bus and community transport services during these closures and to contribute to maintenance costs on diversion routes and early notification will be made to emergency services to enable them to plan and anticipate the impact of the closures. Community drop-in information sessions will be taking place (with OCC support) ahead of any publication of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders and officers will continue to work closely with colleagues from Network Rail to mitigate the impact of these closures as far as possible. In the meantime a meeting with Members for the areas affected by this is being arranged in order to provide a more detailed briefing as soon as possible.

Information published by Network Rail on their website may be found via the links below:

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/great-western-electrification/oxfordshire/>

<http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/News-Releases/A338-Wantage-Road-bridge-to-stay-open-during-2bn-rail-electrification-upgrade-2095.aspx>

C/Cllr Mrs Constance confirmed that in fact Network Rail does not require agreement from OCC in order to carry out this work.

Mr Williams asked whether any stations would be opened in the future at Challow or Grove. It was confirmed that no information was available on this at the present time.

Mr Hulme requested that Network Rail give as much notice as possible to the emergency services of the details of the closure. Network Rail will address this with the relevant organisations. They confirmed that contingencies are built in to the proposed dates to allow for unforeseen circumstances.

**8. Any Other Business**

Folly Park View estate

Mr Holden expressed concern regarding the speed and parking of vehicles on the Folly Park View estate. Mr Hulme confirmed that if the roads have not been adopted, a number of offences under the Road Traffic Act could not apply.

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat confirmed that the roads would not be adopted until the estate was complete. However, the PCSOs are maintaining a presence there, and considerate behaviour should be encouraged amongst residents.

Street parking

A local resident had complained about the problems caused by illegal street parking. C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat requested that the police try to control this as much as possible, and asked for a report back at the next meeting. It was confirmed that the number of PCSOs is to be increased from 3 to 5.

Junction of Marlborough Gardens and Park Road

A request to review the design of the junction following the opening of Tesco was passed to Ms Hutchins for further investigation.

Junction of London Street and Swan Lane

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat had received a request from the owner of the Viceroy restaurant for Swan Lane to be made one way in order to protect the building from further damage. This had been considered before, and refused, as a resident had objected. Ms Hutchins agreed to put the matter on a list of works for further discussion.

**9. County Council- Highways, Officer Report**

Ms Hutchins reported that regular inspection of roads takes place, and defects are marked according to their urgency.

Ms Hutchins listed forthcoming roadworks and will circulate the list to members.

Mr Clack is available to meet with Councillors to discuss any concerns regarding planned work.

**10. District Traffic Matters**

D/Cllr Cox reported that the contract to carry out the parking survey funded by Bloor Homes was about to be awarded.

**11. Dates of meetings 2014**

The next FATAC meeting will be on Friday 3 October 2014 in the Old Town Hall, Market Square, Faringdon.

The remaining date for 2014 is:

Friday 05 December 2014