**Summary record of meeting re Holdiford Rd, Tixall.**

**Date of meeting:** 12 October 2021, 2.00pm, via Microsoft teams

**Attendees:**

**Parish Council** – Malcolm Sindrey (MS); Nicholas Bostock (NB); Tric Parrott (TP), Jane Tinniswood (JT) and Parish Clerk (Jill Davies)

**SCC Highways team:** Richard Rayson (RR) – Strategic Highways Manager; Sandeep Aheer (SA) - Amey; Mariana Pagoulatou (MP) – Highways Civil Engineer; Tim Buxton (TB) – Highways Officer; Tom Underwood (TU) – Highways Support Officer.

SCC Cllr John Francis (JF)

**JF** opened discussions, advised of his request to ask SCC highways to look into traffic usage, present solutions and statistics on accidents.

**MS** – PC not made aware of above; residents aware, PC would have appreciated being informed.

**JF** – acknowledged lack of communication. Well known that speed is an issue along this road, often accidents.

**TP** – need to look at whole road, not just bridges, could 30mph be extended to whole road? Can road be made safer for pedestrians?

**JF** – can reduce speed, but need Police to enforce.

**RR** – team have been investigating volume of traffic on canal bridge, river bridge and railway bridge. Brief from JF was to look at these areas, not whole road. SCC traffic investigation team have identified pattern of accidents happening at bridges.

Options to reduce accidents have been considered; report compiled with 3 options and met with JF to discuss. Route presenting best solution was traffic lights – feasibility of this is ongoing.

**SA** – trial work happened to see what is in the ground & at either side of river bridge – outcomes known. No further work has taken place to date.

**MS** – are you aware of the gas main?

**SA** – yes.

**TP** – no sewage, all septic tanks, water main is defunked. Has any modelling been done about vehicles backing up, if lights are installed?

**SA** – will form part of detailed design.

**JF** – once all investigations are completed, these will be presented to Parish Council.

**SA** – confirmed the above & commented it will then be determined if scheme can be funded.

**MS** – backlog of traffic may well be an issue; visibility is an issue due to the line of the road.

**JF** – confirmed backlogs at peak flow times.

**SA** – design can be developed to accommodate situation, modelling will help. Queuing is not always an issue, as it may divert drivers to alternative routes.

**RR** – modelling will see traffic using main routes. Inappropriate use of routes increases volume of traffic & accidents occurring. Clearly there is a problem, local modelling is important to ensure situation is not made worse. Traffic signals are intelligent to help manage flow of traffic & ultimately create safer situation, will help with speed along road too. Road safety is important, use of Holdiford Rd & Tixall Rd are not suitable alternative routes.

**MS** – how will lights impact upon cyclists & horse riders?

***I missed the response to this Q, as I was helping Nicholas access the meeting.***

**RR** – scheme will not progress without full support of Parish Council, still at exploratory stage, need to get to an informed position before any discussions with Parish Council. SCC are trying to find best solution to the problem.

**MS** – happy with comments received, concern that rumours were circulating.

**RR** – will always endeavour to offer best possible advice & very much want to hear comments from Parish Council.

**TP** – can anything be done about HGV’s using road?

**RR** – signage put up in the past advising not suitable for HGV’s. No weight limit in place, but would have had a structured limit.

**MS** – weight might be an issue; however, length of vehicles is more of a problem – obelisk was almost destroyed in the past.

**RR** – developments near to crematorium – some traffic regulations will be put in force to divert HGV’s along appropriate routes. This will need to be checked & SA agreed to do this. RR agreed to provide further updates on what is in place.

**JF** – HGV signs are not big enough & often ignored.

**RR** – then becomes an enforcement issue & down to the Police – resource matter.

**JF** – HGVs should not use Tixall Rd beyond the crematorium, it’s not suitable.

**JF** – advised Parish Council, that when all investigation work has been completed & SCC are ready to present proposed solutions MS calls an Extraordinary meeting.

**MS** – thanked RR for clarity & information.

**RR** – SA & MP are doing the work. Holdiford Rd has a national speed limit, reduction in this may cause enforcement issues. Need to be mindful that it is best for drivers to drive at speeds that are appropriate to the actual driving conditions at the time.

Meeting closed at 2.50pm.