

Notes from the meeting with Highways England on 19 July 2016.

Present:- Andy Roberts (HE), Emma Bazeley (HE), Cllr Geraghty, Cllr Murray, Cllr Elliot, Cllr Rogers, and Cllr Carey.

1. Low Emissions Zone.

- This is covered by a specialist team at HE, and Emma is talking with Andy Bean (who is based in Manchester and is the HE national lead on Air Quality).
- There is currently no LEZ on a trunk road so this is new ground.
- A meeting will be arranged with Oliver Letwin and Andy Bean to talk through in more detail what could go forward.
- It is necessary to know if a LEZ would bring emissions below the EU level – assumptions cannot be made
- Is there a budget for Andy Bean to do the investigations?
- There was some discussions as to whether lower speed limits westbound would reduce emissions from vehicles going up Chideock Hill – the results from the recent A35 speed limits study / consultation should be available soon. **Results due at Christmas**
- Improvements are being made to the A303 and A358 which will, in the long term, provide a better route than the A35 but this is a long way in the future (2025 ish)
- There are plans / discussions about improving North / South road routes in Dorset but again this is long term
- Origin / Destination study? Has the traffic profile changed? Emma is investigating this possibility / logistics / cost of this. **I have spoken with Highways England Professional and Technical Solutions Team and there is an ongoing national project using Bluetooth data from mobiles being looked in to at present. When data is available I hope to be able to share this with you and I am awaiting more detail on when the project will be complete. Hopefully I will know more for our November meeting.**

2. Safety Issues.

- HE has got funding for an A35 Route Based **Safety** Study, which includes Chideock.
- There is a “kick-off” meeting on 6 September 2016 and the study should be complete by the end of March 2017. **A meeting was held on the 6th as planned and a brief was drafted, this is being finalised at present with the consultants. We have taken a phase approach to the study which in Phase 1 includes a better understanding of the cause of accidents to see if there are any trends. We hope to have this better understanding by March 2017 and will keep you posted on developments.**
- There will then be a further study to define details for specific actions / improvements.
- The recent speed study will feed into this (traffic measurement tubes were put in place in this area as part of the speed study.) **The A35 Route Based Speed Study which was also discussed has suggested that overall speed is not excessive across the route. It has highlighted three areas which we are considering further and some locations where it is suggested that an engineering solution should be investigated and these will now move to the Safety Study. We hope to have this report complete by Christmas and will share the results with all parties at the A35 Working Group.**
- Speed limits are set according to specific guidelines. (Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 Setting Local Speed Limits)
- There are no 20 mph limit on trunk roads – Cllr Geraghty disagreed citing the A6 – HE to investigate – **Highways England are responsible for the M6 not the A6. Please use this link to see which routes Highways England manage:**
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550315/s160308_Network_Management_Map.pdf

Highways England have one very small section of 20mph outside a school on the A21 but this is the only section and it is a variable speed limit only used when required for school e.g. start and end of day.

- Any investment decision must be based on evidence
 - It was suggested that additional Vehicle Activated Signs could reduce speeding through the village
 - The following actions will be taken regarding CPC's list of safety issues:-
 1. Appropriate speed levels in the village – fed into Route Based Study – fed into Route Based Study
 2. Feasibility of providing pedestrian foot ways where none currently exist – fed into Route Based Study
 3. Additional Pedestrian Crossing(s) to remove separation – fed into Route Based Study
 4. Better and more appropriate signage from the A35 for Seatown – this is a matter for DCC – provided HE is consulted and has no objection – **I need to write a letter to Chideock Parish confirming this.**
 5. Noise and Vibration impacts – will hopefully be fixed by the resurfacing work in April 2017
 6. Brake Dust, Smells and PM10 Pollution – Air Quality issue (Andy Bean)
 7. Enforcement of speed limits, possible new Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs and relocation of existing VAS – fed into Route Based Study
 8. Average Speed Zone monitored in both directions – fed into Route Based Study. There is currently no ASZ on a trunk road so this is new ground but Cllr Carey mentioned one at St Blazey Cornwall on A390.
3. Off-Road HGV Testing Station west of Chideock.
Emma is meeting with Alexis Wood about this and an e-mail has been sent to DVSA asking them to consider a mobile station. **I am due to call Andy Ball, Senior Traffic Examiner, DVSA regarding the mobile testing station and campaigns to reduce litter lost from HGVs. I will provide an update on this in November when we meet next**
4. Questions on data conflicts and reliability and sources of data, including queries on the HE graphs presented at the 27 May 2016 Public Meeting, the anomalies highlighted in CPC's letter of February 2015 not yet answered, and details of the manual traffic count process and frequency.
- When was the last manual count done?
 - Is the local model still valid?
 - Andy Roberts said that the most reliable data is that collected by Connect at the London Inn even though it is not broken down by vehicle type as much as CPC would like. Emma said she will get the latest data and send it to the Clerk **My new graduate is currently getting all the information in one spreadsheet so I can easily pass it across to you.**
5. Any other business.
- Maps showing location of utility covers – Emma has this and will e-mail soft copies of the 3 maps and post hard copies, both to the Clerk **Kier are requesting the services information at present and will then produce the drawings. I have approved their invoice and works has commenced. I should have these at the November meeting**
 - Cllr Geraghty asked what distance a warning triangle sign should be from a hazard – in reference to the Quarr Cross junction
 - Cllr Geraghty passed a document from the original A35 Communities Group to Emma who will copy and return it. **I have returned it and checked with Kate at the A35 Working Group that she received it. I have also provided a copy to the DBFO Company Connect for their information**

- There was discussion re BW20 / St Judes – Emma and Andrew agreed to look at the site with Cllr Carey after the meeting. *HE agreed with Cllr Carey that the sight line needs to be improved and HE would come back with suggested action to cut back the vegetation on A35. HE also asked where we would like the additional pedestrian crossing to be situated and Cllr Carey suggested that this needs to be at the western end of Bilberry Close. (HE were in principle happy with that as it would not be a position of high emission)* We visited the site following the meeting; I took pictures and emailed these to the operators. They are cutting the vegetation back in their closure in October. Once cut back it will be the responsibility of the residents to maintain visibility as the land does not belong to Highways England.

Date of Next Meeting:- Tuesday 1 November 2016.

Sal Robinson, Clerk

23 July 2016