

Report on the meeting of the RSG held 29th August 2022

The group met with Cllr Dean Carroll [Shropshire Council]

1) Speed Limit Coed-y-Go

An email had been received from Sarah Cosgrove [Shropshire Council] advising costs for the speed limit reduction:

WSP design - Produce Consultation drawings Consultation with members, Parish Council and Police. Produce TRO Schedule and Statement of reasons for submission to SC for advertising. Produce detailed design drawings	£8,227.60	
TRO Advertising / Legal– based on an average cost	£1,500.00	
Construction – WSP have estimated construction costs based on previous schemes, the existing layout, and the likely requirement for signing and lining for the 40mph to be effective.	£10,000.00	
TOTAL		£19,727.60

Currently £15,000 is budgeted for the project.

Cllr Carroll confirmed that subject to the Parish Council's confirmation that it would cover the costs, a scheme could be delivered in the current financial year. As above the steps would be:

- Consultation with Police, Public and Local Member (Joyce Barrow), based on initial drawings
- Advertising a possible scheme providing no serious objections received
- Detailed drawings – estimates of costs
- Implementation

Cllr Carroll given a copy of technical questions regarding the traffic survey carried out by Shropshire Council.

AGREED that Oswestry Rural Parish Council be asked to increase the budget for the scheme by a further £5,000 (total £20,000) to allow for any price increase in materials.

2) Reduction of speed limit at Weston from 30mph to 20mph.

The concerns raised by a resident about the current speed limit being too high given the nature of the road with its dips and bends and a narrow bridge over the railway line was brought to the attention of Cllr Carroll. The road was used by residents of Trefonen to access the A5, and potentially the residents of all the additional housing in Morda. Walkers and cyclists were frequently encountered which presented a further danger as there was no footpath nor lighting at night.

Cllr Carroll advised the group that Shropshire Council currently only set a 20mph limit as standard in the vicinity of a school or where the Police requested one. The council was considering as part of the new Local Transport Plan (4) opening up the procedure by allowing community concerns to trigger action similar to that in the case of speed limits.

It was suggested that a DISCRETIONARY speed limit might be a possibility – Berrington had recently had such a limit. These could not be enforced. Were such a request to be made to Shropshire Council it would be added to the list of sites of community concern for examination by traffic engineers – subject to resources being available.

It was AGREED to request ORPC to write to Shropshire Council and the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner asking for a discretionary speed limit to be placed on the road at Weston.

3) Speed Limit Morton

Cllr Carroll was advised that the ORPC had previously agreed to support the concerns of residents of Morton regarding the speed of traffic along the road from Llyncllys to Knockin. As a community concern it had been hoped that Shropshire Council would undertake to assess the speed and volume of traffic. This request had not been brought to his attention and he requested that the Parish Council reiterate its concerns.

AGREED that the ORPC resubmit the concerns of local residents of Morton and request initial work be undertaken to assess the speed and volume of the traffic so as to provide a rationale for a reduced maximum speed limit.

4) HGV Signage Request

Heavy Goods Vehicles are leaving the A5 carriage way at Aston Gates Junction assuming Maesbury Road Industrial Estate is at Maesbury. The HGVs travel from the A5 down Chain Lane, a narrow single track country lane and find themselves at the Ashfield, Maesbury Crossroads.

Here they try to negotiate the left turn onto the Knockin/Oswestry main road which has resulted in actual impact on Ashfield Farmhouse boundary walls and inches away from Oakfield Cottage bay window which sits on the opposite side of the main road, this left turn is too tight for big vehicles. If HGVs try to turn right to Oswestry, again they mount the pavement trying to avoid impacting the boundary fencing of the Unicorn Child Nursery They mount the pavements both sides of the Knockin to Oswestry Road. Appropriate signage has been requested by residents.



Noted that the problem exacerbated by HGV's not using proprietary SatNav software which would not direct traffic in this manner but rather cheaper solutions like Google Maps, which does.

AGREED that the complaint and request for suitable signage be submitted to Shropshire Council.

5) HGV Operator's Licences

At a recent ORPC meeting the Chair had reported his frustration at becoming aware of a submission to the Traffic Commissioners for an HGV Operator's Licence in this area. However, the Parish Council is not a Statutory Consultee and while Shropshire Council is, had not been prepared to make a response to the application on behalf of the Parish. The ORPC had made representations to the Leader of the Council, but no response had been received.

Cllr Carroll advised that licensing was a matter for Cllr Potter and suggested that the Council write again to the Leader as a reply should have been received to its previous communication.

AGREED that the ORPC write again to the Leader but also submit a written Question to the next available Shropshire Council meeting.

6) Community Speed Watch

The group discussed the opportunities for Community Speed Watch in the area and noted the requirements. Since a scheme is operating in Whittington it was agreed that a request be sent to Whittington Parish Council for members of their Speed Watch group to meet with members of the Road Safety Group to gain insight into their operations.

7) Joint Working

An initial approach to Llanyblodwell Parish Council regarding some joint working had received an encouraging response, there being at least one joint project in respect of Nantmawr.

Agreed that Cllrs Bennett, Jones, and Kimber meet with 3 Councillors from Llanyblodwell to discuss some joint working.