

# Notes from A377 Action Group held on Thursday 24 March 2022

## 10am via Teams

Present: Graeme Barnell (MDDC Councillor Newbrooke Ward, Chair), Jim Enright (Chair NSC PC), Liz Brookes-Hocking (Mayor of Crediton and CTC), Frank Letch (MDDC Councillor and CTC) joined 10.30pm, Stuart Jarvis (DCC Highways) left 11am, Owen Messenger, (Devon and Cornwall Police Roads Casualty Reduction Officer), Jane Hole (Parish Clerk NSC)

### 1. Welcomes and apologies

Michelle Woodgates, Henry Gent, Sara Rendall-Johnson, Derek Coren

### 2. Notes of last meeting 26 January 2022

Agreed

### 3. Transport Planning in and around Crediton -Stuart Jarvis DCC in attendance

#### a) Crediton to Exeter Cycleway- update

Stuart reported that the consultants had collected background information and worked out what has been done by previous people and they had met with the Boniface Trail Association and were now looking at options. They were due to complete their report by the end of April and Stuart suggested they come to next A377 Action Group meeting to give an update. Graeme requested a meeting with the consultants before they had finished their report and Liz, Margaret and Jim would also like to attend. Liz was concerned about access points for the Trail at the Crediton end and wanted to ensure that any design allowed easy access.

#### Action Points

- Stuart to arrange a meeting between members of the A377 Action Group and the consultants
- Stuart to invite consultants to attend next A377 Action Group meeting to update on their work

#### b) Crediton urban realm plan – update

This was tied in with Crediton's Neighbourhood plan and planning in Crediton in terms of the proposed masterplan currently being discussed. Liz was hoping to get back in touch with Richard Marsh. The Plan needs to link in with the work of the new Crediton and District Planning Group (see below)

#### Action point

- Keep on the agenda

#### c) Joint Planning with MDDC- update (GB et al)

Graeme had met with Richard Marsh to discuss a wider approach to planning for Crediton and surrounding area. Richard had also attended CTC to talk about Crediton Town masterplan. Richard was supportive of a need for more joined up planning and also with regard to areas such as infrastructure including Education.

Graeme proposed a local joint planning group to focus on Crediton and surrounding areas and this would include representatives from Highways and Education. It was noted that QE was an academy and would therefore need to be involved directly.

Liz noted that split QE sites generated a lot of extra traffic both in terms of the number of buses and teachers travelling between the sites.

#### **Action points**

- Graeme to explain to Richard March that we will be forming a Crediton and District planning group (to include Highways and QE school) and will be very pleased if his officers could support the work of this group.
- Graeme to draft terms of reference and circulated round this group.
- Liz will be chairing and convening future meetings of the Group

#### **4. Speed limits**

##### **a) HATOC meeting feedback - MS/GB**

Notes from the HATOC meeting on 23 February had been circulated and these stated that:  
*The Committee considered the issues of traffic speeds and dangerous behaviour on the A377 leading into Newton St Cyres. On the journey towards Newton St Cyres from Crediton, the road includes a sudden change from National Speed Limit to 30mph. It was proposed that a transitional speed limit of 40mph be introduced to slow vehicles coming into Newton St Cyres. Concerns were also raised about confusing signage around the hamlet of Smallbrook.*

*It was agreed that*

*(a) speed measurements on the road be taken;*

*(b) the proposed changes be considered under the SCARF process; and*

*(c) that a review of signage around Smallbrook be undertaken.*

#### **Action points**

- Margaret would follow up speed measurements with Steve Tucker, Neighbourhood Highways Manager next week
- Margaret to follow up progress of SCARF assessment process and review of signage at Smallbrook

##### **b) Speed limits-regulations and DCC policies**

Despite several emails, no reply had been received from James Bench

#### **Action point**

- Margaret to follow up with James

##### **c) Policing speed limits - Owen Messenger-Devon and Cornwall Police in attendance**

Four places were identified as potential places to measure the speed of traffic

- i) Half Moon Straight
- ii) Quicke's Straight
- iii) Smallbrook
- iv) Tytheing Close

Owen reported that the A377 was currently listed as a high harm route (mainly for evening drink driving) but this meant that it would be easier for the camera van to be directed to the A377. Tytheing Close was not suitable for a camera van and would need to be monitored via a hand held devise.

Owen noted that VAS signs were often only effective in the same place for a couple of weeks and then drivers tended to ignore them, so signs are not necessary going to help the issues. Owen would ask Andy to discuss at the DCC partnership meeting what other options might help to reduce speed.

Margaret asked if Owen could assist with getting a scheme drawn up for Tytheing Close so that it would be eligible for S106 funds when available? Owen reported that it's not a matter for the Police and DCC Highways would need to draw up a scheme.

Liz noted that drivers are not expecting people to be crossing the road at Tytheing Close and we need to change drivers perception of the danger.

Frank asked Owen about funding for a ANPR and Owen would speak to Frank separately.

**Action points:**

- Owen to request camera vans visit the areas identified above
- Owen to request Andy to raise the issues in the DCC Partnership meetings to get advice on what other actions might be possible to reduce speed.
- Margaret to find out who at DCC we should speak to about a crossing at Tytheing Close
- Andy Bennett or Owen Messenger to come to next meeting.

**5. Items for future meetings**

- a. **Road Crossings- update from DCC**
- b. **HATOC -next meeting June 20th**

**6. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 19 May 2022 at 10am via teams