

WENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council Traffic & Tourism Steering Group
Held in the Mechanic's Institute, Wentworth
on Monday 6th October 2021 commenced at 6.00PM*

Present	01.	<p>Wentworth Parish Council Ms C. Hawley (Chairman) (CH) Wentworth Parish Council Mr W. Crawford (BC), Mr E. Bradley (EB) RMBC Mr I. Sheldon (IS), Mr A. Butler (AB) RMBC Councillor Mr D. Roche (DR) Wentworth Estate Mr A. Barber-Lomax (ABL) Wentworth Village Ms J. Middleton (JM) Community Assoc. Wentworth Residents Mr K. Wigfield Assoc. Wentworth Garden Centre Mr A. Airey (TA) Wentworth Woodhouse Ms S. McLeod (SM) Preservation Trust Parishioners Mr D. Booth (DB)</p>	
Expectations	02.	<p>CH welcomed the attendees to the meeting and performed the introductions.</p> <p>The attendees outlined their expectations of what the group hopes to achieve.</p> <p>CH hopes that the TTSG can come together to deliver solutions to the traffic and tourism issues in the parish.</p> <p>JM hoped that the group could deliver increased road safety, particularly for the users of the Mechanic's Institute and the residents of Friers Croft.</p> <p>TA has been involved with several such groups in the past, all of which have failed to find long term solutions to the problems, he therefore expects limited results from this forum.</p> <p>DB hoped that a long term solution to speeding traffic could be found, particularly the issue of speeding during the night.</p> <p>ABL is conscious of the pressures and evolution of the village and does not want future development to add to these pressures. He has attended similar forums before along with the Estates own previous consultations and is happy to revisit some of the earlier suggestions. The Estate has tried to alleviate some of the parking issues by providing more parking spaces and improving the original car parks. He noted that the development of Wentworth Woodhouse would attract more visitors, but that it would provide many more parking spaces. The Estate would like to see improvements along Church Drive and an end to parking there altogether.</p> <p>SM noted that all historic villages have issues with traffic and tourism and that the WWPT does not want to add to the current problems, but understand the challenges and how WWPT can help in finding solutions.</p> <p>IS is here in a consultation capacity and understand the issues and frustrations of the many competing demands.</p> <p>AB noted that RMBC is attending to understand the issues and engage with the parish council</p> <p>DR recognises the issues of traffic in Wentworth, but also recognises that solutions will not be easy. He hopes to find some solutions that are supported by the majority of interested parties and are financially viable. He noted that a HGV restriction along the B6090 is not viable as it is the M1 accident relief road and HGV restrictions are not in the remit of RMBC, but Highways England.</p> <p>KW Hoped that the issues along Main Street and Barrowfield Lane could be addressed. But noted that the recent addition of VAS on Barrowfield Lane has mad little difference. He thought speed bumps would be the only option. DR noted that speed bumps are noisy and that they had caused issues with building foundations when previously used in Wentworth.</p> <p>EB hoped to find long term feasible solutions to residents concerns and that any solutions found or reasons why no solutions can be found are communicated to residents.</p>	
	03.	<p>It was noted that there are different issues in different parts of the parish, JM noted that traffic fumes are a problem along Main Street.</p>	

	<p>04. AB raised the concern that removing parked vehicles along Main Street would probably see a general increase in speed along that stretch of road. It was noted that traffic generally appeared to speed up once it reached the Mechanic's Institute where the yellow lines are.</p> <p>05. DR noted that the planning application for the proposed Harley Mission Rooms car park is under consultation. The car park would improve the situation for users, rather than parking on the road.</p>	
<p>Representatives</p>	<p>06. Representatives were asked what they thought they could contribute , CH wanted to develop solutions for the differing problems across the parish. JM noted that the Leabrook area had not been included in the consultation, but although the results had been published, it still could be useful if they completed the survey. TA noted that there are three roads into the village of Wentworth and that two passed the garden centre. The garden centre provides parking and toilet facilities for the village and if handled correctly could keep cars out of the village. DB would be involved with any future practicalities such as surveys or speed checks that may be undertaken. ABL noted that the Estate could potentially facilitate any solutions that required land outside of RMBC ownership. The Estate has improved existing car park accessibility and provided additional car parks. The Estate had previously undertaken a public consultation on parking and access strategy and consulted with RMBC. SM offered similar assistance to the Estate in providing additional car parking and using the best access points to the Woodhouse to try and reduce the number of vehicles entering the centre of the village. It is hoped that work on the new car parks will commence in spring 2022. AB noted that RMBC would engage with the group to identify problems and and then try to find solutions and funding. ABL noted that visitors are catered for reasonably well except on Church Drive, where there have been issues of blocked driveways. Villagers have expressed concerns about the future development of tourism and speeding. He commented that noise is also a problem and that large schemes, such as a by pass was not feasible, but that a review of signage, speed limits and yellow lines may improve the situation.</p> <p>07. AB noted that speed is an issue throughout the borough and beyond, RMBC are receiving more complaints than ever and erecting more VAS signs. IS noted that the real, dangerous speeders would continue to be an issue and that 85% compliance with the set limits, is all that can be hoped for. AB noted that the environment contributes to speeding rather than actual speed limits and that the biggest issue is financial resources. EB stated that residents realise solutions are difficult, but would be happy if the group found some solutions and a timescale for implementation over the next few years. IS responded that there are the same issues elsewhere and that it would be impossible to give a definite time frame.</p> <p>08. ABL commented that RMBC planners need to support the parking strategy, facilitating rather than raising obstacles. He referred to the ongoing issues in gaining planning permission for the simple Mission Rooms car park. AB noted that there is little or no signage directing traffic to the car parks and that the visitors needed to understand where they should park. He asked if visitors could be directed to the garden centre by better signage. ABL thought that the garden centre would probably resist the idea. TA thought that visitors near to the shop should be better managed and that, as a well known village, visitors were aware of the car parks. ABL commented that the new future car parks will be signed.</p> <p>09. TA thought that the key issue is speeding and that the 15% who regularly don't comply with the limits needed to be resolved. DR is to chase up the road safety camera partnership checks that were due to be undertaken in September. ABL stated that the cars parking along Church Drive need to be diverted into the school car park. He commented that the enlarged car park was to accommodate the expanding school, but that RMBC had declined the planning application and that it had had to go through the appeals process. SM commented that perhaps the Woodhouse web site could add address of the car parks or a map once everything was finalised. ABL noted that consistent signage has been introduced in the existing car parks which include a map of the other car parks.</p>	<p>DR</p>
<p>Terms of Reference</p>	<p>10. AB stated that RMBC cannot be a member of the working group, but could engage with it and should be considered to be observers.</p> <p>11. CH asked if everyone had seen the results of the survey, it had raised many concerns and some possible solutions as well as aspirational ideas that would never be progressed. ABL thought it interesting that only 12% of the Wentworth respondents to the survey, saw car parking as an issue. SM noted that the Preservation Trust and the Estate would be happy to do a presentation on the future parking plans and traffic control that will be in place as the number of visitors to the Woodhouse increases.</p>	

	<p>12. DR noted that is not an offence to park on a pavement, but that it is an offence to drive on one. KW commented that vehicles had to drive on the pavement as there is no space for two way traffic, particularly along stretches of Main Street.</p> <p>13. TA noted that the traffic problem in Wentworth is much improved from five years ago, the professional traffic management systems have greatly improved the situation along with the second exit opened up in the garden centre car park.</p>	
Pinch Points	<p>14. CH asked all members to think about their pinch points and any solutions to those points that may be useful and to bring them to the next meeting.</p> <p>15. DB noted that there had been various traffic initiatives in nearby Hickleton. The only one that worked to slow the speed of traffic was a speed camera. He asked if anyone knew the percentage on non compliance where speed cameras had been introduced. IS noted that speed camera locations are controlled by the South Yorkshire Speed Camera Partnership, but that resources are finite and have to be targeted in the areas of most need. DB asked if the Estate would consider locally funding a camera. ABL noted that the appearance of any camera would need to be taken into consideration.</p>	ALL
Next Meeting	<p>16. It was agreed that meetings would be held bi-monthly and the date of the next meeting would be advised in due course</p>	

The Meeting closed at 7.25pm