Parish Council (PC) Group Meeting 22.2.2024

Location: Mechanics Institute

Attendees:

Steve Peace (SP)

Claire Hawley (CH)

Tony Airey (TA)

Janice Middleton (JM)

Sue Mastrototaro (SM)

 Paul Hunton (PH)

Tom Wallbank (TW)

Sir David Richards (Sir DR)

Absent: Ian Taylor

1. SP started the meeting promptly and introduced himself as the chair because of his area of responsibility on the PC. He then asked all attendees to introduce themselves and say which body they represented. He reminded everyone of the purpose of the meeting and emphasised that the Parish Council have been tasked, by the various local bodies who had previously tried without success, to liaise with RMBC to secure improvements to the streets of Wentworth and Harley.
2. SP then listed what progress had been made since the last meeting in October 2023.
* VAS sign repositioned.
* Slow markings commissioned for entry to Wentworth.
* Yellow lines to be installed on Clayfields Lane in the next few weeks.
* Police presence and more speed checking agreed.
* Flagstones around The Olde Smythie to be refitted.
* RMBC have noted twenty other carriageway issues to be resolved.
* Hedges cut back towards Barrow.
* Lea Brook designated a secondary road by RMBC.
* Signs installed on Church Drive notifying of parking availability.
1. PH asked why the PC was taking credit for the VAS sign. SP acknowledged this and qualified it by explaining that whilst the Residents Association has secured the original VAS sign it was relocated to Main Street as a result of a request from the October group meeting, following the walkaround with RMBC in July.
2. SP then asked all attendees to list their major problems and what they would like us to move forward with the RMBC.
* TA said he has been around 40 years or so like PH and sees these problems re-occurring all the time. He was hopeful that we could do something. TA also said whatever happens it needs more policing. SP said that a senior inspector was involved in last week’s PC meeting, and she stressed that there would be more police presence in the village, including more speed checks taking place and more PCSOs allocated to the area. The PC is working to improve relations with the police and there will be more meetings in the village very soon.
* PH mentioned some concerns from residents which he had received from Graham Cook on behalf of the WRA, the main ones being speeding vehicles and large vehicles coming through. They asked for a weight restriction to be imposed. They also asked if RMBC could straighten the bends between Harley and Wentworth but were advised that land belongs to the Estate.
* The group also raised concerns about the state of the pavements in Wentworth. SP re-iterated that RMBC are going to re-lay flagstones and improve the pavements which have previously just had tarmac put down to fill spaces and holes, which made them more dangerous and unsightlier.
* PH also suggested that traffic calming could take place by having speed humps installed at either end of the village where there are no houses that would be affected by vehicles crossing them at speed. TA asked if they could be positioned by the Post Office. PH also suggested possibly “have red & white arrows, slowing oncoming cars, help to make them get fed up of coming through village”. SP thought this was a reasonable idea and may well be taking this up with Rmbc
* PH also raised concerns about The Barrow pavements and the fact that elderly or infirm people with motorised scooters cannot use these narrow pavements to get to the village.
* PH also suggested traffic lights in the village, suggesting that the current traffic light at Friers Croft helped with the flow of traffic in and out of the village.
* PH also mentioned that children coming out of school and down the ginnel to The Barrow come out onto the main road. SP suggested a sign warning traffic of children crossing should be considered.
* PH also stated that residents on Mian Street had difficulty getting in and out of their drives as it is straight onto the main road.
* SM stated she did not have too much to add to what had already been said but thought it was excellent getting these ideas together and acting as one with requests to RMBC.
* TW suggested that removing white lines from the bend on main street would be a good idea as he has seen it succeed in North Yorkshire where he has worked previously as it makes drivers traverse more sensibly.
* Sir DR stated that diversion signs were needed at both ends of the village to stop heavier vehicles coming though at all.
* The group agreed that if vehicles could be redirected to the Dearne Valley routes, which would provide them with access to the motorway without coming through the village.
* Sir DR also suggested an iron railing installed outside the village shop would stop vehicles parking there.
1. SP thanked everyone for their input to the meeting and said he would report back to the group in the next few months.