

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the Road Safety Working Group held on the 5th July 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor)
Cllr Mike Kermode (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Val Simmons
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

There were five members of the public present, Giles Kennedy, Susan Ellis, Chris Wynne, Richard Griffiths and Ken Hughes.

From the local policing team - PSCSO Richard Williams

1. Apologies

Alie Kearney, Ben Wilcox-Jones and Ed Parry both from DCC

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting and reminded them that this was a hybrid meeting that can be accessed virtually or by phone.

2. Declaration of Interest

None given

3. Appointment of Chair

The Mayor asked for any nominations. Cllr Elgin was nominated to continue as Chair of the working group. **Recommended to approve by Full Council.**

4. Ysgol y Castell Road Safety Poster Competition.

At a previous meeting a member of the public had suggested this competition for the local primary school. A total of 200 posters had been received and the Chair suggested that the winners be decided tonight.

Cllr Mike Kermode added that all the posters could be laid out in the larger community centre room for judging after the other agenda items had ended, which was agreed by the group.

MS

The Chair added that the winning posters were to be printed and placed around Rhuddlan utilising the bus stop shelters that the town council owned and sited to face towards the road for vehicle drivers to see. Alternatively, the winning posters could be painted by a local artist onto the bus shelters for a bigger impact.

5. Parking Issues

This is an ongoing problem for the town and is not helped by the narrowness of some streets in the town. In addition business employees allegedly using them instead of shoppers/visitors to the town.

The Clerk highlighted the free parking ticketing method to be used at Parliament Street and Vicarage Lane car parks, whereby the first hour will be free then a fee paid.

A robust discussion then ensued on the merits of the scheme, enforcement, and how it would affect business workers/customers.

The group were reminded that the Town Council does not have power to act over this issue but can recommend to the County Council for them to action. Town council can however support any action taken.

Moving on, the group discussed the issue of parking on the pavement in Rhuddlan streets which is dangerous and could lead to incidents when pedestrians are trying to negotiate around these vehicles. The police explained how difficult this was to enforce encouraging the reporting of this to 101. It was also mentioned that the police school liaison officer had bought prosecutions at some schools where pavement parking is rife.

In particular the issue is more noticeable at school drop off/pick up points and the group debated the use of a one way system to try and overcome this. This included points raised such as

- Some parents waiting for a long time to pick up children who finish at different times.
- Carbon dioxide emissions.
- Illegal parking on yellow lines.
- Narrowness of pavements in the area.
- Creation of a "walk to school" system.
- School providing a person to control this parking or delivering a letter on the issue.

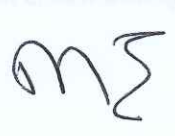
The group concluded that the imminent nationwide 20mph limit around residential streets should help this issue, as could the rising price of fuel affecting parents not using cars to drop off/pick up children. Perhaps the school and parents can discuss this issue.

Cllr Arwel Roberts as the Chair of the school Governors invited those present to attend the next governors meeting to discuss this issue and see what can be done.

Richard Williams was asked to enquire if a police presence could be shown outside school at the drop off/pick up times.

6. Highlands Road

Cllr Val Simmons was invited to outline the problems as the Council ward member for this area. Excessive speeding, screeching and dangerous manoeuvres by motor bikes, cars, and e-scooters were all brought up along with the results of a camera survey undertaken in this area, which had shown no excess speeding.



The group had hoped that DCC Highway Officers would have attended tonight but unfortunately they had sent their apologies. So in their absence it was suggested that provision of a chicane as seen in Marsh Road, Rhyl could be the answer alongside the 20 mph limits being brought in across Wales by the Welsh Government.

The Clerk is ask DCC when the 20 mph limit is to be installed. **Recommend to approve.**

7. SID's Update

The Chair reminded those present of the current SID's position and the two new sites for 3 additional SID's which had been ordered with a lead in time of 12 weeks.

Similarly, a new pedestrian refuge/crossing is being created near Pentre Lane which will also hopefully slow traffic down.

Several members of the public commented on the effectiveness of SID's and their costs. Some called for a re-routing of traffic from the High Street to the bye-pass. But by far the most debated item was the DCC report on traffic speed on Abergele Road where one of the current SID's is sited. It appears that this report concluded that the speed limit should be raised from 30mph to 40 mph but obtaining a copy had proved difficult. It had been lost as the officer who wrote it had now left DCC and any response from current officers was poor. The group heard that over 100,000 cars had been recorded speeding over two months in the direction of Abergele and out of Rhuddlan. When the GoSafe van is present it does make a difference in reducing vehicle speed, and many HGV's use this stretch of road, along with the presence of a busy business park all adding to the dangers.

Mr Kennedy was asked for copy of his findings around the Abergele Road issues so that it can be shared with DCC Officers. Mr Kennedy agreed to do this.

The Clerk mentioned a successful project in Caerwys which had attracted a lot of grant funding for the town. It was a strategic view of all issues around pedestrian safety and maybe this was something Rhuddlan could pursue. There was large agreement with this idea and the following items could be included in such a strategic plan for Rhuddlan.

- More pedestrian refuges
- Rumble lines on the road in various streets
- Chicane provision in various streets
- Abergele Road speed limit be set at 30mph instead of 40mph.
- More regular GoSafe visits
- Review of the speed survey data and reports from DCC
- Review of HTM Business Park vehicle movements
- Potential funding for a £17,000 speed camera
- Re-routing of traffic from town to the bye-pass.
- Inclusion of parking issues raised at this meeting
- Include the maintenance of trees & hedges which overtop the pavements although DCC Customer Services have a procedure for this, which works.
- Hold a public consultation exercise to gauge resident's ideas and thoughts on pedestrian safety in Rhuddlan.

It was proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts that a strategic plan be drawn up with costs and invite DCC to be involved. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Recommend to approve.**

MZ

It was also proposed that a consultation exercise be undertaken to gauge resident's ideas and comments on what to consider for the strategic plan by Cllr Burnham. Seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Recommend to approve**

8. AOB

- i) Inclusion of a pedestrian refuge on Rhyl Road where Admiral's Field gates are situated.
- ii) Can coach parking and visitors drop off point be investigated on the old foundry/Thornccliffe site?
- iii) For information – DCC reviewing a bus stop causing traffic hold up by the Kings Head. Potential coach drop off on Dyserth Road?

There being no other matters of business the Mayor thanked the various attendees for their contribution to the working group, and their passion for the agenda items.

All were invited to judge the school posters competition where 10 pictures were selected to be used.

9. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 6th September 7pm Community Centre

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