



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the Road Safety Working Group held on the 14th September 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

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

1. Apologies

None given

There were three DCC officer's present Mike Jones, Peter Lea, Ben Wilcox-Jones

2. Declaration of Interest

None given

3. Minutes of the 5th July 2022 Meeting

These had been approved by Full Council on 14th September 2022.

The Mayor proceeded to inform the DCC officers that the Town Council had resolved to draw up a strategic plan in partnership with DCC for road safety in general terms and to include speed reduction measures, parking issues, pedestrian refuges, and cyclist's complaints. All indicative costs are to be included along with a suggested consultation exercise to gauge residents' ideas and comments.

This brought about a lengthy and positive discussion on the issues as highlighted below.

Abergele Road 40mph Zone - The public in particular are concerned about the speed of traffic and are lobbying for it to be reduced to 30mph even though this has been previously refused by DCC. Mike Jones referred a 2014 County wide independent review in which Abergele Road was not mentioned. Also to a desk top review about 2 years ago by DCC which concluded that the 40mph zone was appropriate in this location. The officer who did this desk top review is no longer an employee of DCC and as such the review cannot be

accessed. The officers agreed to carry out an up to date desk top review in the next 6-8 weeks using the Welsh Government guidelines, which will be shared with the Town Council and DCC Members. It will include:-

Collision history, existing speed data from the SID and GoSafe, creation of a buffer zone, provision of a pedestrian refuge, disability crossing issues, people's perception of a built up area, length of speed limit, reduce the speed limit on the main roundabout, appropriateness for the type of road.

4. Public Refuge – Members were grateful for the recent completion of the refuge on the north section of Rhyl Road near Pentre Lane, but requested another on Rhyl Road by the entrance to Admiral's Field.

Members were informed by the DCC Officers that a formula is used to decide on the positioning of a refuge which was explained in detail by Mike Jones. It takes into account number of pedestrians crossing the road in any 4 hours along with the number of vehicles during that time. The width of the road at the point of refuge and other forms of controlled crossings e.g. zebra, puffin, and pelican were also discussed. The last formula exercise was carried out 3 years ago so Officers agreed to do it again. Members asked that any future formula exercise be undertaken when schools are opening in the morning and at a better time of year.

Members were warned that the provision of controlled crossing in particular is expensive to purchase, to install, and electric costs to run. Grants may need to be required which entail a very competitive application to Welsh Government. Members responded by saying that they understood the finance issues and offered to help with this element of discussion in partnership with DCC if required.

5. Highlands Road Issues. The Mayor, ably supported by Cllr Val Simmons who is a resident on this road, highlighted the long straight configuration of the road which seemed to encourage a lot of speeding, especially between 4-6pm. Ben Wilcox-Jones informed Members that speed assessments showed an average speed of 32mph which does not meet the Welsh Government criteria for action. He offered to contact GoSafe to ask for more enforcement exercises at this road, and pointed to a potential "stopping up" of the road but highlighted the disadvantages these can cause for residents travel journeys. Further discussion included:-

- Chicane but experience tells Officers that it is not truly effective as drivers speed straight through and would cause more traffic to use Rhyl Rd for their journeys.
- Rumble strips which wear away quickly.
- New Welsh Government 20mph zones guidelines and explanation of what they mean in Rhuddlan.
- Concerns over traffic coming out of Ffordd Dewi onto Rhyl Rd which officers will investigate.

6. Further discussion on the Strategic Plan. The Clerk explained how Caerwys and Lixwm communities had already created such a plan with Flintshire Councillors and Officers, which had bought about a £100k grant to complete the recommended actions. It was agreed that the Rhuddlan strategic plan should be a partnership exercise between Town Council and

DCC which when completed be consulted on with residents at a public meeting to gauge their ideas and comments, which would lead to road safety options for completion. Rhuddlan Town Council again reiterated their offer of assisting financially with the exercise and the recommended actions.

Officers highlighted that the Welsh Government focus for assistance is via the Active Travel policy at the present time and GOOD NEWS! Active Travel masterplans have been done for Llangollen and East Rhyl. Rhuddlan is to be the third. They have to follow the Active Travel guidance and what type of interventions this entails was explained. (Cllr Burnham leaves). There then followed a discussion on this news, its inclusion in DCC budgets, and what it meant for Rhuddlan road safety issues in particular. (Cllr Simmons leaves).

7. Other Issues. Town Council has worked with Officers to order another SID for a site coming into Rhuddlan from Meliden, and are looking at another on Dyserth Rd. A member asked why the current SID on Rhyl Rd is where it is. Officers explained three reason why. The Mayor informed the officers that another SID for this road was already on order. Peter Lea, was asked when the BCHUB Vicarage lane car park issues would be sorted, when the High St yellow lines will be repainted, and when the brown tourist sign and the A55 would be erected. He answered that BCHUB had been unresponsive to meeting requests but that another meeting is organised for mid October. Peter will investigate the yellow lines issue. A55 sign been delayed due to no responses to initial tender being received but a second tender process had now been successful. This is within the agreed budget and will possibly be installed by Christmas.

It was agreed that the sign update is to be shared with the Elwy MAG, and Denbigh MAG.

All above to be recommended to approve by Full Council.

8. Date of Next Meeting – TBA

