

CUDDINGTON, DELAMERE PARK & SANDIWAY VILLAGE PLAN

Traffic & Transport Working Group

Final Report

It was recognised from the start that most of the actions in the village plan relating to traffic and transport could only be completed by CWAC Highways. Therefore meetings on a regular basis have taken place.

Actions as listed in the village plan document.

1.2 Parking. Parking problems at/on Sandiway Shops and Library, Cuddington School, Sandiway School, Norley Road- Village Hall and playing fields, School Lane, Grass verges and pavements.

Actions originally recommended; investigate potential actions to:

- a) Understand how parking is used in the village.
- b) Physically change the environment (e.g. creating more spaces)
- c) Persuade a change of behaviour.
- d) Carry out more effective enforcement.

Action taken

- a) Sandiway Shops and Library car park extension is a project Parish Council/ Highways, completed May 2017. On street road markings etc. to be completed as at October 2017.
- b) Survey of shop keepers undertaken to understand the nature of parking at Sandiway Shops including staff/ business parking in order to contribute to a consultation on the car park and any on road parking restrictions which may be necessary.
- c) Double yellow lines installed on one side in area around Cuddington School. School proactive in educating children on highway safety and engaging appropriately with parents/ guardians. Additional parking problems experienced during school building extension work partly alleviated by overflow parking on grass within site. School reviews situation regularly. Problems ahead with future increase in pupil numbers.
- d) Pupils arriving and departing Cuddington School by vehicle/ on foot are now able to use rear access via Forest Edge housing estate in order to reduce pressure on Ash Road entrance.
- e) Engaged with Sandiway School and parents group. More awareness now about safety when dropping off/ collecting children. School involved in educating children about this and parents/ guardians informed of any issues as appropriate.
- f) Pedestrian crossing being provided at Cuddington shops will be away from immediate area and therefore car park spaces will not be lost.

- g) CWAC Highways have agreed to make good grass verges on Mere Lane and re-seed. No date given for this work.
- h) Highlighting any parking issues on new village website. Social media may help. Recognition that some enforcement is necessary from time to time. CWAC are able to enforce where there are parking restrictions painted on the road.
- i) Parking at the playing fields on Norley Road is a problem particularly on days where there are special events. Main problem is inconsiderate (and sometimes illegal) parking. Committee are issuing advice and where appropriate requesting a risk assessment to be undertaken.

STATUS OF ACTION: Group regards this as complete but requests Parish Council to highlight any future problems.

Traffic Management

1.3.1 Speeding Traffic: carry out a community speed awareness campaign to investigate the levels and locations of speeding traffic. Work through any proposed solutions with CWAC including speed restrictions and the use of light up warning signs and repeater signs.

1.3.2 Impact of through traffic: Liaise with CWAC on the levels of through traffic in the village and explore any potential mitigation proposals.

Action Taken

- a) Group decided to wait for CWAC Highways to do the surveys prior to the introduction of 20 MPH speed limits. Data at 9 locations were collected by Highways free of charge. They were done term time over a week
- b) Highways have improved junction Weaverham Road/ Norley Road-2016. Improved warning signs, road markings, road surface.
- c) CWAC scheme to implement 20 MPH speed limit to be completed 2017/18
- d) CWAC will improve road markings at School Lane/ Weaverham Road junction when current road markings need repainting.

STATUS OF ACTION: Group regards this as complete but invites Parish Council to request members of the sub group to review signage after the completion of the 20 MPH speed limit project. It is felt that better signage would reduce traffic speed but it is acknowledged that additional signage would have to be financed outside CWAC

Traffic Management

1.3.3 Poor condition of roads: Encourage more intensive reporting of pot holes and other surface issues to CWAC. Publicise CWAC's fault reporting system.

Action Taken

- a) A new comprehensive village website was launched in October 2016 giving details of CWAC 'Report It' scheme.
- b) Regular reminders in Round Tower of the 'Report It' scheme.
- c) Group organised a working party in June 2016 to identify potholes and other road condition issues. These were reported under the 'Report It' scheme. All issues reported were resolved satisfactorily. When reported online a reference

is obtained which it is important to quote if after a reasonable time the job has not been done. However, our experience was good.

- d) The public are encouraged to use the “report it” scheme where appropriate.

STATUS OF ACTION: Group regards this as complete

Walking

1.3.4 Pedestrian Crossings: investigate the need for and potential location of additional pedestrian crossings and improvements of existing crossings.

Action Taken

- a) Working Group initiated a survey and identified possible improvements to the crossing at Sandiway School and a new crossing at Cuddington shops.
- b) Highways have agreed a crossing at Cuddington shops at a location which will not reduce or hamper parking. Work not yet started.
- c) Highways have completed improvements to crossing at Sandiway school, new LED poles, brighter beacons, new road markings
- d) It is understood that Cuddington School are now (July 2017) pressing for a new crossing adjacent to the school.

STATUS OF ACTION: Group considers this as complete.

Walking/ Public Transport

1.3.5 Encourage walking to school schemes: work with both Primary Schools to promote suitable projects including walking buses.

1.4.3 Provide transport for before and after school activities.

Action Taken

Both schools are aware of these village plan actions. It is now left to the schools themselves to take actions as they think appropriate.

STATUS OF ACTION: Group regards this as complete

Walking

1.3.6 Footpaths/ Pavements: Develop an action plan for the improvement and maintenance of pavements and footpaths.

1.3.7 Footpaths/ Pavements: Develop a plan to provide safe wheelchair access throughout the village.

2.1.1 Environment: Develop solutions to tackle more winter gritting, surface water drainage.

Action Taken

- a) Group organised a working party in June 2016 to identify amongst other things problems with existing wheelchair access points, hazards on existing pavements and surface water drainage issues. All were reported to CWAC under the ‘Report It’ scheme. All were resolved satisfactorily.
- b) New village website highlights CWAC ‘Report It’ scheme and encourages the public to report problems.
- c) A small group formed to identify pavements to be resurfaced by CWAC 2017/18. Recommended Moss Lane (side with houses alongside) from West Lane to Tricketts Lane, both sides of Tricketts Lane, Mere Lane from Weaverham Road to Ash Road and on other side from Weaverham Road to

Library. This work was subject to a bidding process and was to be financed out of a CWAC budget allocation 2017/18. Around August/ September 2017 CWAC advised us that pavements were not the priority and therefore our request had been rejected. However, there was an offer from CWAC for them to do the worst bits. 2 members of the group are looking at this and will submit a request to CWAC (October 2017)

- d) CWAC will provide grit bins at appropriate locations on request and will top them up when necessary.

STATUS OF ACTION: Group regards this as complete.

1.3.8 Cycling: Improve facilities for cyclists- work with local and national cycling groups to identify what additional facilities (e.g. cycle racks) may be required. Investigate the feasibility of more cycle lanes/ paths and how these may link into wider cycle network.

Action Taken

- a) Local facilities reviewed. Availability of cycle racks appear adequate. Location of them on new village website.
- b) Article and photo in Northwich Guardian end of May 2017 promoting location of cycle racks around village.
- c) More cycle lanes on village roads. Appear unfeasible owing to the narrowness of village roads. Evidence of children cycling on pavements.

STATUS OF ACTION: Group regards this as complete.

1.4.1 Public Transport: Encourage greater use of local buses. Publicise bus routes and services and rectify local gaps in service provision (e.g. Delamere Park, extended timetables)

Action Taken

- a) Bus timetables displayed at bus stops and on new village website. Now updated promptly when timetable changes.
- b) The half hourly service operated by GHA ceased. CWAC were able to persuade Arriva NW to run the 82 service on a commercial basis all be it hourly. After initial teething problems the service settled down. In July 2017 the bus company introduced a timetable which was slightly less frequent than before.
- c) The group decided that it was better to accept the reasonably reliable less frequent service and try and add destinations to the service, Cuddington Station and Delamere Park. Initial meeting with Arriva took place 3rd May 2017. A further meeting took place on 17th October 2017.
- d) At this last meeting Arriva agreed to look at the possibility of including the centre of Cuddington around the station in the route for the 82 service. They have asked the Village Plan/ Parish Council for proposed routes which they would test for suitability. There are no bus stops on any likely additional part of the route but providing the cost is reasonable this could be funded by Village Plan funds previously allocated by the Parish Council.

- e) It is recognised that any proposals should not impact too badly on existing users. Obtaining a solution will be difficult and it may well turn out that the project is not feasible. However, we will not know unless we try.

STATUS OF ACTION: This is important. It will take time. Councillor John Faulkner has undertaken to press for these improvements in his role as Chairman of the Parish Council/ Parish Councillor.

1.4.2 Public Transport: On demand public transport. Publicise existing dial a ride service, investigate feasibility of establishing a volunteer transport scheme where gaps are identified.

Action Taken

- a) Service is provided for people registered for service.
- b) Information put on new village website.
- c) This action linked to Facilities & Community Working Group action around welfare facilities. Meetings have taken place involving many organisations and individuals who provide care for the needy. In view of the extent of voluntary caring spread widely among several organisations and individuals, group is now looking at some form of caring neighbours scheme.
- d) It is considered best to encourage individual volunteers to provide transport to neighbours where there is a need.

STATUS OF ACTION: Group regards this as complete.

1.5 Public Transport: Improvements to the rail service. Liaise with local rail user groups and rail operators to identify what further improvements could be carried out to both the station and to local services.

Action Taken

- a) There is a voluntary group with responsibility of the general upkeep of the station. They appear to be doing an effective job and work with MCRUA
- b) There is also a group MCRUA (Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association) which liaises with CWAC, the rail company and Network Rail to improve the station and the rail service. There is a local representative on this Association. The Parish Council is affiliated.
- c) Recent improvements include train indicators. The new franchisee Arriva/ Trans Pennine Express are currently consulting on improvements to the timetable which includes the Sunday service becoming hourly effective from May 2018.
- d) There is a plan to upgrade rolling stock on this line. The trains will come from SW England but there is a significant delay.

STATUS OF ACTION: The Parish Council are recommended to monitor improvements and continue to liaise with the relevant groups including CWAC Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership Officer.

3.5.3 Improve Street Lighting: Use data from Village Plan to identify areas needing improvement and secure its provision.

Action Taken

- a) Talked to CWAC
- b) They have a rolling LED programme each financial year.

- c) Any new scheme's where street lighting at present is not installed has to be channelled through Local Borough Councillor.

STATUS OF ACTION: Group regards this as complete.

Many thanks to all members of the Working Group who helped over the 2 year period namely John de Souza, Jim Wren, Mike Hall, Cliff Ireland, Steve Miller, Fred Jones, Ben Bright, Carol Challinor, David Grime.

John Faulkner
Chairman
Traffic & Transport Working Group
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