

## HIGHWAYS MEETING: Devon County Council & West Alvington Parish Council

**Present:** Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Adam Keay (DCC Highways), Cllr Steve Lees, Peter Everitt (WATAG)

**Date/Time:** 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 12:00-13:30

**Location:** WA village hall and then surrounding roads / footpaths

- There was a general recap on where the PC and WATAG have got to over the years with progress trying to improve safety on the main road provided.
- Cllr Lees expressed gratitude for the VAS signs but explained we still experience daily issues on the road; speed, aggression, disruption.
- PE explained the various accidents in recent years on the road where speed was obviously a factor, including:
  - Head on collision at the top of the narrows
  - Distracted driver veering into parked cars in the centre of the village.
  - Head on collision near to junction to Home Field
  - T-bone on junction to lower street
- All agreed that there was still a desire to 'improve' where we can but DCC have no budget although RG could make some limited funds available for the early design/survey type works from his Localities Fund.
- Various Opportunities were discussed (in no particular order):
  1. **Gateways to the village** (mock fence, appropriate signage and potential planter) – not entirely ruled out, but AK struggled to see where they could be located safely without causing a potential hazard. The village could produce proposals for consideration but there is no DCC funding available.
  2. **Declassification of A road:** This was potentially not going to happen due to the legal costs of re-designation as there is no budget for it.
  3. **20mph limit:** There is very limited funding for new 20mph zones, to date this has been very oversubscribed with successful applications being made by those areas with the most population/accident/injury statistics. The cost of self-funding is likely prohibitive but can be explored.
  4. **Virtual footpath along South of the Narrows:** No virtual footpaths are supported by DCC highways design any more. This has been totally ruled out.
  5. **Footpath 'buildouts' along South of main street:** RG and AK were generally more positive about this proposition from a pedestrian safety point of view. Would cost circa £30-40k once design/approvals and contractor on board. It was recommended that village produce a schematic of what is proposed (include white line to delineate parking bays between and PC issue to above for further discussion). PE took action to develop the schematics of the proposed footpath widening for the PC consideration and will also investigate a cost for the design with consultant contacts. RG suggested funding could be raised via a one off precept increase for the 2024/25 financial year rather than 'crowdfunding' as this had a less finite timescale. Any loss of parking would need to be provided at the Town Park car park (it has already been identified how this can be improved). All agreed this would help with improving pedestrian safety (often needing to walk in the road) and act as vehicular slowing measures whilst providing more safe places for pedestrians to cross the road.
  6. **Parking within derelict Church Play area:** discussed, but all agreed not the most sensible – would be subject to formal application from the landowner – potential for precedent from Wood lane – similar access. \*Post Meeting note – could be prohibitively expensive if services in the footpath require lowering\*
  7. **Prohibition of HGV's:** Not preferred by Devon County Council.
  8. **Tidying of damaged built assets:** Unless un-safe this was not going to happen from the Highways budget.
  9. **Cycle link from Kingsbridge to Malborough:** AK noted ambition and was generally supportive but this would be a long term plan. WA should support the Sustrans with and link with Primrose Trail potentially. SL noted K5 developer support.

Please note, this is not an all-encompassing overview of the meeting as it was not possible to take full notes while walking around the problem areas, however, it is a reasonable summary.