

MYDDLE, BROUGHTON & HARMER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

**Report of the meeting held at Westfield, Brookside, Myddle on Wednesday
August 22nd. 2018 at 10.00am**

1. Present:

Councillor C. Ruck (Chairman)

Councillor R. Tiernan

Mr. D. Gradwell (Shropshire Council's Road Safety Officer).

Mr. J. Wilson (Parish Clerk)

2. Apologies:

There were no apologies.

3. Minutes from the meeting held on June 14th. 2017.

The minutes from the meeting were presented, considered and approved.

4. Matters arising from that meeting.

(a) Road Safety Project, Myddle School:

Mr. Gradwell confirmed that WSP (previously Mouchel) had completed a preliminary design which encompassed a raised platform and other measures, which would assist in slowing the traffic on the approach to the school. No further consultation had been undertaken following Shropshire Council's decision to reduce the capital funding for this type of expenditure and postpone any projects for at least two years.

The earliest any progress could be expected would be in the financial year 2021 -2022.

At a request from the Chairman, Mr. Gradwell promised to forward to the Council a copy of the initial preliminary design.

(b) Erection of requested new road signs.

Mr. Gradwell reported that Kier, the new County contractors had taken responsibility for ordering the signs that had been requested and would be responsible for erecting them as they caught up with a backlog of unfinished work left by Ringway. The signs included 'Not suitable for HGVs' at the entrances to Brookside, Myddle; Pedestrians' Crossing' on the A528 close to the new development and a 'Junction' warning sign at the entrance to Myddle Hill from the A528.

(c) Lower Road – extension of 30mph limit:

Mr. Gradwell agreed that this should have been carried out when the original road up-grade was undertaken but felt there was little chance of money being provided now for the legislation and work that was needed.

(d) Access to The Hollow, Harmer Hill:

Mr. Gradwell confirmed that as this had been raised with him many times as a Road Safety Concern, it fell into the category of items that had been delayed by two years.

(e) Wem Road, Harmer Hill – Safety and Speed Control

It was noted that the VAS signs had been erected on the Wem Road at the entrance to the village from both directions. These had been funded entirely from the Council's Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy money. Shropshire Council had refused to grant aid the project

from CIL local fund money as it was deemed not to be an infrastructure project. Members were less than happy by this decision.

The Safer Road Partnership had carried out a covert check on traffic speeds along the road and had reported that the majority of the traffic was travelling within the set limit and as such they would not carry out a programme of camera checks. It was pointed out that prosecutions are not undertaken unless the speed exceeds the stated limit +10% +2 – in this case 46mph.

(f) Hollins Lane.

The Chairman reported that this Bridleway was in a poor state of repair with ruts needing to be filled and was now being used by a range of vehicles.

Mr. Gradwell pointed out that was not within his remit and suggested that contact was made with:

- (a) Chris Fisher to see if he could provide some planings when road repairs were carried out in the area and
- (b) Richard Knight (Countryside Maintenance Manager) asking them to carry out some form of construction which would prevent vehicle use but allow pedestrian/horse riding access.

5. Other issues raised and discussed:

(a) Harmer Hill sign in Lower Road.

Councillor Tiernan reported that the local consensus was that the sign was in the wrong location and need to be moved. Mr. Gradwell stated that the Parish Council could take this decision and he would arrange for the work to be carried out but the Parish Council would have to pay for the work.

It was agreed to raise this as an agenda item at the next Council meeting.

(b) Obscured Road Signs.

It was pointed out that a number of warning signs in the Parish were becoming obscured by overgrown vegetation and Mr. Gradwell agreed that these should be identified during the inspection process. He recommended that the Council should report these to Mr. Chris. Fisher (Area Highways Manager) and ask for appropriate action to be taken.

(c) Unsuitable for HGV Signs – The Hollow.

Councillor Tiernan pointed out that the signs at each end of the road were in a very poor state of repair and Mr. Gradwell agreed to look at the possibility of having them replaced with the new improved signs.

(d) Road re-surfacing.

The Chairman reported on the re-surfacing of a local road where no attempt had been made to fill in the potholes which were present before the work took place and queried who was responsible for overseeing the work.

(e) Staffing:

Mr. Gradwell explained that because of resignations and the current policy regarding recruitment, he was now having to cover a much wider area of the County and was virtually the only remaining safety officer.

6. Date of next meeting:

It was agreed to meet at the same location at 10.00am On Wednesday February 5th.