

## REMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

### NOTE OF PARISH FORUM HELD WITH IAN PARKER FROM NCC HIGHWAYS ON WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER AT 1.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

In attendance were two representatives from Nottinghamshire County Council Highways Department, four parish councillors and forty-four residents.

The Chairman, David Walker, welcomed Ian Parker, Technical Services Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council Highways Department and his associate, Kelly Taggart. He explained that the reason for calling the meeting was the many problems concerning traffic and footpaths in the village and the need for clarification for a way forward for all these issues.

#### 1. **Speeding Traffic** **(a) Police responsibilities**

In the past year we have had a lot of support from the Police with speed traps resulting in excess of one thousand fines being imposed within six months on random visits.

#### **(b) Highways support**

Mr Parker confirmed that we are sixth out of twenty on the list for a flashing inter-active sign for the Wymeswold Road on entering the village, like the one in Bradmore though we were second on the list for this financial year. There is to be a formal decision from the cabinet member in December. Highways are constantly being asked to install these signs but the priority list is always changing according to circumstances. He emphasised that the person to contact is Stella Smedley and that the best person to do this on our behalf would be our County Councillor Mrs Lynn Sykes.

When asked if the meeting felt that an inter-active sign would be enough with the suggestion of a "Gateway" system in addition, Mr Parker replied that it would be best to get the sign in place first and then consider any further action to follow but that this action is based on numbers of road accidents around the county and measures are always first taken to reduce road accidents.

The Chairman commented that we were still waiting for the Police to come back to us with information about the Community Speed Watch that we are interested in pursuing and Mr Parker suggested getting in touch with people from other villages for their experiences of this and suggested Woodborough to be one of these. We would need volunteers.

Mr Parker was informed about conflicting speed signs coming into the village from the Ashby Road end and confirmed that NCC are doing a speed limit review as part of a five or six year programme.

There were concerns raised about Wysall Lane and its poor surface and the fact that it was now also becoming used by heavy lorries for the first time. Satnav systems appear to be partly responsible for this. Mr Parker confirmed that each year they have a scheme called surface dressing that they apply to rural roads. The Chairman asked if we could have some idea if Wysall Lane was included in the major review.

The drains are jetted annually.

**2. Ever-increasing volume of HGV's in the Village – traffic census**

The Chairman pointed out that our last census was in 2003 and that we need something up-to-date. Mr Parker said a manual count of lorries was the best way but it was wondered what we would do with this information as the A6006 and the A60 are both part of the Strategic Highway Network. He felt it was not advisable to use the census. Unfortunately weight restrictions are considered but not on 'A' roads. At this point the Chairman spoke about Charnwood's Local Development Plan that proposed the possible downgrading of the A6006 with other developments concerning road changes throughout Leicestershire but that this was not envisaged until the Structure Plan 2006-2026. Mr Parker felt we should talk to our counterpart in Leicestershire and he would find out who it is that Leicestershire are contacting within the Nottinghamshire framework for a way forward on this issue.

**3. HGVs using narrow pavements and endangering pedestrians – White Lion corner and traffic lights southbound.**

The Chairman said they were concerned about lorries mounting the footpaths especially at the crossroads and White Lion corner and Mr Parker felt the only way to make improvements, possibly by means of raised kerbs, was with money in the 2008/9 budget for Major Maintenance works. The Chairman asked for something in writing to show what the County Council could possibly do. It was wondered if there was anything we could do to influence the Highways criteria but Mr Parker confirmed that all Highways policies are dealt with internally.

**4. A6006 Road Surface**

The road was worn and patchy with sunken ironworks and Mr Parker confirmed that they had sanctioned works to be included in the five year plan.

**5. Footpaths A60**

The Chairman confirmed the bad state of these footpaths and said that money had been applied for through the County Councillor's Electoral Divisions Initiative scheme for the past two years. He wondered how the County Council coped with their responsibilities and said we had even missed out on tidying up this year. Mr Parker suggested applying for funds through Building Better Communities (BBC)) as a way forward. It was felt that work goes on elsewhere but nothing gets done in Rempstone because the money and resources run out before reaching the southernmost tip of the county.

**6. Possible downgrading of the A6006 status**

The Chairman said we would continue to work with the Charnwood Council on this issue to find out more.

## 7. Any Other Items

The following issues were raised throughout the meeting to which Mr Parker offered a personal response undertaking to meet with the Chairman to view these problems on a date to be fixed the following week.

- (a) Ian Phillips – concerned about the corner of the bend near the Taylor's house to allow access to the public footpath as there is no room to get round the corner.
- (b) Pat Oldroyd – raised the question of a possible notice for a 'concealed access' to get to her own and Reg Beeby's properties up the Wymeswold Road. Correspondence had already taken place with Highways concerning an alteration to the access but no mention had been made previously of a notice. Mrs Walker, Clerk, copied the correspondence for Mr Parker.
- (c) Joan Shacklock – could not get her wheelchair round the traffic lights post in the road at the corner near the crossroads on both sides in order to go to church and had trouble negotiating the corner generally.
- (d) Gloria Kenney – was concerned with the height of the hedge up School Lane next to the footpath. Assurances had been given by NCC that this hedge would never be allowed to gain height as use of the footpath would be frightening particularly in dark evenings. Mr John Buxton is responsible for hedges in our area.
- (e) Mr & Mrs C Saville, 4 Main Street, were currently having correspondence with NCC (Mr Dan O'Neill) concerning visibility splays out of their property on to the A6006 with a badly positioned Leicestershire sign but matters were not progressing forward.
- (f) Abbie Harlock, school girl, raised the question of her hair-raising journey each morning down the Wymeswold Road and through the village. Mr Parker undertook to walk this route with her to experience her difficulties and fears with the traffic on a date to be arranged.

J M Walker, Clerk  
07 November 2007