

**Report of the Rights of Way, Highways and Lighting Committee meeting held on
Tuesday 16th February 2010 at 10 Riverside at 7.30pm**

1. Apologies:

None, all present.

Present:

Ms S Bennell, Mr K Coe, Mr M Ellison-Taylor, Mr d Gray, Mrs J Lelliott, Mr J Lucas, Mr R Parlone (Chair) and Mrs C Youngs

In Attendance:

Mrs E Coe (Town Clerk)

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Rights of Way

Monthly Sunday Walks

March 28 th – Richard Parlone	
June 27 th -	September 26 th -

To note any footpath problems reported:

None.

Walk Cards:

It was noted that the licence application had been sent. The Town Clerk was requested to chase a response. Mr Parlone was working on the graphics and information for each walk and once completed would send to Mr Lucas. A formal letter had been sent to CCLr Colin Hart requesting funding.

4. Highways

Radarlux Speed sign; response from Luke Barber, (Suffolk County Council) regarding moving the deployment forward in Framlingham, advising that they are currently exploring the possibility of this kind of arrangement in Mid Suffolk at the moment, and it's possible that they could expand on this pilot area. Unfortunately due to the health and safety issues with working in the highway (including the verge) the costs for engaging either SCC staff or contractors to move the signs about is proving a problem at the moment.

Once they get to the bottom of the issues, they will be able consider covering the same service to other areas, such as Framlingham.

Data from Radarlux sign – emailed to members in advance of the meeting.

The data and email was considered and it was agreed that nothing further could be done at this point.

Potential new sites for additional grit bins and designated grit spreaders:

The Town Clerk had received one response from the article on the website. It was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting as an article would also appear in the March edition of Framfare.

Litter bins:

Revised costs from Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd for emptying 15 bins around town centre on Saturdays from April - September - £845. Following some discussion it was agreed to pass this matter to the PR&Markets Committee for consideration as it would come under the same budget heading as Extra Street Cleaning Services.

The Crown Hotel:

The email received from David Fawcett (Suffolk County Council) was read. It was noted that Mr Fawcett had met with Mr Corke who was representing The Crown Hotel and had emphasised that the primary function of the highway is to allow people to pass and repass. Other uses by implications are secondary to this and deliberate obstruction is an offence under the Highways Act 1980. Mr Fawcett advised that provided a free unobstructed width of 1800-2000 millimetres on a regular alignment was maintained a licence might be granted subject to the consultation process. A licence has now been formally applied for and the consultation documents are being drafted. There may be a slight complication regarding the bench and flower tubs.

There was some discussion on this matter and it was agreed that the Town Council were keen to have a suitable compromise promoting businesses in the town, but also allow pedestrians pass and repass without hindrance.

The members felt very strongly that this matter should be resolved satisfactorily for all concerned before the warmer weather and complaints start to be made again. It was felt that it is unacceptable that this issue has been going on for so long (July 2009). The Crown Hotel does not have a licence at present and therefore Suffolk County Council should proceed with enforcement action if the highway is not kept clear. The Town Clerk was requested to respond.

It was also noted that additional sign boards are appearing on the highway causing obstructions. It was agreed to log all complaints and report to Suffolk County Council any problems occurring.

Priority Arrows for Station Road/Woodbridge Road –

An email had been received from David Stiff at Suffolk County Council in response to the Town Clerk's request for an update on progress and timescale:

Mr Stiff advised that in preparing designs for improvements there are a number of procedures they must follow. These include an environmental assessment and a safety audit/check. In schemes of this size the environmental assessment is a check on records to ensure there are no wild animals or important plants present.

The safety audit/check is an independent review of the design by a team of experienced safety engineers who check to see if they would be introducing hazards into the highway. Once they have the environmental information they will finalise the design and then pass for a safety audit/check.

There are some concerns about the nature of the site. Firstly the bends could make visibility to signs and stopped vehicles difficult. There may be a need to cut down some vegetation which can only be done outside the bird nesting season.

Secondly as there are street lights in the area they will have to provide illumination to some of the signs which can be expensive, taking the scheme over the budget available, but Mr Stiff is hopeful that they can use the existing supply to the lamp columns rather than run a new electrical service to the area.

Mr Stiff will be in contact once a detailed scheme has been agreed.

The members were once again concerned over the time-scale of this matter, which was first raised by the Town Council on 30th July 2009. If delays continue over the end of the financial year, there was concern that the funds for this project from CClr Hart's Locality Budget may not be available. The Town Clerk was requested to respond.

5. 5/10 Year Plan - Workshop Actions:

Develop proposal on Market Hill one way system for consultation – workshop action

Develop proposal for weight limits on lorries for consultation – workshop action

Plan of Market Hill and proposals for APM to be agreed at the next workshop

Review status of lighting policy changes from Suffolk County Council – agenda item for next meeting

Review grit bin location, stocks and promotion of gritting arrangements – agenda item for next meeting

Make householders aware of policy / advice on path clearance – agenda item for future meeting – ongoing investigations being carried out by the Town Clerk.

6. Correspondence

31. Flagship Housing

Response to the request for the possibility of use of the land at The Elms for a bus lay-by, to ease the congestion on Bridge Street, advising that all of the tenants have been consulted and followed up with an individual questionnaire. The response was a definite no with a variety of reasons and Suffolk Heritage Housing Association backs the tenants wholeheartedly on this issue. Noted and filed with 5/10 year Plan documents for information.

12. Suffolk County Council

Notice of temporary road closure for part of the B1116 College Road between Pembroke Road and the B1119 Mount Pleasant to enable EDF Energy works from 24th February to 18th April. Noted.

7. Lighting

It was agreed to review the situation in Victoria Mill Road identified by a resident for new lights. Ms Bennell agreed to carry out a site visit and report back to the next meeting.

8. Matters of report or items for next agenda

Mr Gray reported that some residents in Pembroke Road had suggested it become a one way street. Mr Gray had advised residents to consult with their neighbours and come up with suggestions, which could then be considered.

A12 sign in Fore Street – It had been agreed at the last meeting to consider this under the next Traffic Regulation Order Review

Re-painting of lines in Station Road – Should be done within 8 weeks, funding permitted. Town Clerk to pursue.

Mr Ellison-Taylor reported that the bridge at the bottom of New Street had been damaged. The Town Clerk to report to Suffolk County Council highways.

Ms Bennell wondered how long the Police car theft signs erected in the car parks in the town will be on display as she felt that they are obtrusive and ugly and add to the clutter in the town, they are positioned so high that most people have not even noticed them and those who have, can't read them. The Town Clerk to investigate and report back to the next meeting.

9. Next meeting: Tuesday 16th March at 7.30pm