**Minutes of the Aylsham Town Council Traffic Group Meeting held on Wednesday 30th June 2021**

**Present**

Trevor Bennett Richard Preston

Clare Alban Andy Christie

Richard Laxen Eileen Springall

Pat Prekopp Arthur Rope

Joan Bennett Nicholas Haag

David Disney Val Shaw

Ellie Baker Paul Baker

Sue Lake

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from:

Lynda Hartley Rebecca Davis

David Faulkner Richard Anderson-Dungar

Ginny Sylvester Mary Evans

The chairman introduced David Disney from Broadland & South Norfolk Councils who is a Senior Economic Development Officer who was attending the meeting to see where it is possible for the town and district to work together.

**2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2021 were **AGREED**

**3 Declarations of Interest**

None

**4. Use of Consultants**

The clerk had contacted both consultants and they had both expressed an interest in the task.

One had been employed by Broadland and had worked with the Town Council. The other had worked with other Town Councils. The clerk suggested contacting the towns for further information and this was agreed.

It was agreed that before going down the interview route we need to ensure there is a detailed brief for consultants to be engaged against.

ACTION: Sue Lake to contact towns who had worked with the consultants

ACTION: All to send their ideas for a brief to give to consultants and a document will be created from the ideas received

**5. To note the effect that highway works and/or changes has on adjoining roads**

The recent closure of Penfold Street gave some ideas as to where traffic goes if an obstruction to the usual flow occurs. It was anticipated that most traffic would go along Cawston Road and Mill Road and then Palmers Lane. However, this did not appear to be happening. The main problem area identified was Petersons Lane which suffered from a lot of additional traffic of all sizes. This was not the designated diversion so would appear to be local traffic who know the area. It was also noted that the traffic on Millgate appeared lighter during the closure period which indicated that through traffic was the issue.

**6. To consider data collection**

**a) To discuss an approach**

Richard Preston had put together a suggested approach which would not just be a simple count but a method of both counting and tracking the journeys of vehicles. He explained this in more detail and this method could provide a real pattern of traffic movements i.e. where they are coming from, where they are going and where do they go in-between.

b**) To ascertain if there are sufficient volunteers**

The plan would require 40 plus people to operate and many local organisations and general public would be willing to help.

c**) To consider dates/times**

It was agreed that a Monday in term time would make the most sense and provide the most information, looking at early morning and also later in the afternoon. These times will catch school traffic and work traffic. The date agreed was Monday September 20th.

**7. To receive a report on initial discussions with Sanders Transport and National Trust**

Clare Alban had arranged meetings with both Sanders and the National Trust to discuss the Traffic Groups aims and to ascertain their requirements. The documents will be sent out

She had talked with Heather Jermy and had sent her details of the group, details of the GNLP how they relate to Aylsham. Heather is keen to forge close links with the council. Clare asked if the Trust had any views and/or policies on the land they own in the town and also any views on the new developments. Full answers are in the documents to be circulated. Basically, they are in favour of anything that assists the traffic issues, keen to forge close relationships with the town and offer resources but have no money.

The same will be discussed with Sanders and they have also offered to do a tour on a bus to show the issues they have. The meeting had to be postponed but will be rearranged as soon as possible. Various members volunteered to go on the bus as well. It was suggested a video and pictures should be taken to hand to the consultant.

The large number of volunteers at Blickling who may also help with the data collection.

It was also suggested contacting the officer at Norfolk County Council who is responsible for the buses who could give the view from the County Council perspective. The officer is Daniel Yellop.

**8. To update the work planner**

This item was deferred.

**9. To note the upcoming discussion on the GNLP by Broadland Cabinet**

The clerk had listened to the recording of the GNLP Board meeting which lasted less than one hour and all the recommendations were all adopted with little comment. Individual sites were not discussed nor all the comments made by residents referenced. The proposal will now go to cabinet followed by council again to approve. Questions for cabinet need to be received by 5pm on July 1st.

It was queried whether now was the correct time to push against the decision for a second site. It was felt that it could only help the case for the plan to be revised if the case is put at every opportunity prior to the plan going to the inspectorate, including possibly a public meeting to gauge the actual response to the stance from the public.

It was clarified that it was not development as such that was being challenged but the fact that due process had not occurred giving less opportunity to ensure that the infrastructure is put in place.

**10. To note date of next meeting**

It was noted that an item on detailing the differing issues experienced by road users was deferred from the last meeting and has not come up again. It was felt that the data collection will only account for vehicles but not pedestrians or cyclists. This will be placed early on the next agenda

Wednesday July 28th 2021