

MID DEVON HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDERS COMMITTEE

9 July 2021

Present:-

Councillors J Cairney, L Cruwys, J Berry, R Chesterton, F Letch MBE,
R Radford, C Slade and M Squires

Apologies:-

Councillors E Brookes-Hocking

* **1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillor Radford and Councillor Berry be elected Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the ensuing year.

* **2 Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 be signed as a correct record.

* **3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

* **4 Members Training / Briefing**

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste outlining the workings of Highways and Traffic Orders Committees (HATOCs) including powers and responsibilities under the Constitution, Terms of Reference and the Scheme of Delegation. Presentation attached to these minutes.

The designated local Neighbourhood Highways Officers were a good point of contact for Members on all highway matters and issues or concerns should also be reported via the County Council's website: [Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport)

Members discussed pathway maintenance and the role of the Council's Highways team in addressing, for instance, overgrown footpaths.

* **5 A396 Bickleigh Bridge**

The Committee considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/21/42) regarding the proposed actions to be taken following recent incidents involving Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) at Bickleigh Bridge.

It was explained to Members that in May 2021 an HGV travelling southwards onto Bickleigh Bridge mounted the nearby double-height kerb and, in the process of reversing, damaged the southern parapet of the bridge. The road was closed for several weeks for repairs.

The bridge repair history costs for Bickleigh Bridge had been valued at £133,440 between 2005 and August 2020. Additionally, a Traffic Interview Survey was undertaken in 2009 which recommended that no further action be taken in respect of signing a diversion to A361/M5 for large vehicles. However, owing to recent incidents it had been necessary to revisit the issues surrounding Bickleigh Bridge.

In their discussion, Members outlined several potential solutions aimed at preventing future incidents on Bickleigh Bridge. A number of these focused on encouraging large vehicles to take a wider berth in their approach to the bridge, such as;

- that some land be taken from the nearby Trout Inn to facilitate the realignment of the road on the southbound approach to Bickleigh Bridge;
- that the double-height kerb be extended outwards;
- that bollards or some other obstacle be introduced where there are currently white diagonal stripes; and
- that the existing signage be reviewed and, where necessary, new signage introduced to clearly advise drivers of large vehicles of the necessary actions to safely cross Bickleigh Bridge.

Members also suggested that the implementation of traffic signals be considered to alleviate issues regarding vehicles meeting each other on the bridge. Officers advised that the damage to Bickleigh Bridge was not due to this reason, and that the implementation of traffic signals had been previously considered but was not progressed as this would cause long delays on the approaches the bridge.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Chesterton, **SECONDED** by Councillor Squires and

RESOLVED that a review of signing and lining be undertaken, a Traffic Survey be carried out, and an update and any recommended changes (which would take into consideration the suggestions by Members as discussed at this HATOC meeting) are brought to a future meeting of this committee.

* **6 Petitions/Parking Policy Reviews**

There was no current petition for a parking review from a member of the public relating to Mid Devon.

NOTES:

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*
2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

* **DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 11.34 am