

# Sizewell C/Wickham Market Parish Council

## Traffic & Transport Meeting

26 April 2021

*Steve Merry, Suffolk County Council (Chair)*

*Richard Bull, EDF*

*Stephen Henry, EDF*

*Tom McGarry, EDF*

*George Buxton, WSP*

*Nick Cottman, WSP*

*Stacy Dowding, WSP*

*James Longkwang, WSP*

*Chris Arscott, LDA Design*

*Carolyn Barnes, East Suffolk Council*

*Cllr David Chenery, Wickham Market Parish Council*

*Cllr Ivor French, Wickham Market Parish Council*

*Cllr Dick Jenkinson, Wickham Market Parish Council*

*Jo Peters, Wickham Market Parish Council*

*Cllr Sonya Exton, WMPC & Sizewell Working Group*

*Arthur Stansfield, WMPC & Sizewell Working Group*

*Richard Cooper, Marlesford PC*

### **I. Those Present and Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Klaus Fortmann, Fiona Judge, Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Cllr Carol Poulter, Annette Robinson and Cllr Anne Westover.

### **II. Matters Arising from Meeting 22 March 2021**

Steve Merry would provide a response regarding objections to the gateway design during the meeting. He had also shared some indicative designs. WSP had reviewed the location of the suggested village gateway on Border Cot Lane, and it had circulated the buildout change drawings to Wickham Market Parish Council (WMPC).

Steve Merry, Richard Bull and Richard Cooper had yet to meet to discuss Marlesford and Little Glemham. However, it was now included in the s106 funded scheme. Richard Cooper requested visibility of the updated designs.

Richard Bull had yet to circulate the updated modelling at Fiveways roundabout. Nick Cottman had circulated the signage strategy slide deck, and Steve Merry had included the traffic monitoring proposal as an agenda item (agenda item 6).

The actions pertaining to WMPC providing a response to the proposed buildout signage and WMPC reflecting on consultation were superseded by the responses from the extraordinary meeting.

### **III. Feedback from Wickham Market Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting**

#### *a. Road Safety Audits*

Steve Merry confirmed that as part of the design process four road safety audits would take place (preliminary design audit, detailed design audit, an audit after construction and an audit 18 months after construction). Cllr Sonya Exton suggested that the preliminary design audit take place before consultation. Cllr David Cherney stated that it was important for WMPC to believe that the proposals could be delivered.

#### *b. Vehicle Speeds*

Steve Merry explained that the plan was to implement some resistance within the road network in order to reduce vehicle speeds. Cllr Dick Jenkinson stated that the buildouts would result not only in increased vehicle speeds but also a loss of parking, with the latter likely to be deemed unacceptable. The buildouts appeared to be adding further means of congestion. Within the village there were no areas where traffic was travelling faster than the speed limit. Steve Merry said the intention of the design had been to strike a balance between parking and movement. He understood that there would be a small loss of parking.

#### *c. Buildouts*

Cllr Sonya Exton stated that there was a concern that the buildouts would result in static slaloms. Steve Merry understood that the parking would be constant during the 24 hours. Arthur Stansfield disagreed. Cllr Dick Jenkinson noted that it was difficult to locate a parking space between 18.00 and 08.00 on a weekday. Steve Merry stated that the buildouts had been chosen as a means of helping pedestrians cross the road.

Cllr Sonya Exton explained that it had been expressed that there were too many uncontrolled crossings. Steve Merry responded that uncontrolled crossings would tend to be used where pedestrian demand was low and where there was space for pedestrians to cross. The aim had been to seek a balance between providing pedestrians with a safe option to cross whilst not restricting the traffic flow.

Chris Arscott referred to the buildout to the east of Spring Lane. As this featured within a long zone of on-street parking it had been identified as an area where a break could be inserted, allowing for pedestrians to cross the road. The buildout would provide a buffer, providing pedestrians with space to move out and ascertain whether it was safe to cross. If there were no parked cars during the day, it appeared there would be more of a need for the buildouts in order to help slow the flow of traffic.

Cllr Dick Jenkinson stated that there had been increased vehicle parking along Spring Lane, Yew Tree Rise, George Lane and Crown Lane during the past few months. Steve Merry said there had been an attempt to seek a balance between parking, traffic speeds, the flow of the traffic through the village, and pedestrian safety. He also understood that an attempt had been made to maximise the parking. Cllr Dick Jenkinson stated that there were now two to three cars parked overnight between 99 and 115 High Street.

Arthur Stansfield stated that interspersed cars parked outside houses created more space for vehicles to pull in and allow cars to travel in the opposite direction. There was a chance that the gaps would reduce parking and would not be of great benefit.

Steve Merry asked WMPC if it felt the design provided a suitable balance. Arthur Stansfield felt it required tweaking in some areas. Steve Merry did not believe that wholesale changes could be implemented. Cllr Dick Jenkinson suggested that the width of the buildouts be narrowed. He also proposed the removal of any buildouts where parked cars would help slow the flow of traffic, which

in turn would help maximise parking. Steve Merry did not believe that gaps between parked cars could be used as safe crossing points for pedestrians.

Steve Merry suggested that WMPC provide a formal response on its proposed changes. Tom McGarry stated that as WMPC had held a meeting in public, where it had circulated the design plans, it had commenced a public consultation. Consultation would be improved upon by way of comments WMPC received from its residents. Not all WMPC members would agree on everything, but some proposals would need to be put forward to the public. The Examining Authority expected a signed and dated s106 by 6 October, and it was in WMPC's best interests to guarantee that some of its required changes were funded and included within the s106. If WMPC continued to resist the proposals, EDF would instruct WSP to review and update the proposals, and it was likely that WMPC would run out of time to approve the proposals. WMPC had to decide upon how it wanted to consult.

Cllr Ivor French said the purpose of the extraordinary meeting had been for the working group to inform parish councillors of the latest development. Though the public had also been in attendance the meeting had not reflected a consultation.

Steve Merry suggested one final review, focusing only on fixing the design and addressing serious matters, before a design would be taken forward to consultation.

Richard Bull felt that the scheme was close to being fit for purpose for being taken forward to consultation. Steve Merry asked WMPC if it was happy to follow this process. Sonya Exton voiced her support for the proposal. Cllr Dick Jenkinson felt that it was reasonable for WMPC to communicate its proposed changes to the current proposals before being taken forward to public consultation. However, it was unlikely that all parish councillors would support this.

David Cherney felt that WMPC had to press on. There were conflicting priorities, and not all conflicts would be resolved. It had to be noted that not all proposals had been totally endorsed by the councillors.

Steve Merry highlighted buildout concerns pertaining to the extremities of the village. He would respond to these within the next two weeks.

Carolyn Barnes explained that the Examining Authority had posed a question to WMPC, East Suffolk Council, the Applicant and Suffolk County Council regarding the 20mph speed limit through the residential area. She suggested that all parties provide a harmonised response.

Arthur Stansfield advised that they not make the buildouts less safe for cyclists.

*d. Cycle Safety and Provision*

Richard Cooper asked for an update regarding the cycle path from Wickham Market to the park and ride. Richard Bull responded that EDF was happy to discuss this proposal and ascertain if it could be included in the s106 fund.

Cllr Dick Jenkinson did not support the decision to have a cycle lane from Rackham's Bridge to the park and ride, as cyclists traveling through the village would be faced with many obstacles. He was unsure if this was a high priority.

*e. Location Specific Points*

This item was not covered.

#### **IV. Consultation: Review of Matters to be Resolved Prior to Consultation**

Tom McGarry stated that during consultation EDF and WMPC should explain that it endeavoured to reach a consensus on the consultation paper. Any parish councillors with doubts should be able to express these.

#### **V. Update on Adjacent Community Issues**

*a. B1078 Campsea Ashe, Pettistree, Hacheston*

There was no update.

*b. Marlesford, Little Glemham*

Steve Merry, Richard Cooper and Richard Bull intended to meet to discuss Marlesford and Little Glemham.

#### **VI. Traffic Monitoring/Management Plans**

Cllr Dick Jenkinson stated that WMPC would respond to the signage proposals and village mitigation drawings by 7 May.

Steve Merry explained that there would be construction transport management and workers' travel plans. Management of both plans during the construction phase would be overseen by a transport review group. Richard Bull added that the transport review group would formally monitor vehicle movement during the project. The transport review group would comprise of individuals from Sizewell C and the local authorities.

#### **VII. Agreed Actions**

The agreed actions were as follows:

- Steve Merry/WSP to discuss whether the preliminary design audit should take place before consultation;
- WMPC to comment on the village mitigation drawings by 7 May;
- WMPC to comment on the consultation paper and signage strategy by 7 May;
- Steve Merry to comment on the drawings, buildouts and cycle lanes by 7 May.

Actions carried forward from the previous meeting:

- Steve Merry, Richard Bull and Richard Cooper to discuss Marlesford and Little Glemham;
- Richard Bull to circulate the updated modelling at Fiveways roundabout.

#### **VIII. AOB**

Richard Bull explained that the Examining Authority had asked EDF to liaise with WMPC to agree upon a suitable location for an additional representation viewpoint. Richard Cooper suggested that EDF liaise with Cllr Anne Westover.

#### **IX. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 24 May 2021.

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