

Traffic and Parking Issues in Whitchurch on Thames
Second Informal Consultation Opportunity
Online on Zoom, 7.00 pm on Thursday 3rd September 2020

Link

The link for those wishing to attend the meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83862006823>

Agenda

- Welcome - Jim Donahue, Chairman of the Parish Council
- Introduction of TAPAG members - Will Barclay
- Overview of TAPAG proposal – Mode Consultant

There will then be an opportunity to raise questions about concerns as well as offer support for the plan. A log will be kept of all those attending the session. All participants will be given the opportunity to indicate whether they wish to support or object to the initiative, providing reasons for their position. The Chairman will ensure all participants are given an opportunity to register their support or raise questions. Discussion on each question will be limited to 5 minutes following the guidelines below:

- Questions submitted ahead of time will be given priority. These should be submitted to TAPAG no later than 31 August by email to willbarclay348@hotmail.com
- After the tabled questions there will be an opportunity to raise further questions.

The meeting is scheduled to end at 10.00 pm unless all business is concluded beforehand.

Summary of current situation

As almost everyone is aware the overriding issue in the village over many years has been traffic and parking with resolution of the congestion, especially in the High Street, during rush hours being high on everyone's wish list. This has been confirmed in two village plans by over 80% of respondents in the past 10+ years

The Parish Council tasked its Advisory Group, TAPAG, to find an equitable solution bearing in mind there is a need for some residents without parking to have somewhere to park. A traffic consultant was engaged to help navigate through the technical and legislative hurdles that needed to be overcome.

A plan was drawn up to reduce pinch points at both narrows, create orderly parking in marked bays whilst allowing traffic to flow as easily as our road network allows during peak congestion times reducing pollution from idling cars and trucks. The plan was discussed with OCC Highways Officers to ensure the village did not waste money submitting a formal request on an unrealistic plan with no chance of getting approval. The plan allows for 24 marked large car spaces in the High Street separated by narrow double yellow lines. This is more than adequate for the number of residents currently parking there. **An Information Pack has been prepared to give details of the proposal along with answers to previous questions that have been raised.**

Taking account of some input from the first informal consultation in February the Parish Council also plan to submit a request for the double yellow lines to extend from the Toll Bridge to the Ferryboat. The submission will also include double yellow lines in Manor Road in certain stretches between the High Street and the Playground. Concerns have been raised by residents as increased parking is making it difficult for them when entering and exiting the estate. In addition, refuse vehicles and Thames Water waste vehicles have not been able to turn into the road without having to mount the pavements. Again, some provision will be made for orderly parking for residents. Drawings have yet to be commissioned for these extensions.

The proposed action in Manor Road will also relieve pressure on the protected Yew trees which have suffered root stress from cars wearing away the verge. A lot of effort in temporary solutions using logs has already been put in by residents led by the Green Team and some Parish Councillors.

There is also a goal is to have "Residents Only" parking in place as soon as the legislative transfer has been made between OCC and SODC. This is likely to take some form of limited exclusion for non-residents in order to stop all day or all week parking as has been the case in the recent past. The legislative changes may not happen simultaneously with the proposed traffic scheme.

Future phases in the plan will attempt to secure a 20mph speed limit in the village and to address eroding verges on the High Street and Manor Road.

The informal public consultation held in February gave villagers the opportunity to look at diagrams of traffic flow and discuss the plans with members of TAPAG. A surprisingly large number of residents attended and support for the scheme mirrored the same levels as the village plan outcomes. However, some villagers did not or were not able to attend this session and some have raised objections following the meeting. Before moving to formal consultation the Parish Council has decided to give residents another opportunity to discuss any concerns or show their support.

To accommodate the current safe distancing rules the Parish Council has set up a Zoom meeting for 7.00 pm on 3rd September.

TAPAG

Traffic and Parking Advisory Group to Whitchurch Parish Council

19th August 2020