

High Lane Residents Association

MEETING NOTES

HLRA Meeting 7th September 2017 8:00 pm

High Lane Library

Prospective High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum

HLVNF's application has been debated at various committees and put forward for final approval at the Full Council Meeting on 14th September 2017. A copy of the latest HLVNF Committee Meeting Minutes is attached for more information. There will be more information about the Forum's work to see at our AGM on 18th October.

Stockport Local Plan

Final reminder that the consultation on SMBC's intention to produce a Local Plan (which will manage development and land use in the borough up to the year 2035) closes on 8th October 2017. Please take the opportunity to have your say – this is closely linked to High Lane's own prospective Neighbourhood Plan and GMSF/proposal for 4,000 houses. There is a drop-in event at Hazel Grove Civic Hall on Monday 25th September 2017, 6:00pm – 8:30pm if you want to know more.

You can respond online at www.stockport.gov.uk/localplan.

Councillors

We keep an ongoing action list of the matters raised with our Councillors at our meetings. A copy of the latest progress report is attached this month for your information but will otherwise be available on the website in future. Wherever possible, issues should be raised in the first instance on the Report It service provided on the Council website www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/report-it but can of course be escalated to our Councillors at our meetings.

Highways – Guest Speaker: Sue Stevenson, SMBC's Head of Highways and Transportation

Sue Stevenson kindly attended our meeting to give us a presentation on the current progress of A6MARR and to answer questions raised by residents. The following points were covered.

- *SEMMMS Strategy Refresh*: the SEMMMS consultation for Transport Issues and Options up to 2040 is currently open and runs until 8 October 2017 alongside the Local Plan consultation. The purpose is to seek feedback on key transport issues in the borough, views on the potential options being put forward and invite any other options that respondents wish to propose. Residents are encouraged to have their say on the issues affecting High Lane (including traffic levels on the A6, air quality, public transport links and the impact of any proposed future development) and can do this at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/get-involved-slp/transport-issues-and-options>
- *A6MARR forecast opening date*: it was explained that the contractual completion date for the new road was and still is Spring 2018; the Contractors had been working to a target date of Autumn 2017 but cannot now achieve this, due to a number of issues that were illustrated in Sue's presentation. It was pointed out that there had been suggestions of a later completion date from people working on the site but residents were advised to contact SEMMMS direct (email: semmms.relief.road@stockport.gov.uk) for information if they had questions about the work.

- *Traffic levels on the A6 through High Lane:* there was discussion concerning the current condition and the expected change in traffic volumes post-opening of A6MARR. Modelling suggests that volumes of through-traffic will inevitably increase when the road opens but that the increased level may fall slightly once the Poynton Relief Road is open. The effectiveness of the ‘mitigation measures’ can only be assessed when the monitoring is carried out after the road opens. The practical capacity of the A6 is a matter that residents should raise in responding to the SEMMMS Refresh consultation above. Please do not leave it to others to respond; every voice needs to be heard. Angie Sequeira reminded the meeting of the following statement made by the Dept of Transport in 1988 (i.e. almost 30 years ago) and could be mentioned when replying to the consultation: ***“Much of the A6 between Hazel Grove and Whaley Bridge has properties directly fronting the road. It carries large volumes of through traffic, nearly a fifth of which are heavy lorries. The road is subject to predominantly 30/40 mph speed limits and does not comply with modern design standards. By the mid-1990’s traffic on the A6 will exceed the practical capacity of the road, creating a severe environmental impact on the local communities and causing delay and frustration to motorists”***
- *High Lane/Disley Bypass:* this remains a long-term aspiration, linked to the above point. Again, residents can comment on this by responding to the SEMMMS Refresh referred to above.
- *Air quality monitoring:* a series of questions had been raised concerning the pre-development air quality monitoring report for A6MARR, including in relation to the chosen methodology, accreditation of the consultant and why readings had only been taken for nitrogen dioxide and not for other potential carcinogens given the risks now known in relation to PM2.5 molecules. Sue explained the background including how decisions had been made as part of the original planning and public enquiry process. It was explained that, whilst the world is now better-informed as to the detrimental impact of potential pollutants since the scope of the monitoring was decided several years ago, it would not be appropriate to change the scoping criteria now because the results could not be related to the benchmark readings already taken and there is no national standard set in relation to PM2.5 as yet in any event. Other strategic factors in relation to transport such as the phasing out of diesel vehicles and potential switching of haulage from road to rail (a particular current concern for High Lane due to the volume of through-traffic from the quarries, which should be mentioned in response to the SEMMMS consultation) will also be relevant in the longer term.
- *Resurfacing of the A6 through High Lane:* this a long-term programme expected to be completed over one year, currently expected to commence with the stretch of road between Brookside Lane and the Spar for approximately 3 weeks in October 2017 and involving temporary traffic controls. The new surfacing material will be the same as that recently laid between Brookside Lane and Carr Brow, i.e. a ‘quieter’ surface than at present.
- *Provision for cyclists on A6:* cyclists appear to currently favour using the new stretch of A6 rather than the designated route on the old A6. This has created safety concerns. It was acknowledged that the new (or temporary) signage is confusing and should be improved. The intention is that cyclists should use the old A6 as a safe/protected route, from which they can access the A6MARR cycleway when the road opens. The question of a potential shared pedestrian/cycle path on the existing A6 is under discussion and understood to be an agenda item for the November Area Committee Meeting.
- *A6MARR Environmental Assessment:* The original planning documents for the scheme are still accessible on the SEMMMS website, including the Environmental Assessment which includes part of the area within the proposed boundary of the High Lane Neighbourhood Plan Area, and could be of use to HLVNF

- *A34 roadworks in connection with A6MARR*: an explanation of the long-ongoing roadworks to widen the A34 (e.g. around Stanley Green) was given including reasons for the delays due to compulsory purchase, impact of Poynton Relief Road, utilities delays and late changes to accommodate access to a proposed new pub.
- *Overgrown hedges impeding safe use of footpaths*: this has become an annual problem on the A6. Whilst technically this is the private landowners' responsibility, the council can intervene after serving a 14-day notice if the problem is not dealt with. Residents need to notify the Council's Contact Centre of the exact location. There are Contact Forms on the 'Contact Us' section of the www.stockport.gov.uk website.
- *Access to Middlewood Way from Buxton Road*: there is currently no practical way to directly access Middlewood Way from the A6 with bikes or pushchairs, etc. because the gate is too narrow and there is no improvement proposed in current plans. It was agreed the Council would look at this.
- *New 20mph zones on residential roads*: there have been a number of complaints about the ineffectiveness of the new 20mph zone signage scheme, particularly in the Meadway / South Meadway / Andrew Lane area, where it is consistently ignored by drivers. Sue was asked to take back the request by Alan James that a Council Officer attends site to physically review the signage with Alan.
- *Fees/costs associated with the A6MARR mitigation measures in High Lane*: following requests for disclosure of the actual/forecast outturn costs for design and construction of the mitigation measures in High Lane, we have now been provided with a breakdown which totals £1,909,323.

HLRA expresses its thanks to Sue and her colleague Emma for giving up their own time to attend our meeting, for making the informative presentation on A6MARR and for addressing the questions raised. Thanks also to those residents who offered questions in advance and engaged in the debate on the night.

Around the Village

- *Community Defibrillator*:
We are pleased to confirm that the Dr Margaret Barber Community Defibrillator is now installed outside the Medical Centre.
- *High Lane Park*:
We have negotiated with Greenspace to replace the surfacing on the embankment slide with new artificial grass.

Next Meeting: Thursday 5th October 2017, 8:00pm at High Lane Library

AGM: Wednesday 18th October 2017, 7:30pm at High Lane Village Hall