

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting held at: The Reading Rooms 32 The Circle and virtually (via Teams) on Thursday 1 st December 2022 at 6.00pm

Present:		
	Cllr P Exell	(Chair)
	Cllr J Yeowell	(V Chair)
	Cllr M Beale	
	Cllr D Patey	
	Cllr K Small	(Non-Committee)
	Cllr M Lucas	(Non-Committee)

Officers:	Andrew Reeves	Clerk
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Also Present:	Inspector Carly Nesbitt, Wiltshire Constabulary (Virtually).
Public Present:	None

EP559	<u>Apologies</u>
	None Received

Declarations Of Interest:

None

Public Questions:

No questions received.

EP560	Road Safety
	Inspector Nesbitt updated Councilors on the circumstances around the tragic RTC. which occurred at Akers Way in November. Whilst Insp Nesbitt advised the specifics of the investigation cannot be discussed, it was reiterated that road design may not have been a factor in this incident; but the local community may expect some road improvements to be considered. Cllr Small confirmed he was a Councillor when the RTC occurred in 1991 and the experience that expectation from the Community will be that road changes should be considered.

	Cllr P Exell reiterated the point that whilst Highways are the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council, the Parish Council have a duty to pass on community concerns and where possible, support Swindon Borough Council across the Parish with any road safety measures. Although not exclusively; this could include supporting speed limit reductions against national speed limit criterion, meetings with SBC Ward members, whether the Parish Council can help by participating/supporting in local road safety schemes. Insp Nesbitt confirmed that Community Speed Watch is being undertaken across the Parish, including along Akers Way. Cllr J Yeowell raised concerns over speeding on Great Western Way. Insp Nesbitt confirmed GWW is a regular area of concern and speed patrols are taking place as regularly as practicable for a small Neighbourhood team. The Clerk feedback resident views on traffic volumes; raising the point of how Akers Way and Cheney Manor Road are being used as the main North/South route for those in the Northern Development to access the town centre. These roads often struggle to cope with the traffic volume & HGV traffic. The Clerk suggested some of these concerns could be as a result of the 'missing link' from Thamesdown Drive where the road narrows and becomes congested along to Mead Way. The Clerk suggested whether consideration could be given to asking SBC to reinvestigate applying for feasibility funding to extend the ring road to GWW from Thamesdown Drive; reducing reliance on Akers Way & Cheney Manor Industrial Estate as a route of choice. Cllr Beale felt Akers Way wasn't that busy a road, generally other Councilors felt that Akers Way was busier during key times of the day such as rush hour, weekends and school opening/closing. Cllr P Exell raised the issue on Akers Way of drivers running amber lights at the junction of the school. Cllr Yeowell asked whether bespoke lights could be installed without amber intermediary; but traffic light designs are prescribed by the Department for Transport. The Clerk reminded Councilors of the proposed School Safety Zone (SSZ) and presented Councilors with the draft proposals including the erection of a flashing amber base post to the North side of the carriageway. Cllr Patey felt the removal of speed cameras led to an increase of speeding in Swindon. Cllr Patey asked Insp Nesbitt whether red light cameras could be installed in Swindon. Insp Nesbitt advised the current Police & Crime commissioner is supportive of greater speed management; but any permanent installations would need support from SBC to provide the administration.
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	Cllr P Exell summarised the discussion to key Parish wide action points. Resolved: 1. The Clerk to write to Susie Kemp (SBC) enquiring whether the Thamesdown Drive 'missing link' remains a priority on the town wide Highways strategic plan. 2. The Clerk to contact SBC Highways to ask if the SSZ installation can be expedited for Akers Way as a priority action. 3. The Chair of Environment & Planning to contact SBC Ward Councilors to support points one & two. 4. The Clerk to also include in the letter to Susie Kemp whether Red Light/Speed Camera installations could be added in Swindon. 5. The Community & Youth Officer to provide an update on what Road Safety messages he could do supporting schools and additional youth work based around road safety measures.
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Meeting Closed:	18:39
Chair of Committee:	Cllr Paul Exell
Date:	01/12/2022

Signed.....

Date.....22.2.23

Chair of Environment & Planning