

Cropwell Bishop Parish Council – Minutes of Meeting

2nd June 2020

7.00pm – Virtual Meeting via Zoom A Recording Is Available on the Website

(The meeting started at 7.04pm and finished at 8.49pm)

Present: Cllrs. W. Allison, M. Beazley, C. Bryan, J. Gelsthorpe, J. Greenwood, J. Lacey, P. Storer, J. Wroughton & A. Wilson (Chairman)

In Attendance: Mrs J. Towndrow (Clerk), Cllr. G. Moore R.B.C. Cllr. Clarke N.C.C. & 3 local residents

Apologies Approved

50. Cllr. Wilson (Chairman) will be arriving to the meeting late and asked the Vice Chair Cllr. Gelsthorpe to chair the meeting.

Declarations of Interest & Confirmation of Agenda

51. DOI – Non Received
The Agenda was confirmed
52. Standing Orders were suspended at 7.06pm to allow the order of business to be amended to enable attendees to speak to the meeting.

Parishioners' Question Time & Policing Report

*There were no parishioners' questions.
There were no Crime Figures available.*

53. Standing Orders reinstated at 7.07pm.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

54. It Was:
RESOLVED: "That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2020 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman".
55. Cllr. Wilson joined the meeting at 7.08.

Progress

56. **M.12 – 5/5/20 – Village Defibrillator – Telephone Kiosk**
The Clerk has chased the progress with Chris Keast from the Scouts who sent the following statement:
"Unfortunately due to the current emergency with Covid-19 we are unable to action this matter at the current time. Key members of our Executive Committee who don't live locally are shielding, as am I, which means we can't raise a cheque to purchase the equipment. The financial standing orders under which Scout Groups are required to operate, part of the POR which are set at a National level, require all cheques to be signed by both counter signatories to the account. Similarly our Standing Orders, POR, also preclude the use online banking to make electronic transfers because this would only require one authorised person to make such a transfer.

We will move to action the purchase of the defibrillator once we permitted to return to normal. We would also wish our young people to have the opportunity to be present at the opening to witness how the money we have collectively raised has been spent. This is very important in helping our young people understand the responsibilities they have to the community where they live. Unfortunately all Scouting activity has been suspended at National level until at least September which would preclude us being able to do this, however be assured that we will action the purchase and installation as soon as is reasonably practicable."

57. **M.34 – 5/5/20 – COVID-19 Complaint Issues**
ii) & iii) Both the car parks were re-opened when the government announced you were free to travel to other areas to exercise.
Threatening Phone Call – The police have tried on numerous occasions to contact the person who made the threatening call. The phone was a pay as you go mobile and the calls remained unanswered. The person will be aware a complaint has been issued to the police but no further action can be taken.

58. M.43 – 5/5/20 – Councillors Reports – Scarecrow Competition

The Clerk spoke to Gary Jowett and thanked him for the gesture and explained the difficulties we would face running a competition like this during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gary Jowett said he would like to leave the offer on the table and run it when lockdown is over. He wished to give something back to the village for supporting his business during this time.

Planning Matters & Applications

- 59. RBC Grant Permission: 20/00781/FUL** – New single storey rear extension – 86 Hoe View Road, Cropwell Bishop, NG12 3DF
NOTED

- 60. RBC Refuse Permission: 20/00791/FUL** – Erection of single storey garage (resubmission) – Dovecote House, 28 Fern Road, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3BU
Comments: It does not seem to make sense why the permission was given for 3 Houses on the same road in the green belt but 1 single storey garage would be refused. Cllr. Clarke advised that the green belt is designed to prevent urban sprawl between Nottingham and Derby.
Action: Cllr. Moore said he would email A. Pegram regarding this issue and when we have that response the Clerk is to write to ask for an explanation.

- 61. RBC Grant Permission: 20/00793/FUL** – Demolition of garage, two storey side and rear extensions – 30 Cooper Close, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DL
NOTED

- 62. RBC Grant Permission: 20/00881/FUL** – Erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and garage conversion to a studio, cladding to exterior – 10 Newberry Close, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DY
NOTED

- 63. RBC New Application: 20/00969/FUL** – Two storey side extension – 47 Hoe View Road, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DE.

It Was:

RESOLVED: “No Objection”

This decisions was taken by e-mail due to COVID-19 pandemic and the time constraints of the application.

- 64. RBC New Application: 20/00781/FUL** – New single storey rear extension – 86 Hoe View Road, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DF

It Was:

RESOLVED: “No Objection”

This decisions was taken by e-mail due to COVID-19 pandemic and the time constraints of the application.

- 65. RBC New Application: 20/00900/PAC** – Partial Change of Use Retail (A1) to Restaurant/Café (A3) - Co Op Late Shop Church Street Cropwell Bishop Nottinghamshire NG12 3DB

The Clerk spoke to the planning department for an update on the issues raised by the Parish Council. So far the agent has confirmed the use is for a Coffee Shop so no mechanical extraction will be required. The planning officer advised that Highways had some concerns regarding the number of parking spaces available due to the offices will be taking up some spaces on a regular basis.

Action: Clerk to write to the planning officer to make the Parish Councils observations re the parking restrictions and problems on street parking may cause.

Finance

- 66. a) Financial Statement up to 31st May 2020**

It Was:

RESOLVED: “To approve the financial statement.”

- 67. b) Payments made May 31st 2020 and awaiting June 2020**

It Was:

RESOLVED: “To approve all payments as reproduced on payments document 156.”

Correspondence for Action

68. There were no items for discussion.

COVID-19

69. **a) The Old School**

The Clerk had written a report to all councillors advising of safety measures taken to date. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

Cllr. Wroughton advised of a few measures needed to be taken at the Old School that had not been included in the Clerk report.

- i) Internal Door Wedges – ensure there is enough as all internal doors need to be wedged open to avoid Transference on door handles
- ii) Bins must all be pedal bins to ensure contact free disposal of tissues and waste.
- iii) Areas around office etc. need to be taped off.

Cllr. Bryan said we would perhaps have to consider a one way system if the Old School re-opens.

Cllr. Gelsthorpe suggested we look at a potential contactless payment system at the old school for when events re-start as volunteers will not wish to be handling lots of cash.

Cllr. Greenwood asked what the approximate cost of new equipment and products had been so far, the Clerk advised in the region of £400 but further expenditure for bins and posters would be required.

Village Ranger Inspections

70. **a) Report on Works**

The Ranger/Lengthsman is continuing to work hard in keeping our open spaces looking clean, cut and tidy until normal services resume with N.C.C. and R.B.C. for the grass cutting. The Ranger has also been working on bringing the Jubilee Gardens back up to its best. Some of the roses have died and needed replacement.

Cllr. Gelsthorpe wished to thank the 3 ladies organised by Sue Ward for purchasing and planting up the Jubilee Gardens and the Church trough. They looked great. The Clerk advised they had also set up a watering rota to keep it all growing well.

71. **b) Outstanding Service Award**

The Clerk spoke to Ray Kimpton about doing a small celebration for the award ceremony but he respectfully declined. He would rather just receive the award with a few of the Councillors present and have a photograph taken for the newsletter and website.

Transport

72. **a) Restoring the Bus Service In Rushcliffe After the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Cllr. Greenwood has written a report to try to get Chris Ward and his colleagues thinking along the right lines for Public Transport in Rushcliffe going forward.

Cllr. Bryan reported that the CT4N Service (33) is running with no funding and is empty 99% of the time at the moment. It was suggested that maybe they pick up more passengers in Cotgrave. Cllr. Greenwood commented he was worried about the lack of use and its sustainability going forward.

Cllr. Clarke advised we needed to ensure the usage and demand for the service was considered on the numbers prior to COVID-19 not what they had been in recent months. Cllr. Clarke advised he felt the cultural normal going forward will be changed and will not revert to the previous normal.

It Was:

RESOLVED: "Cllr. Greenwood to circulate his report to Chris Ward, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. John Cottey and Gordon Wheeler."

Highways & Footpaths Defects/Issues

73. **a) Request for Funding for New Cycle Path – Dairy to A46**

Cllr. Bryan said Cllr. Greenwoods report was very useful with the pictures.

Cllr. Clarke advised that it would be best if we managed our expectations. The 1 round of funding is £575 thousand and the second round is £2.3 million. The main purpose of the fund was not for the Parish Council type of scheme. The Scheme was for quick win cosmetic schemes and the schemes had to be in place and ready to go by the 5th June. Cllr Clarke thought the estimated cost for a full scheme, with kerbs, between the dairy and the A46 would be in the region of £300 thousand.

Cllr. Clarke advised that Ruth Edwards could put forward a request for funding for the scheme being proposed as a standalone scheme for future budget consideration.

Cllr. Bryan advised we should also consider requesting funding from the new proposed development as part of the S.106/CIL.

A Copy of the report is attached to the minutes

It Was:

RESOLVED: "Cllr. Greenwood would send his report in to Ruth Edwards MP and copy in to Cllr. Neil Clarke"

74. b) Footpath Entrance to Co-op Car Park

Laura Trusler had written to the Clerk to advise their Principal Advisor reported that there are no defects that meet N.C.C. criteria for repair action at this location. The inspector will continue to ensure the area remains safe through the completion of repairs when the intervention levels are met. Highways understand the concerns of the Parish Council in this location and the concerns can only be addressed through a scheme to upgrade the footway entrance. They have therefore added the site to a list of locations for inclusion in a future year's resurfacing scheme.

Cllr. Bryan advised the pavement was sinking as it was not designed for the amount of traffic utilising it. It is also a concern that cars do not stop at the edge of the Co-op car park but at the edge of the pavement which is dangerous for footpath users.

It Was:

RESOLVED: "Cllr. Clarke will put it forward to Laura Trusler that the area is included in the scheme being considered for Nottingham Road/Church Street. Cllr. Clarke would request Laura Trussler write to the Co-op to request they put White Stop lines in place. Cllr. Storer knows a contact at the Co-op and will also approach him regarding this issue."

75. c) Blocked Drains – Nottingham Road and Fern Road

A letter had been put through the community box regarding blocked drains on Nottingham Road and Fern Road. These had been reported on numerous occasions by the Ranger/Lengthsman. The clerk reported them directly to Laura Trussler and they have now been attended to and cleared.

76. d) Footpath at the Rear of Hoe View Road – Request for Remainder of Pathway to be Stoned

This footpath is on Russell Price land and not the responsibility of the Parish Council. However, the Parish Council understands the concerns with this path as in the winter it is a mud bath, slippery and dangerous and in the summer when dried and hard it's rickety and dangerous.

Action: Cllr. Clarke advised he was meeting Russell Price to discuss other issues and would speak to him regarding our concerns and possible stoning of the remainder of the permissive footpath.

77. Cllr. Bryan raised concerns regarding the size of the rubble pile to the left of the permission footpath entrance on Cropwell Butler Road. It is getting high and a possible safety issue.

It Was:

RESOVLED: "Clerk to write to Russell Price to request the pile be reduced and dispersed."

78. Cllr. Lacey advised the Parish Council that the bench on Cropwell Butler Road is unsafe and in need of repair. The Clerk advised that the bench belonged to Cropwell Butler Parish Council.

It Was:

RESOLVED: "The Clerk would write to Cropwell Butler Parish Clerk to advise of the problems with the bench and ask them to consider the repairs".

79. Cllr. Greenwood reported he has requested a repair to a rocking gulley on Nottingham Road on the N.C.C. report a fault website.

80. Cllr. Bryan reported the house to the left of the canal towpath has been dumping garden waste and cuttings and other rubbish at the side of the canal.

It Was:

RESOLVED: "Cllr. Bryan would supply the clerk with some photographs and the Clerk would then write to the property owners to ask them to cease this action."

81. Cllr. Bryan reported that the stiles he reported as damages had been inspected and put forward for repair.

The Environment

82. Cllr. Clarke advised that all the waste tips in Nottingham are now open. There is queueing system in place for the Abbey Road site on the Arena car park. You wait in the arena car park and cars are released 4 or 5 at a time to the site from there.
83. Cllr. Clarke advised that negotiations were underway for a new tip site serving the South of Rushcliffe.

Councillors Reports

84. Cllr. Clarke advised that marked police cars had been patrolling the A46 and car were reported travelling in excess of 90mph. Unmarked cars will be patrolling the area going forward.
85. Cllr. Beazley reported that the Memorial Hall Field had been used as a meeting place by groups on more than one occasion. Large bags of rubbish had been left by the Memorial Hall doors and not taken away. There have been reports of up to 10 youths inside the Mugga Area and groups of 5 or 6 using the other equipment. The Clerk advised that the Mugga area is padlocked off so they are climbing over the top and there is full signage out to say the equipment must not be used due to COVID-19.
86. Cllr. Storer raised the issue of the Fire at Langar in recent weeks. It was a concern the smoke was so black and at first suspected to be asbestos. Cllr. Moore contacted all local councils quickly to advice of the threat and to close windows and doors. It turned out not to be asbestos but paper and chemicals. A fire investigation unit has been on site.
87. Cllr. Moore advised the village Conservations area is moving along and is now just awaiting approval at full Council. Pam Wregg advised there will be a need for a public consultation and that perhaps the Old School could be used to facilitate this one COVID-19 is no longer a threat.

Correspondence for Information

88. There is no folder for circulation during the COVID-19 Pandemic this type of information is being e-mailed.

Date of Next Meeting

89. Tuesday 7th July at 7.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.49pm

Chairman's Signature.....



Date.....7.7.2020

COVID 19 – The Old School – Clerk Report for Meeting on 2/6/20

The Clerk has provided the Ranger/Lengthsman and the Caretaker/Cleaner a bum bag with the following inside:-

Face Masks
Hand Sanitiser
Sanitiser Wipes
Disposable Gloves

A risk assessment is in the process of being completed for both employees but they have been advised the following:-

If working in an area where they may come into contact with the public put on face mask and gloves.

Clean hands with Sanitiser when coming into contact with any equipment that is not for their sole use. I.e. when in the play areas.

When and if they come into the Old School to use the facilities Sanitise hands before entry into the building and wash hands thoroughly prior to exit.

There is antibacterial spray by the door to spray the handles with after entry into the building.

The Old School Building – Preparation for when we re-open.

A risk assessment is being put together for the use of the building for hirers to follow. Each group will be told to carry out their own risk assessment to issue to its members but they will have to adhere to the building risk assessment also.

The Clerk has purchased automatic hand sanitiser dispensers and automatic hand soap dispensers to be installed around the building (these will not arrive till early July as demand is being issued to the Medical Services and Schools as a priority).

Large quantities of Alcohol Hand Sanitizer and Alcohol Hand Soap has been purchased to fill the machines.

Antibacterial Wipes and Sprays have also been purchased in readiness.

The clerk has asked the caretaker to do a full inventory of the cleaning materials used to ensure they are of a standard to kill the bacteria should it be on the floors or toilets and surfaces etc.



Janice Towndrow Parish Clerk

From: John Greenwood <cllr.john.greenwood@gmail.com>
Sent: 03 June 2020 10:36
To: Jan Towndrow; Councillor Neil Clarke; ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk
Cc: Colin Bryan; Judith Gelsthorpe
Subject: Footway/cycleway Dairy to A46
Attachments: A low cost footpath out of Cropwell Bishop -update to original note.docx

Dear Jan, Neil and Ruth

Further to the request for more information I have attached the original request for the footway/cycleway with updated comments and picture since the first section was completed in 2015.

At the Parish Council meeting last night, Cllr Neil Clarke was not optimistic that the new funding would be sufficient to construct the required section (Dairy to A46) to the same standard as the existing section. He thought the Council would be reluctant to construct a 'low cost' pathway as suggested in my note.

In the circumstances, until a more permanent solution is constructed, perhaps the available emergency funding can be used to mow a temporary footway in the existing grass verge with a gravel/pipe infill where the footway crosses drainage grips from the road to the ditch.

At least this would provide a much needed safer walking route out of Cropwell Bishop towards Cotgrave.

Kind Regards

John Greenwood
Cropwell Bishop Parish Council

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Telephone Mrs Janice Towndrow - 0115 989 4656

Original request (Jan 2013) (Footway Section canal to New Creamery was completed 2015)

REQUEST FOR A LOW COST FOOTPATH/CYCLEWAY FROM CROPWELL BISHOP TO THE A46.

The Health and Safety Problem

The main route out of Cropwell Bishop is towards Nottingham on the Nottingham Road (see plan, Figure 1). This road has an acceptable pedestrian pavement as far as the first crossing of the Grantham canal but there is no pavement or cycleway beyond that point. Pedestrians and cyclists are therefore forced to use the Nottingham Road which has fast traffic (no speed limit) and has poor forward visibility due to a severe dip in the road just North of the Cropwell Bishop Creamery. This dip is particularly dangerous for cyclists.

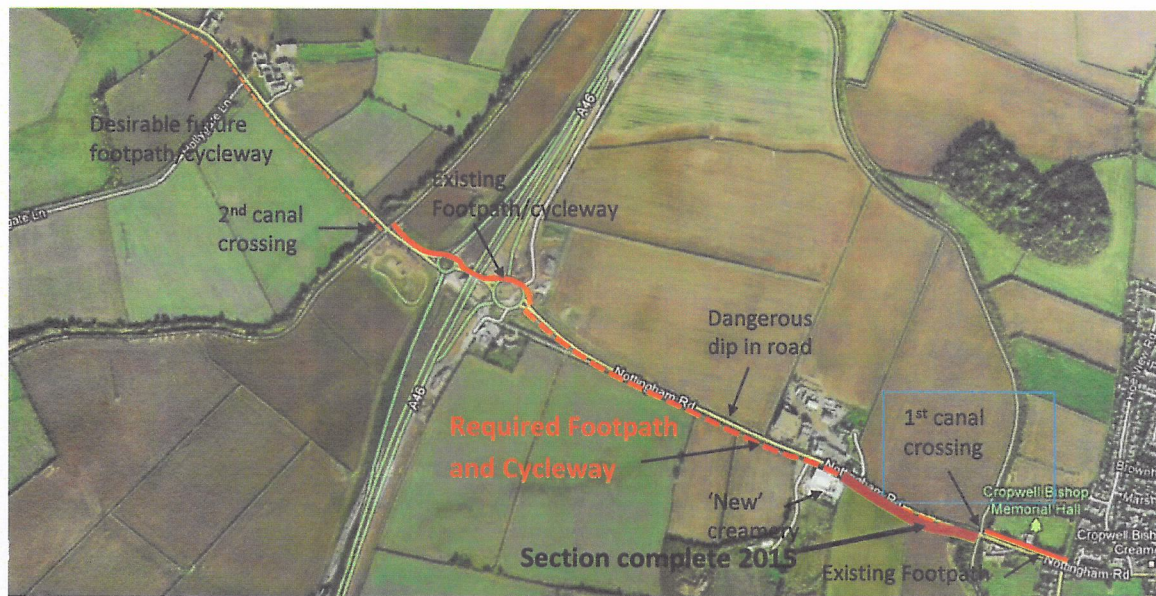


Figure 1 The section of Nottingham Road, Cropwell Bishop where footpath/cycleway is required.

A young person was unfortunately killed walking on this stretch of road just before Christmas 2006.

The Cropwell Bishop Parish Plan (2009) recognised the high priority of constructing a pavement/cycleway so that residents of Cropwell and visitors to the attractive Vale of Belvoir might safely walk or ride from the village towards Cotgrave and Nottingham.

The Parish Council have put in requests to the County for a footpath/cycleway to be constructed initially from the first canal crossing to the new Creamery Building, then on to cross the A46 and along the Stragglethorpe road to the second crossing of the Grantham canal. The Footpath/cycleway would eventually run alongside the Stragglethorpe Road to the Stragglethorpe camp site where it would join the existing roadside foot and cycleway from Cotgrave to the A52 and Nottingham.

The new A46 junction at Stragglethorpe (completed Spring 2012) involved construction of two roundabouts. Whilst not providing an easy crossing of the A46, the new underbridge and roundabouts do at least have pedestrian walkways which will permit safe access to the second crossing of the Grantham canal.

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The priority for healthy and safe walking and cycling out of Cropwell Bishop village has to be the footpath/cycleway link along Nottingham road to the A46. The County recognise the desirability of such a safe pedestrian and cycle route but apparently the costs are perceived as being rather too high in the present tight economic climate.

Proposals for a low cost unpaved trackway

The County costs are based on a fully paved cycleway requiring reconstruction and installation of kerbs along the southern edge of Nottingham Road. It is suggested that an unpaved track would be adequate and could be constructed at much reduced cost. An example section of the suggested unpaved track is shown in the Figure 2 . The photograph, Figure 3 shows the existing road

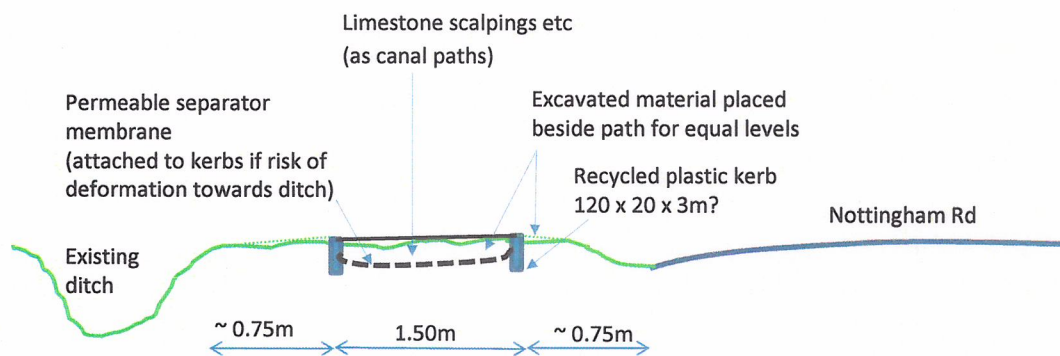


Figure 2 Suggested unpaved cycle and pedestrian track, Nottingham Road, Cropwell Bishop.



Figure 3 Section for initial construction of Track, Nottingham Road. View towards new creamery.

(See Fig 3A below showing same section after construction of the Footpath/cycleway in 2015)

SL

The suggested pathway/cycleway would have the following benefits:

- Track would preserve the rural nature of Nottingham Road (no need for kerbs)
- Verge between track and highway would give a safer environment for pedestrian and cyclist users.
- Drainage grips could easily be channelled under the new track (coarse aggregate around a carrier pipe)
- As most of the construction is 'off road' there will be less need for traffic management measures on Nottingham Road/Stragglethorpe Road except during material deliveries.
- The method of construction would permit easy removal and re- use of materials if desired to upgrade the walkway/cycleway at a future date.
- The project can be constructed by relatively unskilled labour, usefully employing a small team at this time when youth employment is much needed.
- Edge needs to be defined to protect against weed growth (see canal path intrusion)



Example of a similar (but paved) track on Kinoulton Road. (only 0.75m wide)



Example of unpaved track beside canal (by Nottingham Rd). Some weed control needed.

Cropwell Bishop Parish Council would be pleased to discuss this low cost proposal with the County Highways team.

Note prepared by Cllr John Greenwood,
January 2013.

Reference for recycled plastic wood kerbing

<http://www.kedel.co.uk/recycled-plastic-lumber-timber-wood/recycled-plastic-wood-120mm-x-20mm-x-3m.html>

Update note – June 2020 :

Following this request (2013), the section canal to new Creamery (Dairy) on top of the hill was constructed as a fully paved Cycle way/footpath with kerbs (approx. 2015). – see Fig 3A below

Despite repeated request to the County, the section from the New Creamery (Dairy) to A46 has not yet been constructed.

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Fig 3A – Picture taken May 2020 of the section of footpath/cycleway constructed 2015

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Janice Towndrow Parish Clerk

From: John Greenwood <cllr.john.greenwood@gmail.com>
Sent: 03 June 2020 14:35
To: Chris Ward; ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk
Cc: lillian.greenwood.mp@parliament.uk; Councillor Neil Clarke; Gordon Moore; cllr.kathrine.cutts@nottsc.gov.uk; Councillor John Cottee; Jeff Counsell; Peter Nathwani; Ian Combella; Barry.Allitt@ct4nottingham.co.uk; Jan Towndrow; Colin Bryan
Subject: Restoring Bus services after Corvid 19
Attachments: Govmnt response to health of the bus market report Oct 2019.docx; Outline core and feeder network for East Rushcliffe Area.docx

To Chris Ward, Manager Transport and Travel Services, Notts CC.

Dear Chris

(Sent also to Ruth Edwards to help ensure necessary Government action taken to empower Local Authorities to act as discussed below)

Cc Lillian Greenwood, Neil Clarke, Gordon Moore, Kay Cutts, John Cottee, Jeff Counsell (Trent Barton), Peter Nathwani (Vectare), Ian Combella (CT4N)

Restoring Bus services in Rushcliffe - Thoughts for Discussion.

The Coronavirus crisis has affected us all deeply, and after a couple of months of lockdown there has been opportunity to think about how we can help our bus services to recover.

It is going to be a slow and gradual process for individuals to regain their confidence to travel on public transport. Only by providing the right 'safe' bus services going where people want to go at times they wish to travel will they be tempted away from the security of their cars.

Private operators, like Trent Barton, will have been severely financially hit by the crisis but no doubt public funds have been and will be pumped their way to help maintain and restore their bus routes. Local Authorities, like Nottinghamshire County Council, must now take a leading role in re-establishing the right bus services for our communities.

The Select committee inquiry into the health of the local bus market sensibly recommended (22 May 2019) that Local Authorities should take control of their bus services by franchising or partnering arrangements where appropriate. The Government did not fully accept this recommendation (18 October 2019 – see attached extracts) and has left the door open for the likes of Trent Barton to continue to profit from the popular routes such as Bingham, Radcliffe and Cotgrave, whilst ignoring the important linking feeder services to the smaller villages in Rushcliffe. This was a mistake and it is hoped the Government, now motivated by the Crisis, will accept that for the good of the Nation, Local Authorities must take control of all local bus services

As noted in the Bus Market Inquiry and Government response, local Authorities are in a position to take on this responsibility and I would like our MP, Ruth Edwards to make sure this can happen without delay (regardless of whether or not we have a Mayor!)

We do not want to return to the situation where Trent Barton can adjust the services on their key 'popular' routes to maximise their profit leaving the County, with limited funds, to provide just basic services for the smaller communities.



Professor David Banister of Oxford University notes in an article on 'Inequality in Transport' (Transportation Professional, April 2020) that of the £32.5Bn UK public expenditure on transport in 2018/19, 55% was on rail transport (mainly used by the better off) and only 8% on buses (mainly used by the poorer). It is a nonsense for the Government to assign over £86Bn to HS2 (which will mainly benefit the 'richer' members of our society) rather than improve the existing rail network and investing much more in local bus services for the benefit of all.

I would ideally like to see a Partnering/Franchise agreement whereby Trent Barton (or other commercial competitor) is required to operate certain rural feeder services in return for the right to run as sole operator on the key routes. Excess profits from the well used core routes would help fund the rural routes which can only operate with some support.

Feeder services should run at times when they are needed (including evenings) linking sensibly with the core services and there must be consistent through ticketing on all routes.

Our Life style is likely to be rather different from now. Shopping in town was on the decline even before the crisis and with more working from home, bus journeys into town are unlikely to return to the numbers we knew. On the other hand, journeys to the satellite towns of Bingham, Radcliffe, Cotgrave and West Bridgford seem to be on the increase for shopping, leisure and social activities etc. Hopefully our city centre will be able to retain its vibrancy particularly for evening cinema, theatre, restaurants, clubs etc with adequate bus services to get us there and back!

As a starting point I have attached an updated outline of how I would envisage an integrated bus network working for the Cotgrave, Radcliffe and Bingham areas of Rushcliffe to include efficient, appropriate services for the smaller villages.

Under a franchise agreement, the successful contractor would provide the routes and services outlined (please see attached). Separate contractors might be invited for the Bingham sector and the Cotgrave sector. It would be expected that Trent Barton would offer a competitive tender but then companies such as CT4N operating as a non-profit making charity may be more competitive. The successful operator might include smaller companies such as Vectare, CT4N and Nottsbus as subcontractors.

A preferred approach, which builds on the current goodwill and enthusiasm of the current operators, would be a Partnering agreement. Trent Barton, as holder of the 'lucrative' core services, must be prepared to take some responsibility and where appropriate, financial support, for the feeder routes. Companies will need to be more open about their operating costs, revenue and profit margins. The network must have integrated connecting timetables and through ticketing. I think the move towards only accepting a cashless card or phone payment system is very close.

Local bus services are vitally important for our transport to work, school, shopping and social activities. As confidence in our bus services is gradually restored, there is potential to improve our environment by reducing dependency on the private car. Decisions on the provision of Local bus transport cannot be left in the hands of the private sector.

I have copied this discussion note to the bus companies involved for any views or comments they may have on how we best rebuild our local bus services for the good of the community.

I look forward to hearing your views and proposals as to how we move forward to restore an efficient, attractive bus service for our area of Rushcliffe.

Yours sincerely



Cllr John Greenwood

10 Nottingham Rd

NG12 3BQ

Tel 0115 989 9798

Cropwell Bishop Parish Council

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