

Char Valley Parish Council Transport Working Party Report June 2021

Report for June 2021 to include notes from TWP Meeting held on Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 17:30hrs on-line.

Matters for consideration by CVPC:

TWP would like CVPC representatives to raise the issue of a meeting with our local MP concerning the A35 urgently with BLAP.

TWP would like to request a meeting with Dorset Highways to discuss issues raised by Whitchurch residents concerning local roads, road usage, and signage.

TWP would like to request more information from Dorset Council on the proposed active travel links between Chideock and Bridport.

A35: It was suggested that CVPC ask BLAP to push for meeting with our MP Chris Loder to discuss issues concerning the A35 as Chris Loder has not re-instated the A35 meeting group nor contacted local parish councils about our concerns. There is much to discuss urgently, including the A35 severance studies, the speed limits, the proposed Highways England review of trunk road, etc.

Local Roads: Feedback from the local annual parish meeting for Whitchurch North concerned local speed limits, local size limits, and signs asking drivers to drive carefully. It was suggested that CVPC request a meeting with Dorset Highways to discuss these points.

We discussed the Active Travel routes and possibly linking our parishes with the proposed active travel routes from Chideock to Bridport but need more information. It was noted that the National cycle route does pass through Whitchurch and, although very hilly, does provide a link to Bridport and Lyme Regis.

Additional notes for June 2021

A35: We contacted Highways England for an update on progress with the A35 Severance study and Safety study of the Fulven Bends on the westerly approach top Morcombelake. These seem to have been subsumed into the A35 Charmouth to Yellowham Hill Scheme, and we were asked to submit comments by 21st June. The proposed comments were generated by the CVPC TWP, circulated to CVPC for comment, and submitted to Highways England by our Clerk.

Buses: The proposed WATAG Public Transport survey has been delayed but should go ahead in July. However, WATAG has been contacted by Dorset Council transport consultants to say that WATAG will be asked to contribute to the discussions around the Bus Back Better requirements. The deadline is to develop a high-level Bus Service Improvement Plan and to agree and publish it by 31 October 2021 BUT Dorset must commit to this by 30th June or lose access to HMG's £3billion Bus funding. As of today, 16th June, WATAG has not received any further communications and CVPC has not been contacted at all (neither has Beaminster nor Chideock PCs apparently).

Councillor Chris Noon

16/06/2021