

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Transport Sub Committee

14th October 2011

The KEPC Transport Sub Committee submits its report and recommendations for consideration by the KEPC at its meeting on 19th October 2011

The OCC Local Transport Plan

1 The Local Transport Plan was adopted on 5th April 2011 by OCC

1.1 The chapter on rural areas highlights the issues for transport in rural areas

- high levels of traffic on unsuitable roads, causing negative environmental impact
- Support of speed reductions on single carriageway rural roads 60 – 50 and introduction of 20mph in settlements
- poor provision for pedestrians
- Introduction of the post of Area Steward
- Improve provision for walking and cycling
- Improved bus and public transport provision

1.2 We have looked again at the LTP and thought about the issues that transport cause in the village. **The principal issues appear to us to be**

Villages used as rat runs

- School with 200 children and preschool with traffic and parking issues 5 days a week, most of whom travel to school by car, causing those walking to be in danger of intense traffic
- Sat Nav changing where cars/lorries are directed into the parish, causing large vehicles to use unsuitable roads

We would like to consider the following:

1.3.1 Speed Limits

- The area between Tokers Green, Kidmore End, Chalkhouse Green to be re designated as all 30mph
- The village of Kidmore End to become 20mph limit
- The area steward to be invited to a meeting in the New Year to discuss the transport issues as they affect the parish.

1.3.2 Our argument for these changes would be:

- Current road structure is not fit for purpose for parents and children, pedestrians and cyclists.
- The lanes used for school transport are small compared to the size of today's vehicle and the volume of traffic is high
- The Government's health priority is to reduce obesity: this is aimed at all society but in particular at children in wanting to encourage walking and activities such as cycling both to school and outside of school hours. The traffic situation in the

- parish is not supporting this priority
- There should not be a need to wait for a fatality or serious accident before there is a change to speed limits

1.3.3 We do not expect this to be accepted overnight. Any further progress would probably involve launching a campaign and aiming to get the support of John Howell, MP, County and District Councillors as well as the area steward. We would also seek to work in co-operation with other SODC councils who may want to follow this approach to reducing speed limits in the area.

1.4 Winter Road Safety Issues

1.4.1 There is no gritting on most of the parish roads, leading to loss of school days and to parishioners without 4 wheel drive being unable to get to work. There are new proposals by OCC to deliver salt/grit in one tonne bags for the winter and for KEPC to be responsible for storage and distribution within the Parish

- **Proposals:**
We would advise getting quotes from local farms for clearing roads of snow within the villages that are not gritted by OCC and establish whether there is a possibility of buying this service for the parish in the case of bad weather in winter.
- Re Salt bins, we propose contacting other parish councils and establishing whether they are happy with the change in process for getting the salt over the winter. If not work as a group to propose/challenge OCC to change this process to one that is financially viable for OCC and workable for rural parishes.
- Highlight to OCC loss of school and work days and health and safety issues
- If other parishes are happy with the change in process we may need to establish a place to keep the salt this year while continuing to work with OCC to establish a more workable method of salt delivery for next year.

1.5 General Maintenance

- Keep the method of reporting potholes on the parish website/link from OCC site and in the newsletter.
- Encourage parishioners to feedback to the website if potholes are not repaired within a set period of 3 months
- Ensure the speed monitor is working – contact OCC if not

1.6 Kidmore End School Traffic Issue

- New strategy to attempt to resolve the issues of traffic jams and parking that arise from school traffic for Kidmore End CE school. To date strategies have been implemented and possibly not followed up and consequently the problem is unresolved.

1.6.1 Proposals

- Arranging a meeting with school head, head of governors, chair of PTA, community police and parish council member to work on a plan to reduce the traffic issues and to monitor progress at 3 monthly intervals and implement new strategies as appropriate.
- Ensure that parishioners have knowledge of the meeting and are able to input ideas of strategies via the website
- Feedback on improvements to parishioners via website and newsletter
- Feedback to parents via school newsletter

CONCLUSION

KEPC is asked to consider this report and recommendations and if it agrees with them to ask the Transport Sub Committee to act in accordance with them

Councillors

Sue Biggs
John Swift

14th October 2011