

Meeting of Wem Town Council Traffic Working Party held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>  
January 2022 at 14.00 on the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform

Present: Cllrs P Broomhall, E Towers, A Everett, G Soul, R Drummond – Wem Town Council

Phillip Lloyd, Kevin Aitkin - Shropshire Council Traffic Team

Town Clerk – P O'Hagan

**1. Apologies** – to receive any apologies for absence – none received.

**2. Notes from meeting held 6.12.21** – to approve.

It was agreed to approve the notes from the meeting on 6.12.21.

**3. Original Scheme for Wem Town One Way Experimental Traffic Order** - To reconsider stakeholder responses in relation to the original one way system proposals and discuss feasibility of continuing with the original scheme.

A discussion took place on this item and the view was expressed by councillors that the original proposals still had merit and should be looked at again. It was suggested that discussions could be held with Thomas Adams to see if they would be willing to divert the affected buses via Bowensfield or Somerset Way/Trentham Road so that they could then face the right direction in order to enter the school's one way system via Pyms Road.

Kevin highlighted that there were also objections from other stakeholders e.g Police and it was suggested that a meeting be held with other stakeholders to discuss their concerns in more detail. The point was raised that a physical barrier could be introduced in the car park to prevent rat running through the main car park.

There was some reluctance to look at other options for the one way system without exploring the objections relating to the original proposals as this was the preferred route of the Town Council.

Kevin explained that he accepted that there was some merit in looking at the original concerns from principal stakeholders, however he was also concerned about the impact that the proposals would have on Maunds Corner as it would increase traffic in this area of town.

Kevin recommended that in order to progress the matter and properly understand the impact of the proposals WSP should be commissioned to undertake a traffic impact assessment which would research and analyse the potential traffic problems that both the around town and Chapel Street/Leek Street one-way systems could cause. He stated that this would be a costly exercise which could cost between £5,000 and £10,000 and that the Town Council would need to secure this funding from Shropshire Council before they could proceed. Kevin also suggested that the desk top study could also be combined with the use of traffic counters to assess the amount of traffic on key routes that would form part of the one way system.

Kevin explained that the assessment would be inclusive of accident figures and traffic counts and its aim would be to identify the best option to reduce the volume of traffic on the high street in order to make it a safer and more pleasant environment

for pedestrians. Concern was raised about the impact that a one-way system would have on cyclists and it was explained that a contraflow in the form of a cycle lane on the one way route could be incorporated into the proposals so that cyclists need not be impacted by the one way system.

It was also recognised that in order to progress the scheme it would be vital that funding is secured and that any assessment would also need to incorporate options to manage the increased traffic flow around Maunds Corner.

**It was agreed to recommend to the Town Council that**

**The Town Council formally request that in order to fully understand the impact that a one way system would have on Wem, Shropshire Council is asked to fund WSP to undertake a traffic impact assessment which will incorporate the following items:**

- **A clockwise or anti clockwise one way system around the town.**
- **The reversal of the existing one way system on Chapel Street/Leek Street and Drawwell Lane.**
- **Options to manage the additional traffic around Maunds Corner.**

**4. Alternative one way system options** – to consider plans drawn up by WSP (copies enclosed). – This matter was not progressed due to discussions under agenda item 3.

**5 Other Traffic Matters** – to discuss.

No more action to be taken on this project until funds have been identified.

It was agreed that there was no point arranging a future meeting until a decision had been made on whether the traffic impact assessment would be funded.

The meeting ended at 14.55