VRU Group

Notes of meeting held on: 12th April 2019

Attendees

Alan Thomas Solihull Pensioners Convention
David Carrington Porter Solihull Association for the Blind

Kenneth Fear Guide Dogs Mark Sanders Guide Dogs Stephen Holt Cycle Solihull

Jake Harrison Amey

Karen Grant SMBC-Head of Equality & Diversity

Dave Keaney SMBC-Senior Engineer

Rob Wyatt SMBC-School Crossing Patrol Manager

Kim Stone SMBC-Permit Scheme Manager Alex Buckle SMBC-Apprentice Engineer

		Action By
1	Welcome	
	DK welcomed Stephen Holt and Jake Harrison to the group	
2	Apologies were received from: Elaine Stephens (Guide Dogs), Rebecca Swift (RNIB) and Simmone Gould (Guide Dog User)	
3	Notes from Previous Meeting Rotating tactile Wheel – query on what happens if the wheel freezes up, to whom should this be reported? RW to make enquiries Solihull Permit Scheme Kim Stone highlighted the following points since the Scheme has been operational since October 2018 A move from notices to permits There are currently 6 staff in the team Every job is now reviewed and conditions can be applied To date 62 days have been saved ie roadworks not on the network(cones, footways, roadworks) The team would not allow closure of both footways, as permit	RW
	 conditions ask for accessibility if approaching a highway, Kim is looking in to the legislation of providing yellow feet on all barriers to assist the visually impaired If anyone is aware of an issue then contact highwaypermits@solihull.gov.uk Inspections are carried out by the team as well as by Neighbourhood Co-ordinators 	KS
4	Wildlife Ways The aim is to provide 23km of cycle network linking the north of the borough with UK Central, JLR, Solihull town centre and Shirley. Work has already begun on Lode lane (the ash path) and Monkspath Hall Road. It was noted that the surface was buff coloured but that no tactile difference had been included and that the coloured surface appeared to serve no purpose other than to look pretty. Queries from the group were:	
	Will bollards for cycle ways be installed? Will there be tactile paving at any junctions?	
5	Solihull Street Charter The Solihull Street Charter aims to improve highways access and movement for vulnerable road users in the borough, and has	

	promised to continue to develop and change to meet their needs	
	and requirements.	DW
	The charter is currently being updated to include the Safe Places scheme and a request to update the photographs has been	RW
	received from Comms. RW enquired for a volunteer for the	RW
	photographs. KF and MS volunteered. RW to co-ordinate with	1200
	photographer and see who is available.	
	Query regarding which businesses now have signed up to the safe	
	places scheme. RW to check with Solihull Advocacy	
6	<u>Local issues</u>	
	Warwick Road – Shell garage	
	Consultations have taken place with KF and local resident. Plans have	
	been drawn up with work due to take place at end of May.	
	Warwick Road to Dovehouse Lane	
	Area was resurfaced last autumn. KF reported that things have	
	improved, the tactile paving is good and he has not noticed any issues Warwick Road/Broad Oaks	
	Pooling of water still occurs at the junction. KS reported that this should	
	hopefully be resolved soon with the installation of a gulley	
	Station Road tactile paving	
	Issue highlighted by MS regarding the confusion for cyclists and visually	
	impaired with the current tactile paving. AB discussed a few options	
	with his preferred option being the removal of the tactiles.	
	It was suggested that cyclists would prefer a parallel crossing if funds	
	were available in the future.	
	AB agreed to take recommendations to Dave Hangar (SMBC Engineer)	AB
	Olton Library	
	Issues identified regarding the tactiles between Warwick Road and	RW
	Olton station. We need to identify whether the land is adopted or privately owned and then carry out a site visit to look at the tactiles.	KVV
	Hobs Meadow tactile paving	
	Issue highlighted regarding the tactile paving pointing in wrong direction	
	on Hobs meadow. RW to discuss with engineers	RW
7	GDPR	
	Concern was expressed with email addresses appearing on meeting	
	request e-mail and whether this conformed with data protection. RW	RW
	agreed to look into whether it was possible to blindcopy (Bcc)	
	addresses on the outlook meeting request email.	
8	Any Other Business	
	Automated Road Sweeper	
	Reported that Amey would soon be trialling in Solihull a Westlands/Johnsons automated road sweeper which has been	
	successfully piloted in other areas. The sweeper would be tested in the	
	Moat lane car park in the next few months prior to a test on the public	
	highway. The sweeper will be tested with an operator following and	
	follows a determined route rather than seeking out litter. It scans	
	obstructions to avoid incidents and will slow down to avoid	
	persons/dogs etc.	
	Offer was made by the group to help with testing if required.	
	RW to forward KF email to JH	RW
	Group membership	
	Discussion took place regarding membership of the group with	m,
	suggestions being made for group members. It was agreed that RW to	RW/KG
	liaise with KG in order to identify appropriate group members:	
	Other suggestions include:	
	Cycle trainers Reonle with physical disabilities	
	People with physical disabilities Motorbike users	
	Cycle users	
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	Consultations	
	Concern was expressed with some projects failing to consult with vulnerable road users when in the design stage. This was duly noted	DK
	and would be circulated in highways team	
	Talking Newspaper Studio	
	Issue highlighted regarding the poor lighting from the Library Square	RW
	alongside the back of Touchwood. This to be reviewed	
	Poplar Road, Fennis Close Dorridge	
	Issue with overhanging tree causing an obstruction. RW to discuss with Neighbourhood Co-ordinator	RW
	Minutes Online	IZAA
	Request on whether it was possible to add minutes to somewhere on	
	SMBC website to be read online. RW to enquire	RW
	Velo	1377
	DK informed group of the Velo cycling event due to take place on	
	Sunday 12 th May which could limit travel in some parts of the borough.	
	There are no identified crossing points. If anyone has specific needs on	
	the route to contact velobirmingham.com	
	Warwick Road/Grange Road	
	It was felt that at times vehicles turning from Warwick Road in to	
	Grange Road at speed created a danger for pedestrians crossing the	
	zebra crossing at the top of Grange Road. DK pointed out that it	
	complied with the regulations of minimum of %metres from the turning.	
	It was agreed to monitor this	
9	Date and Time Of Next Meeting	
	Discussion took place on frequency of meetings. It was agreed to hold	RW
	the meetings quarterly (every 3 months). Next meeting to be planned	
	for July 2019.	