

Briefing Note

Traffic Management

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 At its public meeting held on 20 July 2017, parish councillors agreed to take forward a plan for traffic management within the village centre. Cllr Eve Easterbrook was tasked to produce an outline plan for distribution to councillors and other stakeholders in the parish. Councillors will meet in August to discuss adoption of the plan and agree any funding that may be required.

1.2 The parish council is receiving a number of complaints from residents about problems being caused by poor parking in and around the village centre. The council is aware that this is part of a much wider problem that relates to parking capacity, as much as parking practice. The council wishes to engage with a range of stakeholders in the parish to examine the causes and work together to create a sustainable solution.

2.0 THE ISSUES

2.1 Menheniot is an increasingly attractive parish in which to live. Current and future housing developments will increase the residential population by up to 30% within the next five years as the Tenecreek project is completed. The parish has facilities in the centre which attract residents and visitors: St Lalluwys Church and graveyard; the Spar shop and post office; the sports ground; the primary school (rated by Ofsted as outstanding); the parish hall.

2.1 At certain times of the day and evening, roads have to cope with sudden temporary increases in traffic flow which have the potential to disrupt residents' access to village facilities, parking spaces and local farm vehicles which are delayed or prevented from travelling through the centre.

2.2 Menheniot Primary School, in common with most other schools, attracts many pupils from outside the parish. Because of poor public transport links into the village and a perception of unsafe walking routes, many parents choose to drop-off and pick-up their children using their own cars. This causes intense, but temporary congestion on the roads around the school.

2.3 The council has also received complaints from residents concerned about the possible illegal use of road space for storage and private business contracting.

2.4 The village has a free car park currently managed by Cornwall Council located in Hartmeade that is used by an average of six vehicles each day.

3.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

3.1 Congestion in and around Hartmeade linked to the school day appears to be cyclical, but complaints about blocking and unsafe parking have escalated in recent months. The council acted with temporary advisory notices and traffic cones that were designed to provide a brief quick-fix for residents. These measure will be removed by 26 July when the school term ends. However, the council recognises that a longer term sustainable solution is needed.

3.2 On Thursday 20 July 2017, the vice chair of the council met with the head teacher of Menheniot Primary School, the Chair of School Governors and the Ward Member for Menheniot to discuss their traffic problems and agree a way forward. At the meeting it was agreed that:

- Cllr Phil Seeva (ward member for the parish) would speak with Adrian Drake (Cornwall Council Highways Manager East Area) to discuss what the safe options were for managing traffic adjacent to the school's entrance.
- A feasibility study would be undertaken to assess the use of the road leading from East Road (by the school's entrance) to the tennis club as a holding area for cars waiting to drop-off and collect children.
- This would include a risk assessment of the proposal to create an entrance onto the playing field opposite the exit from the school so that pupils could walk safely from the school to waiting cars.
- Measures would be taken to improve the efficient use of existing on-road parking by markers and signage.

The intention is that these measures will be put in place during the summer break and implemented by the start of the new school year (5 September 2017).

At the council meeting that was held on the evening of 20 July, Cllr Seeva was able to report that he had spoken with Adrian Drake who was supportive of the proposals to introduce extra waiting space on the road leading to the tennis club. The parish council owns this land and does not require planning permission for the changes to be made. Estimates for the cost of implementing this will be presented to an extraordinary meeting of the council in August for approval.

4.0 OTHER MEASURES

4.1 Councillors have already made a desk top assessment of other measures that will be considered to improve traffic flow and management in the centre. These include:

- Creating additional parking spaces
- Improving signage
- Refurbishing and improving the capacity of the car park on Hartmeade

5.0 COUNCIL COMMITMENT

5.1 Councillors are aware of the impact that the current situation is having on residents and visitors and commits to engaging with the widest range of stakeholders in determining a sustainable solution. The work at Menheniot School will proceed immediately, and an assessment and consultation on additional solutions will begin in August. The parish council will be engaging the services of traffic management professionals from Cornwall Council.

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Date: 21 July 2017