



Mrs E Cullen
Clerk to Plumpton Parish Council
The Old Slate House
Fletching Common
Newick
East Sussex BN8 4QS
Phone/fax: 01825 722785
E mail: liz.cullen@plumpton.co.uk

APPENDIX 1

HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPORT, 9/11 Committee Members: KB, PN (Chairman) RS

Terms of Reference: PN and KB met in August to draft the Terms of Reference for Highways and PT Transport Committees. They have been submitted for review and hopefully approved by the full PC. They obviously may need updating once the work of the 'Committee Structure' working group has concluded.

Formulation of Strategy: Over the course of the last few weeks, on behalf of the Committee, I have met the VAP Road Safety and PT Team to full understand their work and findings: This has included:

Review of the statistics from the Speed Radar Box exercise in 2010. Review of the Station User Survey results. Review of a comprehensive 'map' of the village which the team is finalising which sets out the team's collective 'Perceived problems' and 'Proposed solutions' for highways and road safety issues. Review of local transports arrangements.

I understand that the VAP team will be sending me the conclusions to the most recent team meetings in the near future. I should then like to call a meeting of the committee to discuss these conclusions and determine how we wish to take these forward for review with the Police, Highways and transport operators, where appropriate.

Once this becomes clear we may wish to consult with the wider community. It may also lead to a budget request to be included in the PC's budget for 2012/13 and the business plan beyond.

Other Issues:

- 1. Road Safety:** Councillors will be aware on long ongoing discussions with Highways over safety issues and the Half Moon Junction. Oliver St John (team leader for VAP Road Safety and Public Transport Team) lives close to the junction was very disturbed by a serious accident at the junction narrowly missing doing extensive damage to his house. A recent SLR meeting also raised the problems again. As a result Highways has agreed to install new cats' eyes, clean the existing signage and clean and renew the red surface. There will be road closures on 24th/25th October between 9.30 am and 4pm which should be notified to the community. Plumpton College has been made aware already.
- 2. Highway Maintenance:** A number of residents had advised me that when LDC sweep the roads through the parish Station Close is not on the schedule. The Clerk has kindly reviewed this with LDC and it has now been agreed that station Close will be included on

the rota every six weeks. In addition, the Clerk has arranged for Highways to check the surface of Station Close for possible pothole repairs and will be part of the inspection rota by ESCC.

The Committee will be addressing, with input from the VAP committee, the possible introduction of 'Welcome to the Village' signage.

3. **Cycle Shelter;** Following a meeting a few months ago between Councillors and Southern, I have been advised by Southern 'that it would not be possible to move one of the cycle shelters to the London bound platform as there is a steep bank and it would encourage cyclists to ride on the platform and with trains passing through the station at over 75mph it is deemed unsafe'. As regards to the position of the shelters 'they will remain but I am happy to repaint the structures in southern dark green to help blend into the station and surrounding area, I am also happy if a hedge/shrubs or planters can be positioned in front of the shelters to obscure them from the road' In my view (but obviously open to persuasion) there are number of people in the community that are very grateful for the provision of covered cycle shelters viz the number of users; it helps to take the pressure off the car parking problems. I am aware that some residents would prefer the paint to be darker but equally, others feel the colour is fine and blends into the background well. I am also concerned about who would be responsible for the maintenance of the hedge/planters – the team of volunteers should not be obliged to take on further work. My view is that we should leave the situation as it is, but ensure that Southern have learnt through this exercise that they should consult with the community, when possible, prior to carrying out work.
4. **Level Crossing Gates:** NR has advised the Clerk that it is 'currently preparing the information and undertaking the investigations as advised by the conservation office (LDC) at the meeting that took place. It should be highlighted that the conservation officer is looking to ensure that any proposal looks to explore all available options which NR intends to do' NR has a meeting on 28th September to review progress and after that they intend to provide an overall update and to ascertain the next stage in the process. The Committee will keep the PC aware of the matters as they unfold. The PC may wish to consult with the community in due course.
5. **Bridge over Railway:** NR has advised the Clerk that is currently has no plans to paint the bridge due to financial constraints and are concentrating its efforts on areas that are safety hazards which are critical and need repairing. The bridge has been added to the list of bridges and once there is funding, it will be considered. My contacts at Southern have agreed to try and help and to use their influence to see if this can be auctioned.
6. **Station Partnership Scheme:** Hopefully Councillors are aware of the recent Stars and Tzars award made by Southern to the Plumpton Station Partnership Scheme as 'Community Station of the Year' This comes not only with a plaque but an award of £1000 to be used for items that 'improve the station user's experience'. I will obviously consulting with the users and volunteers as to how they feel the funds should be spent, but in the meantime, I should like to record sincere thanks to Mick Newman and all the partnership volunteers – without whom the award would not have been possible.
7. **Station Booking office closures:** A report recently indicated that there is a threat to over 600 stations with Plumpton listed as one of those under threat of closure. The Association of Train Operators has confirmed that it does not agree with the report. Obviously the Committee will keep a close watch on this issue and make sure that our valuable community asset is not jeopardized in any way

PN

