



## Highways and Public Transport Committee OCTOBER 2011 REPORT

### Committee members

Kathy Baker  
Paul Nicholson (Chair)  
Reg Stone

### Terms of Reference

Committee met on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011. The draft PC minutes state that the Terms of Reference were approved; however, it was agreed by Committee members that this was incorrect and that some further review was required. Committee members agreed a revised Terms of Reference should now go forward for submission to full PC for approval at the October meeting. These are attached. However please note:

- The TOR requires a minimum of 3 members (maximum 5). The Committee feels that the addition of a fourth member at the current time would be helpful and now seeks a willing volunteer from the PC please.
- Committee members were not in unanimous support of co-option at this stage of one/two non-PC members (who would not have voting rights) who may have expertise in the areas of its remit. PC input is now requested – would engagement by invitation to attend only when felt helpful be a more acceptable way forward?

### Formulation of Strategy

#### a) Highways issues

In my September report I made reference to a series of meetings I have attended with the VAP Road Safety & Public Transport Team. The Team had submitted its 'map' of perceived problems and potential solutions for review by the PC Highways & Public Transport Committee at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October – the notes of which are attached to this report.

In terms of Strategy on Highways issues, the PC Committee agreed a two-pronged approach to review with ESCC Highways:

- A long-term vision to significantly reduce speed limits in the village and to improve safety for pedestrians and other users. With Plumpton's successful delivery of many different objectives within VAP and other areas, one would hope this success could be used as a standard bearer for ESCC Highways to latch on to. Potential perhaps for ESCC to roll out some new initiatives on the back of any success in Plumpton. The Committee was mindful, however, of the need to bear in mind cost constraints on Highways. Focus would be particularly on the four main perceived blackspots – the Half Moon junction, the "white bridge", the Plough junction, and the Beresford Lane junction with South Road;
- Shorter-term solutions which will include review of the merits/effectiveness of 'Village Gateway/Welcome' signage and reduced speed limit zones (known as 'buffer' zones).

We will be seeking further input from the VAP Team prior to a meeting with ESCC Highways. We may look to involving our County Councillor, Meg Stroude.

Our aim is to present the agreed strategy to the APM in April possibly after a number of surgeries or other engagement events for the village, should the PC find this approach acceptable.

#### b) Public Transport issues

The notes on the attached report of the Committee's meeting are self-explanatory at this stage.



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### Other Issues

#### 1. Road Closures

- To remind the PC that there will be road closures on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> October between 9.30am and 4pm at the Half Moon junction to improve awareness of the dangers at this junction.
- Essential maintenance 12th November to 14th November - temporary road closure at Station Road (level crossing).

#### 2. Level-Crossing Gates

To date, Network Rail has not reported back on its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September with the LDC conservation officer. This will be followed up to ensure that the community is kept aware of developments.

#### 3. Northern End Bridge over Railway

Southern has agreed to help lobby Network Rail on the village's behalf for this to be painted and various repairs carried out.

#### 4. Station Partnership Scheme

Following the award of £1,000 as a result of winning the Southern Community Station of the Year award, commuters and other station users, volunteers and those attending the VAP Annual Meeting has been carried out to identify how the award might best be used to 'further improve the customer experience'. The results of which have been shared with Southern – we await their feedback as to what may be achievable.

Plumpton was a runner-up in the recent ACoRP awards event. Many of the 14 competitors in our category have been working in partnership with their rail operators for 15+ years – whereas in Plumpton we have only been operating for 15 months – so quite an achievement I feel – I have passed congratulations on to Mick and all the volunteers.

#### 5. Routine maintenance

One method of continuing good relationship building with Highways is to re-start the regular "walking of the Parish" with a Highways representative. The VAP team has offered to do this and we should encourage this to take place.