

**B5056 Road Closure – Fenny Bentley
Notes of Meeting – Tissington Parish Hall
Tuesday, 17 November 2009**

Present:

Councillor Simon Spencer (SS)
Councillor Purdy
Graham Hollett
Brian Martin
Mike Ashworth (MWA)
Neil Hickman
And approximately 75 members of the public
Parish Councillors etc

Questions:

1 Mr Des S Objects to the current road works at Horsley farm since this is making access difficult. He notes that traffic lights have been in place for a very long period and believes the works should not have been undertaken whilst the landslip was precluding access in the opposite direction. Complained of hold-ups which affect his business.

MWA Explained financial procedure and that final approval of expenditure will need to be considered by a Cabinet meeting:- noted that monies for Horsley Farm were included in the current year's budget. This had partially been transferred to the Fenny Bentley slip but both Horsley Farm and Woodeaves still needed repair. The opportunity of the closure was also being taken to undertake other works to improve the road.

David S Works during the road closures are being undertaken without any regard for Health and Safety. There is a metal container without any working lights. Problems are of the Council's own doing. Nobody has contacted residents

within the closed section of road.

Also noted that there is no mention of the width to which the road is to be reinstated when the landslip is repaired. There should be a footway facility built in.

MWA

DCC take H&S very seriously. Any contractor working for the County Council will be reminded of their duty. Regular inspections will take place.

Mr and Mrs Des S

Some days access was not available at all. Had been held up for over an hour. Piles of stone and open trenches were hazardous. Supported view that H&S was not being made a priority.

Mr F

Complained that the name of his farm had been omitted from the notice of properties given access. A trench had been dug completing across the road and there was inadequate facility to allow access (in an emergency).

MWA

We were aware of the signs issue and have rectified this. The issue of access will be addressed to ensure that disruption to residents is minimised. There may however be occasions where a delay occurs. Residents will be kept informed

John FS

Have we done a survey to establish if any other lengths of road are in danger of failing?

G H

The opportunity of the closure has been taken to undertake a detailed visual survey but no detailed investigatory works have been carried out due to high cost of such an exercise. To have done so might have delayed the current works which we are anxious to complete.

Jane – Parwich Blog

Alsop Road is suffering badly from the

additional traffic – when are repairs to take place. These are problems of speeding traffic and poor viability (especially in summer where vegetation is problematic). Other narrow roads where traffic volumes have increased are suffering similar problems

MWA

Inspectors will monitor the conditions of such roads and order repairs as required. Where a potentially dangerous defect is noted repairs will be undertaken within a very short time.

Mrs Sandra S

I understand that winter maintenance is not going to be undertaken within the closed section of road.

MWA

We will salt Tissington Ford road but it is not normal practice to salt the closed section of roads. We will look at this issue and consider how we may maximise the service. Residents concerns are understood

Cllr Simon Spencer

We will discuss this issue with officers when the full implications can be considered.

Note :- Subsequent to the meeting it has been agreed that a grit bin will be provided at the Woodeaves end of the closure and that the closed section of road will be treated in adverse weather.

Bradbourne Parish Council

An ambulance driver did not know the routes with the road closure in place.

MWA

The ambulance service is aware of the closure as all emergency services have been informed. There does appear to be a particular issue with the ambulance service possibly due to the way it works and the diverse locations from which vehicles are sent.

Mrs Sandra S	Is the road to be widened at Fenny Bentley?
Brian M	The road is to be reinstated at 6 metres wide.
Mrs Sandra S	The road is moving in other locations.
Member of the public	<p>1) Suggested road should be widened over the section to be repaired.</p> <p>2) There is a national cycle route at Bradbourne Corner. The road is dangerous for cyclists. The reinstated road appears to be dangerous for cyclists – will there be pedestrian facilities.</p> <p>Note – there were other views suggesting the road should not be widened unless the whole routes were treated.</p>
Mrs C	Many years ago, I believe money was made available for strengthening the road from Fenny Bentley to Woodeaves. What has happened to this? Was it an A road? Why has it been down graded to a B road?
MWA	Yes the road was an A road many years ago. Classification is not the most important factor in determining the maintenance regime but traffic volumes. This road carries a significant volume of HGVs which cause hugely disproportionate damage to the highway. There are no proposals to undertake a general reclassification in the near future.
Mr M	Brakendale Lane is suffering due to additional traffic. Cycling signs are set very low and get hidden by vegetation in summer .
George M	Cyclists are in danger on once quiet roads which now take additional traffic. Additional

signs requested.

Chris C
Tissington Parish Council

Parish Council have requested new cattle grids – some require urgent repair but continue to be patched up when a complete replacement is needed.

Cllr Simon Spencer

Councillor Chris Jackson is aware of this request.

Bill W
Leather Britches Nursery

There is a need for a sign from the A515 to indicate both the nursery and Bentley Brook Hotel is open.

John B

Concerned that some of the questions have not been answered on the night. How will the answers be made available to those present?

Cllr Simon Spencer

MWA will report the comments of the meeting to Councillor Chris Jackson.

Residents of Woodeaves have had individual letters – directly effected residents will receive further letters outlining any actions proposed following the meeting.

Dave R

The fibre optic telephone cable is within the slip area and has already been damaged once – can we be assured that no further damage will occur.

Damage to the cable results in no telephone service in the area (including Parwich) as mobile reception is very poor.

Bill R

If Tenders are above the estimate can the additional funds be found?

MWA

Cabinet will need to approve finances but because the scheme spans two financial years this will help. If additional monies are needed we will have to re-consider our priorities and

	report back to Cabinet. DCC are aware of the fibre optic cable and will require any contractor working in the area to protect this
Cllr Simon Spencer	There is a commitment to re-open the road.
Chris C Tissington Parish Council	Can a grit bin be provided at the ford
Cllr Simon Spencer	Yes
Jane B	Cycle route has higher volume of vehicular traffic due to closure. This is a potential accident. Could lower speed limits be introduced?
Councillor Purdy	Some works have already been done to assist road safety. Further consultations may be required.
MWA	We are looking at the concept of "quiet lanes" which are multi purpose routes including cycles, walking, horses and vehicles. This idea might help in the narrow lanes in the area.
Bradbury Kniveton Parish Council	There is increased traffic through Kniveton as a result of the closure. Some pot holes have been repaired but the surface remains of poor quality. A sewage pipe is under stress and were this to fracture, it would be very serious.
John E	Roadside through "gated road" is getting churned up. Is there any possibility of passing places being installed? (Note – letter has also been received from Sir Richard Fitzherbert requesting a similar provision.)
MWA	We would be concerned about the longer term visual impact in this sensitive location. There is also doubt that land is available with the limits

of the highway to carry out such construction. We will however look at possible ways to provide temporary protection

Chris C
Tissington Parish Council

Is there any possibility of signs being put up to reduce speeds?

MWA

Regrettably signs are unlikely to be effective and would add to urban clutter in the rural landscape.

John E

Cattle grid fencing has been damaged (RTA?) This is DCC highways responsibility – when will this be repaired?

After Meeting

Jane B
Parwich Blog

School bus is not equipped with seat belts. Additional traffic adds to danger. Could an alternative bus not be used which has seat belts.

The public Transport Unit confirms that this is not possible. The bus which is used is a service bus which goes on the normal service routes. It is not part of the County Council requirement that seat belts are provided. The service is due for re-tender but it is remains unlikely that seat belts will be specified although more buses are being provided with this facility.