

Question Answers and Actions - Worthing County Local Forum – 7 March 2022

Attendees:

County Councillors: Sean McDonald, Elizabeth Sparkes, John Turley,

Apologies: Noel Atkins, Caroline Baxter, Henna Chowdhury, Beccy Cooper, Dawn Smith, Steve Waight

Question 1 from Paul Cunningham:

Could we please have more trees planted on the streets in Worthing, it seems that all that ever happens are trees being removed. The benefits of tree planting in urban areas are well documented, come on Worthing council lead the way on this.

Response to Question 1:

Trees are planted during the winter planting season, from November to the end of February.

We have a very limited budget for tree planting and cannot replace all trees that must be removed. Sometimes, it is also not appropriate to replace a tree if the site is unsuitable.

We maintain a list of suitable planting sites and will prioritise and plant trees in these areas, subject to our annual budget.

This planting season WSCC Highways have planted 40 trees across Adur & Worthing, 26 of these were planted as part of our [Donate a Tree scheme](#).

Tree planting in parks and gardens across Worthing is managed by Worthing Borough Council. A recent example of their winter planting programme was in Longcroft Park where a number of Beech Trees were planted.

Cllr Elizabeth Sparkes added that Worthing Borough Councils tree planting programme consists of 150 trees in various locations including Highdown, Longcroft Park and Hill Barn recreation ground.

Cllr Sean McDonald and Cllr John Turley added that trees next to roads and on pavements can be problematic so have to be considered carefully before planting.

Question 2 from John Blundell:

A Traffic Regulation Order application was presented for consideration and approval last year by Cllr Ed Crouch of Worthing Marine Ward. This was in respect of parking restrictions to be applied on West Parade, Worthing, BN113RA from Heene Road to Wallace Avenue. Please advise likely decision date and any comments that may be pertinent at this time and be aware that petitions in support of this application are likely to be lodged by local residents.

Response to Question 2:

This TRO request was assessed and scored on 30/7/21. The score achieved was only 3. Matt Gray (Traffic Engineer) updated Edward Crouch (the applicant) on the 4/8/21 informing the score did not meet the minimum requirement (score of 10) and to realistically progress, a community highway scheme should be considered. No response has been received so no request for a CHS has been progressed to date. We would encourage the applicant to work with their local County Councillor to submit a new request.

Community requests for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) must cost under £3,000 to implement. More complex TROs could be considered for progression as a Community Highways Scheme.

The assessment considers Safety, People, Access, Costs and the Environment, (SPACE Assessment)

Safety – the impact the TRO will have on safety issues in the area.

- People – those who will be affected by the TRO (positively and negatively) and the levels of stakeholder support.
- Access – to services (shops etc), from services (waste collection, ambulances etc), congestion, journey times and displacement of parked vehicles.
- Cost – available external funding and cost of ongoing maintenance.
- Environment – impact on surrounding area and opportunities for increased use of sustainable modes of transport.

Points are allocated according to the contribution the TRO makes to the five areas. For example, credit is given if the TRO improves access to shops or if the applicant can provide funding towards delivery. The 'SPACE' Assessment also includes Parish/Town/Neighbourhood Council support as a key requirement, where they exist. The applicant would not be expected to seek support from the Borough or District Council.

Cllr Elizabeth Sparkes explained that the local County Councillor, Beccy Cooper, had given apologies for the Forum, but that the residents should contact her to gain her support. It was also suggested they submit the petitions they have gathered with any new application. Both of those things will add weight to a new application.

In regard to camper vans being parked up and lived in, Cllr Sparkes confirmed that it is illegal to sleep in vehicle on the highway and there is a West Sussex County Councillor Officer, Scott Judge, who can help resolve these issues. Russell Allen agreed to pass on the residents' details to Scott Judge.

Question 3 from Jane Cropper

Please could there be a policy about cleaning the road signs . I have noticed over the years the signs becoming dirtier covered in green Verdigris hardly legible. For example, the large sign as you approach the roundabout at Washington on the A24 driving South. It is so dirty! I have seen in other Counties vehicles that

go round with special equipment which clean the signs . Brushes with water attached. Surely in this day and age we could afford such a device for West Sussex ? Please could this be implemented not everyone relies on satnavs!

Response to Question 3:

We have a limited budget for sign repairs and installation each year and due to budget constraints over the past few years we have not been able to accommodate a programme of sign cleaning. I am pleased to say that our Councillors have provided some additional revenue funding for highway maintenance for the next financial year and some of this will be allocated to sign cleaning. We will be directing cleaning on a priority basis as we have thousands of signs in the count. We are aware of the dirty sign near Washington Road, and this will be cleaned as a priority; hopefully in the next couple of months.

Members encouraged residents to report issues and the locations via Love West Sussex or the website.

Question 4 from Jane Cropper

Why wasn't a local amenity group such as The Worthing Society consulted before a notice appeared in the back of the Worthing Herald 17th February 2022 stating the permanent closure of Montague Place to traffic?

Response to Question 4:

The TRO was advertised as usual on the WSCC website and with local site notices and local newspapers. The Consultation period was 23 December 2021- 20 January 2022.

Officer have recently spoke at length with the Worthing Society chair Susan Belton regarding Montague Place. They have assured her that once the consultation on the permanent works starts proper scheme over the next 6 - 9 months, the Worthing Society will be consulted as a key stakeholder.

Cllr John Turley added that both WSCC and Worthing Borough Council have agreed to review groups they consult on such schemes and update this information so hopefully the correct groups will be consulted on relevant issues going forward.

Question 5 from resident:

Can Cyclists go on the promenade at Worthing?

Response to Question 5:

It was noted this was an issue for Worthing Borough Council but that yes it was a shared space, so cycling was allowed.