



South West Chilterns Community Board – Transport, Infrastructure, Reopening of High Street, Regeneration – Meeting Notes

Date/Time: Thursday 15 April at 1830hrs via MS Teams

1. Present

Cllr Alex Collingwood

Cllr Julia Adey

Cllr Julia Langley

Cllr Mike Appleyard

Cllr Roger Wilson

Cllr Mark Harris

Cllr Jocelyn Towns – Marlow Town Council

Cllr Valerie Brownridge – Little Marlow Parish Council

Carole Burslem – Medmenham Parish Council

Liz Lorente – Transition Town Marlow

Nick Rowcliffe

Margaret McCarthy

John Laker – Marlow Energy Group

George Lawrence – The Marlow Society

Carol Heap

Carl Griffin – Buckinghamshire Council

Makyla Devlin – South West Chilterns Community Board Coordinator –
Buckinghamshire

2. Apologies

Hilary Martin

Paul Deriez

Neil Dring

Cllr Chris Whitehead

Cllr David Johncock

Cllr Ian McEnnis

Jacqueline Ford

3. Notes and actions from previous meeting

Action	Holder	Timescale	Update	Date
Compile a short summary document on how the funding works to assist with what we are aiming to achieve	Cllr Alex Collingwood		To be completed after the elections	May 2021
Invite Carl Griffin to attend next working group meeting	Makyla Devlin	Arranged at the end of this meeting for Aprils meeting.	Completed	18 March

4. Introduction

Welcome and introduction from Cllr Alex Collingwood. We have a guest this evening from Buckinghamshire Council, Carl Griffin, who is going to talk to us about the AQMA in Marlow. This is obviously not a “quick fix” but will hand over to Carl who can provide an overview.

5. Transport – AQMA Marlow – Carl Griffin – Buckinghamshire Council

- Looking to provide an overview of where we are at and how this will look moving forward for the coming months/years

- January 2021 – the Marlow Low Emission Zone Feasibility study began using contactor called ACON who are well regarded and have worked with the Council
- The scope of the project is to see if introducing a low emission zone in Marlow is feasible and if so, what this would look like. Can be in various forms such as banning certain vehicle types or excluding vehicles at certain times.
- Will be looking at all measure that would complement a low emission zone however, looking at this with an open mind and what will be best for Marlow.
- Working with Highways colleagues and local groups for suggestions
- Will be shortly carrying out traffic surveys to see what vehicle types are causing the most damage in Marlow, where they are coming from, where they are travelling to.
- Will be looking at a cost benefit analysis on all proposals which will form the basis of the process. Expecting to get the results from the surveys in early May and then looking at feeding ideas into ACONs modelling for them to compile into a report for the end of June/early July for their recommendations on various schemes
- Want the ideas to be communicated out and looking at putting articles out in the local area, Marlowvian magazine which hope will generate some feedback.
- Looking to feed back the recommendations to this Board and other local groups so that we can put together a report to push the proposals forward and maintain a political push for some of the ideas which will be essential to get any measures in place. Will look to formalise a specific group to carry this out.
- The ideas will be looked at in May following the results of the traffic surveys

Comments

- Cllr Alex Collingwood – the idea is that we as a board would work together with Carl and his team through May and June once the physical results of the surveys are available we will be able to look at the impacts not only on Marlow itself but on the other towns and parishes etc in our board area as there will be a direct correlation. Will look at the whole area and moving forward will be able to include other Members to look at their respective towns and parishes
- Liz Lorente – issue with people of lorries and vans unloading in Spittal Street – believe it is double yellow lines and wonder if markings that could be put on the kerb probably at low cost to indicated no loading as this is a frequent occurrence -
Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – I was there every day this week takin photographs of offending vehicle and have been having discussions with the officers as there are various different measures we can employ. Although this is technically double yellow lines, this isn't every day and all of the time. They are entitled to stop and unload. If we put double yellow lines on both sides and take away the time restrictions the officers can enforce that relatively quickly. Whether that fixes it

longer term, we could put in a red way which means that nobody can stop there at all. Something that wouldn't cost a huge amount of money and could be a "quick fix" This might have to be a phasing piece, double yellows now, monitor it and see if there are any improvements and then look at other options. Currently I have taken photos of offending vehicles and notified the relevant Officers.

- Comment by Cllr Mike Appleyard on the above – *personal feeling is we are past quick wins and need to look at some key issues, heavy lorries etc. They have to come into our towns but would like it to be by the shortest route. Can we force the use of certain roads, A404, A3155 etc. This isn't new. Highways agency many year ago was going to push this. This requires effort in Highways team to talk to Government to see what can be done before its too late. Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – this is one of the reasons why we are doing the Westhorpe Junction improvement now to ensure the lorries come straight off the bypass and into Globe Park. Conscious that we use the MP's who cover Bourne End/Wooburn Green for example to push this. Joy Morrissey MP is on the case with this issue. She will be reminded that we need routes to not only miss Marlow but also Bourne End and Wooburn Green. Looking at a group to be put together on this, yourself, Cllr's Adey, Langley, Barnes, Mark Turner, so that we can look at the bigger picture, and cover the smaller villages as well who are affected.*
- Cllr Valerie Brownridge – reinforcing that there are the others area that should be included in this, Little Marlow also that seems to get forgotten between Marlow and Bourne End. Suggestion for Carl, the Marlovian isn't received in Little Marlow but an article could be put into Target which goes to all household is Bourne End, Wooburn Green and Little Marlow. It is important that if you will be speaking to Marlow you need to speak to people in the wider community. Cllr Appleyard volunteered to send the link for Target to Carl.
- John Laker – something for Marlow people to think about. There should be a complete ban on unloading in Spittal street. One solution is Liston road that runs at the rear could be used for access for this. Would require some yellow lines removing in Liston Road. The other is if we could differentiate to see what vehicles were coming into Marlow to stay in Marlow from those that are travelling through to Henley for example would be a good way of finding out what traffic is going where. If there was no through traffic then we wouldn't perhaps exceed the limits. *Response from Carl – I didn't go into too much detail on how we were going to carry out the surveys but, we have 15 ANPR cameras that will be put as a ring around Marlow and a few in the town centre. The data which is being collected is age/type of vehicle and euro engine class. We will identify where vehicles are coming into the town and where they are exiting. Hoping to get some fine detail on the journeys of the vehicles*

and this will influence the decisions of what happens moving forward. All should be picked up in the report that will be compiled.

Response from Alex – today is just the start of the process. We will obviously get the traffic statistics either for our May meeting or our meeting in June depending on when the report comes out. We will be looking at how this affects the whole of the Board area including the impacts on our Country Parks. Look at the statistics and from there, look at the action points for both short, medium and long term fixes. This group will help to drive the thought processes as to what goes into the report.

Response from Carl – will let you know by the end of April how the stats are looking and will be able to advise more on when a report might be ready for, either May or June.

6. Reopening of High Streets – Cllr Alex Collingwood

- All of the shops had the opportunity to open with effect from April 12.
- Myself and Jacqueline Ford have visited the High Street every day talking in particular to the independent traders in terms of what their thoughts were. They have been very happy to reopen
- The Council have allowed free parking in their open car parks for the next month to encourage footfall back into our High Streets.
- The Town Council will be decorating the streets with bunting on Sunday night and do this every year.
- All towns and smaller parishes will have bunting if they would like it so there will be a “Team Bucks” feel across the board.

Margaret MaCarthy – Globe Park

- So far very low uptake on coming back to park. Some of the businesses are waiting until around September time for a steady return.
- Businesses are looking at hybrid model of working moving forward and not sure how that will pan out.
- Still looking to launch the cycle scheme in July and hoping will attract an increase in 20-30% usage heading towards September. Hoping that this will encourage those working to go into the town more and a number of incentives will be offered to use the bikes.
- A lot of the return depends on the continued rollout of the vaccinations and realistically looks like September the key month for people to return in any numbers

- John Laker – important that people think ahead to what happens in 5 years time. Shops gradually close, the bigger shops and the independent shops that applied for loans are returning to perhaps a much lower footfall and have the worry of paying back the loans. For sure, there will be a number of empty shops in Marlow so need a plan as to how to fill these shops. What type of town do we want? Touristy, elite restaurants? We need to look at the empty shops and how they can be filled moving forward. *Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – something that we need to think about and where this group will come into play. Think we will need to look at a mixed model. Some shops and unit will become residential and will have more people living in the town and being part of the town. Believe this will be more of a “mix” town and need to ensure that Marlow, Bourne End, Wooburn Green all survive as their own shopping centres. With people working from home, people are shopping more locally rather than commuting to the very large cities. Have been looking at ways of adopting a scheme similar to Risborough Basket. The results of the traffic survey will have an impact with knowing who is coming to Marlow to stay and who are just driving through etc. The farmers market attracted many from outside of Marlow, much further afield. Outdoor markets will be one way forward especially whilst the vaccinations are still taking place.*
- Cllr Jocelyn Towns – with the reopening, we need to make sure that deliveries can still be made to the shops in the high Streets. The bus stop is only used by the town bus so perhaps this can be used? *Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – perhaps need to rejig the parking bays in the high Street to ease this. Areas can be looked at perhaps by the Ivy? Continue to look into any issues that would arise. Will look into the bus stop and check on its usage and potential multi use.*
- John Laker – one area we could look at for development is the area of Higginson park and the river. We have 4/5 events per year, this could be expanded dramatically. Could have more than one regatta which would attract people to the town. *Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – have spoken to the regional regatta committee offering that as an alternative to Dorney for example. This should then attract people to the high Streets. There are not many weekends free from events or the farmers market, but, should make Marlow a destination town.*
- Cllr Mike Appleyard – Bourne End is becoming a fast food centre and finding difficult to stop planning permissions for that. Wondered if anyone else was concerned that we will be that and nothing else. Aware that Marlow have restaurants and fast food. Some concerned that virtually one side of the street in Bourne End is food outlets. *Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – share your concern and concentrating on reopening high streets across the board and look at the types of shops that are in our towns. A submission can be made to the town planning groups and this is work that can be carried out once the new Council has been formed in late May/June time with*

all of the groups with vested interest in the Board area. Can put this on the agenda for June. Cllr Mike Appleyard will get a group together in Bourne End to address this in readiness.

- Cllr Alex Collingwood – 17th May next milestone looking at the dynamics and supporting the whole board area up to Christmas to ensure that all our High Streets can survive.

7. Active Travel – Cllr Alex Collingwood

- By the end of tomorrow, Trinity Road quietway should be installed.
- A series of works being carried out across the area including Wooburn Green bike racks over the coming weeks.
- Cllr Julia Langley – in respect of the bike racks in Wooburn Green. Having seen the increase in footfall along the area in front of the shops I am not sure if there is an appropriate site there now. Engaging with the Parish perhaps to see if they would be in agreement to see them on the green near to the bus shelter. Near to the shops would clutter the pavement. *Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – the officers will respond to yourself, Julia A and Mike and Parish Council with regards to location possible and then come back to the Community Board. No decisions have been made and looking at completing the groundwork and research first and will keep everyone informed.*

8. Transport – Cllr Alex Collingwood

- Wiltshire Road dropped kerb being funded by Marlow Town Council.
- Wethered Road – talked about the two together. Having been on site today with the officers, have looked at an alternative to that put forward by a resident and maybe the work can be done with Wiltshire Road to save money. This would provide safe access for crossing for all abilities allowing access into town linking up with the main crossing in Chapel Street. Officers will provide some costings and look at whether it is done at the same time as Wiltshire Road which may save money overall in terms of legal notices.

Extension of 40MPH limit in Medmenham – Carole Burslem

- Small village on the A4155 outside the Mill (house) through to the crossroad and down to the Westfields area. This is a 40MPH zone. Before you reach the zone from Marlow, going past the Danesfield House and Spa there is a nasty bend. This is a blind bend whichever direction approached. This isn't a speeding issue but we have footpaths that come out onto the A4155 there and due to the flooding, people with

pushchairs and young children waling to the village there is a safety issue as the footpaths cannot be used and people are walking on the road at this point. Medmenham Parish Council are willing to financially contribute to work here. Cannot get this progressed as the forms are non TfB and have been told it has to go through the Community Board. We don't need a speeding feasibility test but we need this addressed as this is a flooding area and because of this is traffic then drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid.

- We are as a PC installing mobile VAS to monitor the speeding in the area but would like to extend the zone taken right to the SAS roundabout where it would link up with another 40 MPH restriction past Danesfield School and we can monitor the speed/traffic with the VAS and provide a profile on how traffic is behaving through the area. *Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – understand and have experienced the problem. Believe that the VAS will provide data. I will find out from Mark Davies and Dave Roberts what forms are required and work with Cllr Dominic Barnes and come back to the board in May/June.* From Carole – willing to meet with anyone on site at anytime to be agreed.
- Cllr Alex Collingwood – aware that Ferry Lane in Medmenham and the traffic restrictions there are being looked at currently. Perhaps this can be tied in together with other works. Suggest a meeting with Carole, Chairman of Parish, Cllr Barnes, Cllr Collingwood, Mark Davies and his team and talk it through.

Extension of the carpark on Fieldhouse Lane – Liz Lorente

- Planning application – is someone stating that there should be a bicycle track or access alongside of it just alongside the A404 as currently it blocks any cycling/pedestrian route. There is no other safe rout to cross the A404. Believe there have been 2 incidents at the roundabout to cross to get over to Little Marlow. *Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – has been raised recently at the Marlow Society and has been copied to the Planning Committee. The application is currently in. Cllr's Johncock and Watson have been asked for their comments and forward to Cllr Adey. Need to look at this now even if only foot access to the Country Park. Suggest we arrange a meeting with Cllr Adey, Chairman of Marlow Society, Liz and myself to discuss as directly impacts the access to the country park.*

Frieth Road closures – John Laker

- Chalkpit lane closed for some considerable time and Frieth Road closed to traffic most of the time and wont be able to access the crossroads for another four weeks. A lot of collaboration has had taken place and it is now on the website and access has been given when possible for access to pedestrians etc by Instalcom. *Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – this is the dark fibre linkage works.*

Tree planting – Nick Rowcliffe

- Releaf Marlow is a project being coordinated with an aim to increase the number of trees on our streets
- Working with Buckinghamshire Council Officers who are looking at the opportunity called the Local Authority Treescapes Fund to apply for up to £300k for the whole County for non woodland tree planting.
- Would like to invite everyone in the board area if you have areas where you would like more trees, please forward to me on releafmarlow@gmail.com and will feed these into the Bucks bid. *Response from Cllr Alex Collingwood – very supportive of this. Believe that most parishes can come up with suitable locations. An email to be sent out to all parishes for a response and replies back to Nick by end of April as applications have to be submitted in May. Marlow Bottom Parish Council have a plan that can be fed in via Cllr Mark Harris and Cllr Dominic Barnes.*
- Cllr Valerie Brownridge – in terms of the trees, what is the maintenance cost for these once they are planted? *Response by Nick Rowcliffe – the fund includes the first 3 years maintenance which covers planning and establishment. Long term there could be a cost to Parish Councils. Need to look at planting the right trees in the right place to reduce on future costs. Website will be shared with Town and Parish Councils and Members.*

Cllr Julia Langley – think this is a brilliant idea. Only problem is that Parish Councils don't have meetings that often and not likely to have one before the end of the month. Timeline is very tight. Response from Cllr Collingwood – can look at this at believe that Members can also put requests in with indicative suggestions.

9. Actions and next steps

Action	Holder	Timescale
Check on the usage of the bus stop in the High Street	Cllr Alex Collingwood	By Mays meeting.
Town Planning group to influence shops in our High Streets across the Board	Cllr Alex Collingwood	For agenda at Junes Meeting
Set up meeting regarding Ferry Lane and look at	Cllr Alex Collingwood	ASAP

forms required for extension of 40MPH zone in Medmenham		
Set up a meeting regarding safe crossing of A404	Cllr Alex Collingwood	ASAP
Email to Town and Parishes regarding Treescapes Fund	Makyla Devlin	Straight after meeting

10. Any other business

- Closing comment from Cllr Alex Collingwood – would just like to thank everyone for their participation, support and good humour in the group and hope that we will all be back later in May post elections. Some of us may be here, some may not depending on the residents voting. We can then continue on the work that we have started.

11. Date of next meeting

- Thursday 3 June @ 1830hrs via MS Teams