



PUBLIC MEETING

**To discuss the 20mph Zone Consultation
Will be Hosted by Loose Parish Council
At the Loose Parish Pavilion
On Monday 9 October 2023 at 7.30pm**

Councillors taking part: Vianne Gibbons (Chairman) (VG), Charlie Hollister (Vice Chairman) (CH), Peter Rigby (PR), Jim Andrew (JA), Andrew Richards (AR), Susan Luckhurst (SL), and Elaine Lawford (EL).

Also present: Simon Webb (KCC Divisional Councillor) Nicky Bourne (Deputy Clerk) (NB) and Kim Owen (Clerk) (KO) who took the minutes.

There were 27 members of the public present.

The Chairman explained the Housekeeping Rules.

1. To receive and record any apologies for absence.

Apologies have been received from:

- Councillors - Tony Oliver (No reason given) & Velma Bennett (Unwell)
- Susan Grigg (MBC Ward Councillor) (Away)
- Residents - Ian Greenfield, Amanda Wallace, Gemma Darling, Pip Terry & Jane Butler

2. To receive any declarations of pecuniary interest on items in the agenda.

(In accordance with the NALC Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils (pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011). In addition, any declaration of personal or prejudicial interest. *(As agreed by LPC 21 Jan 13)*

Declaration was received from Andrew Richards as he lives in the 20mph Zone (agenda item 4).

3. To receive any signed dispensation requests for any item on this agenda.

(Councillors to approve/disapprove as appropriate and to agree the reason for the dispensation if approved. (see dispensation form). This follows the agreement made by the LPC at the meeting held on the 17 July 2017- (item 17))

Declaration document was received and approved for Andrew Richards for agenda item 4 as he lives in 20mph Zone.

4. To discuss the 20mph Zone Consultation.

After the conclusion of the 20mph Zone consultation in Loose Village the results were as follows: 54.4% against and 43.4% in favour with 2.2% undecided. As this project did not have a majority support, the LPC decided that they would not be proceeding with it in the foreseeable future. A group of residents have requested a Public Meeting to discuss the matter further.



a. Introduction by Chairman and Vice Chairman

The Chairman welcomed residents to the meeting and explained the housekeeping rules for the meeting. Each speaker will have 3 minutes to put their point of view on the subject. She advised that the consultation was conducted in a very strict fashion. The consultation stands and cannot be overturned. However, it is hoped as a group a way forward can be found.

b. Speakers from the Floor

Residents spoke about being in favour of the 20mph Zone and made the following comments

- They were unhappy with the way the consultation was prepared and delivered. They felt it was negative towards the Zone. The Vice Chairman responded that the consultation was not biased in any way. It was factual and had been checked by KCC Highways to ensure that all was correct before it was sent out. This was discussed at several meetings but no residents attended to put forward their views. From the consultation many residents responded by saying that although they did not disagree with the 20mph zone there were important issues to be addressed and the money could be better used on other projects.
- There was a low return on the consultation. CH advised that 90 residents responded and Highways were impressed with the amount of response.
- No alternative funding was explored. CH advised that the funding offer from Loose Amenities Association (LAA) was offered after the consultation was sent out so was not included in the consultation. No residents came to the Parish with a crowd funding offer so again it was not in the consultation. VG advised that the Council is very concerned about the cost of living and fuel poverty so did not increase the precept this year. All decisions made by the Council are in the public domain but residents do not always respond until after the event.
- It was felt that Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council (BMPC) has also completed a similar scheme successfully. CH advised that BMPC is not the same as Loose and they have the money to pay for the projects from developers. Unfortunately, the new housing developments that affect Loose are not in the Loose Parish so we do not get any funding from them.
- Concerns were raised about the speed of traffic using Old Loose Hill.

EL advised:

- BMPC is a very different highway environment from Loose
- Residents have said that the weight restrictions are ignored so why will it be different for the 20mph Zone?
- With regards to SAT Navs the data used is the mobile data and is not based on the speed limit of the road.

Terry Davis advised:

- LAA may be willing to increase their offer of £6000 over three years.
- Other areas also need to be looked at including the speed over the viaduct and issues around the school. CH advised that the Council has had a meeting with Highways to discuss issues in the Parish with regards the damage to the viaduct, crash damage to bollards and the damage to railings by bus stop.
- They understand that residents may not want to fund the 20mph zone and it is hoped that with the LAA offer and other funding it can be paid for going forward. CH advised that if a group can be formed to work with Simon Webb to fund the zone going forward would be a good idea.

Simon Webb advised that he:

- Would be happy to help the residents going forward.
- May be able to help with funds from his member grant.



- Can also speak to the Highways staff to see what the options are.
- Is happy to discuss the option of Coxheath Parish Council helping with the project using their CILs monies from developments in their Parish.
- Thought that with the A229, Highways will be unable to help. NB advised that at the site visit with Highways the following was look at, Viaduct, Well Street, Busbridge Road, Forstal Lane and outside the school. Michelle Norris and an engineer feel that something should be done and have gone away and rewritten the Council’s Highways Improvement Plan to see what can be done and she is consulting with her team and coming up with ideas. It would be good to get residents views on any plans going forward.

AR advised

- That the he has been the only person from Well Street on the Council. The Well Street 20 mph zone become the top priority on the Highways Improvement Plan. He felt he was the only person supporting it. If residents had got involved earlier there may have been a different outcome. Now the A229 has become a priority with Highways and the Council.

CH advised

- The residents that even if they are able to raise the money it does not mean that the zone will be agreed. The Council completed an informal consultation. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be needed, which is approx. £3000.00. This will include a formal consultation with all interested parties, Police, Fire etc. If there are objections it may not go ahead. It all takes time. JA advise that the Council will need to get around the fact that the consultation voted no and we will need to address this.

PR explained the process for Speedwatch and how difficult it is to get approval for a site to monitor the speed of motorists.

The Clerks read out four written comments from residents not able to attend.

- All were in favour of the 20mph Zone.
- One resident raised the issue of whether the LAA constitution allows for their funds to be put towards a project like this.

c. Summary of meeting and going forward

As the Council cannot make decisions at a Public Meeting the Clerk has added the 20mph Zone to the LPC Main agenda on 16 October 2023 to discuss and make any necessary decisions.

The Chairman asked that the group being formed, with the help of Simon Webb, keep the Council up to date with their progress. She thanked everyone for attending to the meeting.

Office to get information on TRO for the group.

5. Information Only.

None.

The Meeting ended at 21.30

Dated.....

Signature