Item 8.0

HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING PROJECTS

Briefing Notes

8.1 To consider a request for path/roadway surface improvement between Chalcraft and Chequers – the *'Bridleway / Walkthrough'*

The condition of the Chalcraft/Chequers *'Bridleway / Walkthrough'* has for some considerable time been of a safety concern for local residents and in particular Chalcrafts due to the potholes and trip hazards associated with the poor condition of the routes surface.
At the last Community Meeting members endorsed the following course of action:-

There had been some dispute as to ownership of this walkway, with WSCC Highways Dept. denying that it was within their ownership and that therefore they would not repair it. Members having researched the matter found that it was designated a public Right Of Way number {STE 3428} and so asked the Clerk's office to pursue them needing to deal with it.

Having pursued the matter, the Clerks office received the following response from WSCC highways Dept.

Following our discussion regarding the potholes on Bridleway STE-3428/1, as this route is a bridleway, it is assessed according to its use as a bridleway, as we do with all Public Rights of Way. The bridleway does not form part of a publicly maintained road. Therefore, from a Public Rights of Way perspective, the surface would only need to meet the appropriate standard for a bridleway, which in this case would be a loose, rolled stone surface. I appreciate that some bridleways have been tarmacked over time, but Public Rights of Way do not tarmac surfaces.
This bridleway appears to have private vehicular access rights along it. We do not hold information on who has private access rights over a Public Right of Way. However, where damage to a Public Right of Way is caused through the exercise of private vehicular access rights, responsibility for addressing that damage would sit with those using those rights rather than with Public Rights of Way. As this route is in an urban area, it is routinely surveyed by WSCC Highway Stewards. However, their assessment would be based on its status and use as a bridleway. Therefore, potholes that are primarily causing issues for private vehicular access would not be something they would assess from a Public Rights of Way perspective.

So with WSCC not willing to participate in making good, the Clerks office has been attempting to find resolution by other means, and wonders whether members might consider a match funding solution, with Chalcraft willing to pay up to £2,000 for tarmac repair (potentially similar to that which was achieved at Canada Gardens Access road). STC would seek to pay the same amount but are able to claim back VAT provided the project is managed by STC.

8.2 To consider the list of potential Traffic Regulation Orders for this year and agree a plan of action

Until 2024 STC had only ever been a supporter of schemes that may have been put forward by residents in an attempt to improve highways issues around the Town and wider Parish. Since that time we have been successful in a number of areas and reduced congestion or parking problems where it has been possible to make a difference. Our success has led to other groups of residents thinking that we would be able to assist them also.
Currently we are supporting two recently submitted Highways schemes in collaboration with the District Partnership for the High Street and a local resident for a crossing in Church Lane. On top of

these we have been approached by a number of residents and have prioritised 4 schemes for further consideration. We need now to decide which two out of these four to start working on in order to compile a proposal, and then to gain support from the majority of residents whom live locally and might benefit from the scheme.
These schemes can take a lot of time and effort, and so STC & WSCC Cllr assistance would be appreciated, and in some respects required. The four schemes under consideration for improvements include Charlton Street, Tanyard Lane, Coxham Lane, & Goring Road junction.

8.3 High Street Christmas decorations installation update from the Clerk

STC have now received permissions from all parties for the Christmas decorations installation for the High Street. The main points for members attention are as follows:-

- We have 18 Lamp posts that have received clearance to be used after tests completed – This allows for the 18 displays STC have on order.
- During installation the engineer will discuss other potential / supplemental Christmas decorative installation options which can be brought back to this committee
- Display installation dates – 18th/19th November
- Switch on date – 19th November
- Switch off date – 4th January
- Display removal date – 6th January

All these subject to small change based upon any adverse conditions.

8.4 To understand proposed street lighting improvements on A283 junction, and to agree any actions

STC have been approached by Highways engineers, tasked with drawing up plans for A283 / Horsham Road junction improvements. The improvements are to include potentially widening the roads at the points of both turn-offs, and this will mean that the two existing street lights will have to be relocated. It turns out that apparently these columns belong to the Town Council and so STC has been asked if they would be amenable for the columns being moved.

We have also been asked if we would mind that the lights are upgraded, and whether there is a consideration for additional lighting at these junctions. The plans that have so far been sent are very difficult to understand in layman's terms and so the Clerk has asked the engineers to provide clearer plans, to confirm that the lighting could be changed at the expense of the contractors rather than the Town, and for STC to receive an understanding of the cost involved with any additional lighting.

We hope to have this information available for the meeting, but it is so far not available (30th Oct)