

Earlswood ASB and Traffic Issues Working Party Update 27 August 2020

We have been working hard behind the scenes since the last update and feel that it's appropriate that everyone knows where we currently are and what we're proposing going ahead.

The process has slowed down somewhat from our initial assessment as more public bodies are getting involved with the nitty-gritty of the issues that we're proposing and we then need to align ourselves to accord with their financial and legal procedures. Please be assured that the process isn't halting and that we are working hard behind the scenes to keep it on course.

One change that we have made is that we are now not proposing to implement everything all at once but to take it step by step to assess the impact that each ASB upgrade has on the overall picture. This doesn't mean that we won't push to get everything implemented but it gives us the opportunity to assess each step as we progress and refine our plan to optimise our efforts and the final outcome.

We have received the final survey report from SDC and you will find it attached to this update.

At a personal level, can I just say that we are aware of the depth of feeling that there is re the proposal to close off the causeway. However, it's not clear to me that everyone fully understands that this will be for a trial period and that the results of the trial will determine what we will do going forward from there. I just need to emphasise that no decision has been made to permanently close the causeway at present.

The updates on areas or topics under consideration are as follows:

Malthouse Lane Park.

We have collected quotes for the installation of gates at the entrance to the park and next week should be site visit by the preferred bidder. The parkkeepers will meet with them to explain exactly what we have agreed. Once this has been done the gates will be installed asap.

The gate on the footpath will be installed at the same time in preparation for the PSPO (Public space Protection Order) which we understand is progressing and will hopefully be in place by October. This gate will only be locked when the main gates are locked. Any resident who needs to access this 'out of hours' will be able to request a key/fob from the PC. There may be a small charge for this key as a refundable deposit to cover costs.

Once gates are in place the next stage is to put in parking bays. This will be followed by approaching a security company to act as agents for the release of vehicles who have overstayed and are locked in.

PSPO

The initial consultation exercise has been concluded. Partners that were consulted included WCC/PC/CRT/Police etc and general support was received. Any matters which the various bodies may have asked about are being processed but everything is still looking good. The consultation re the CCTV will be fed into the mix and given that it stays positive then we would expect public consultation re the

implementation of the PSPO to proceed in late September. The PSPO is not reliant upon the installation of a camera but it will greatly assist everyone to have such surveillance.

District Councillor, Tony Dixon, was copied in by County Councillor, John Horner, re his camera wi-fi linking comment about trying to cover the lay-by/informal parking area on Valley Road. The feedback suggests that the design format suggested by John Horner is not easily worked into the SDC CCTV concept of the camera at the north end of Malthouse Lane. As we do not have the technical expertise to analyse this, we will refer it back to John Horner, who may have more knowledge on its operation.

CCTV & ANPR Cameras

We have been looking at ANPR and CCTV for the three locations identified by the working group.

The Parish Council carpark is now on hold. We are of the opinion we should wait to see what effect the new gate has on antisocial behaviour.

SDCC have agreed to supply and fit one CCTV camera at the bottom of Malthouse Lane. This camera will be monitored. This process has begun and is likely to take four months. More details are shown below.

SDCC has spoken about installing temporary cameras in Earlswood - locations TBC . We have tried to get an update and have left messages and sent emails but have not had a response yet. We will continue to chase.

We've had a very positive conversation with CRT about positioning cameras on the engine house. They are very much on board with this and will look at any proposals we put forward.

We're very pleased we have made progress with SDC and CRT. We fully understand one camera is not enough and we will need more but we need to assess the number and their locations in light of the changes that are brought about with the other changes going ahead.

More detail re the proposed camera at the bottom of MHL: The Community Safety service at Stratford-on-Avon District Council is proposing to install a public space CCTV camera on Malthouse Lane, Earlswood. The purpose of this camera is to detect and prevent crime and provide community reassurance. This is part of a CCTV scheme upgrade, which will see the installation of six new cameras across the district.

The CCTV camera is proposed to be mounted to a new lighting column on Malthouse Lane on the entrance to the causeway. The CCTV camera would be Pan/Tilt/Zoom enabled and will be recording 24 hours per day and monitored by the British Standard 7958 accredited CCTV Department at Stratford-on-Avon District Council. The team have direct contact with Warwickshire Police Control room and police officers on the ground. The proposed camera would be installed subject to planning permission.

On the negative side, we have contacted a number of different car park management companies (8 in total) regarding the use of ANPR cameras but each has found difficulties with our requirements. The main issues are working with a car park that's gated and a lack of a convenient power source. Consequently, we are putting this issue on hold just now to enable us to assess the effectiveness of the other measures that we're progressing.

Road Markings – Malthouse Lane

At present, we are working on the camera at the bottom of MHL. We intend to look at the effect that this has in its own right before deciding on the next phase.

The Causeway

We understand that CRT has a planned closure of the causeway next year and we have asked for specific details in order to determine whether or not we could use this temporary closure to assess the benefit of a full closure. We await a response.

Road Markings - General

We have surveyed all the double yellow lines, as shown on the Warwickshire CC web site, in Earlswood. These extended into Wood Lane and Lady Lane in SMBC territory.

The lines on Malthouse Lane and the causeway are generally in good condition but elsewhere are variable and in some cases non-existent.

We have written to Paul Taylor, WCC Traffic and Road Safety Manager with our findings and a link to photos of the lines, or lack of them, in numerous places.

We have also asked for details of the visits by Enforcement Officers over the last 12 months and the PCNs issued. The reply indicated that, as part of the proposed works around Earlswood Lakes causeway or a series of alternative measures relating to parking, traffic and road safety there will be a requirement to amend the road markings. WCC would then review the area any markings requiring renewal would be carried out at this time.

The statistics show that the vast majority of visits by enforcement officers have been to Malthouse Lane and Valley Road and only a handful of PCNs have been issued.

We will chase SDC up re the yellow lines that technically fall into SMBC's remit and, if necessary, contact SMBC on these issues.

CRT

We are maintaining regular contact with CRT and they are continuing to undertake an internal review on the issues that we have previously raised.

We asked CRT if it might be possible to fix a camera to the side wall of the engine house and CRT's general view is that it should be ok in principle but that CRT would need to issue a licence and we need to provide the details of a responsible body to hold the licence. We have suggested that the PC would satisfy that requirement. We have not progressed this any further at the moment as we need to finalise the details of the camera at the bottom of MHL before determining the additional requirements.

There is also an issue as to data protection issues re the camera recordings and this is still under discussion pending our assessment of what cameras we need and where they need to be located. We are talking to Jeff Peake at CRT about this.

CRT is aware of the PSPO that we are seeking and we are keeping them informed of developments.

CRT has contacted us recently to apologise for the fact that the canal system is currently short of water and that they may have to partially drain the Lakes to satisfy their requirements for additional water. As this has always been what the Lakes were constructed for, we have no reason to object but, thanks to reasonable amounts of rainfall over the past couple of weeks, the Lakes are still at a level that doesn't reveal the beaches.

End

Ewen Cunningham, Chair, Earlswood ASB and Traffic Issues Working Party

27 August 2020