

## Stratford upon Avon Town Transport Group [TTG]

Minutes from meeting held at 9.30am - 11am,

on Thursday 11 January 2024 by Zoom

**Present:** George Cowcher [GC], Elizabeth Dixon [ED], Jenny Fradgley [JF], Mark Haselden [MH], Rich Jones [RJ], Andy List [AL], Lindsay Macdonald [LM], Caroline Nash [CN], Kate Rolfe [KR], Tim Sinclair [TS], Colin Stewart [CS], Jann Tracy [JT].

**Circulated to Members of the TTG and**

**WCC:** Officers: Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities and David Ayton-Hill, Assistant Director Communities [Transport Planning], Councillors Izzi Seccombe, Leader and Jan Matecki, Transport Portfolio Holder.

**SDC:** Officers: Tony Perks, Deputy Chief Executive, Councillor Susan Juned, Leader and Councillor George Cowcher, Portfolio Holder.

**TC:** Officer: Caroline Nash, Town Clerk.

**Additional information:** <https://www.stratford-tc.gov.uk/town-hall/meetings-held-at-the-town-hall/-stratford-upon-avon-town-transport-group>

- 1 Colin Stewart, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Louisa Slator SDC Policy Planner is replacing Rachel Blanchard as a member of the TTG. She will be at the February meeting.

**Apologies:** Richard Lees [RL], Jan Matecki [JM], Theresa Parker [TP], Louisa Slator [LS], Steve Turner [ST],

- 2 **Minutes:** of 14 December 2023 were agreed after '*a new road*' had been added at 6.2 when GC had been referring to 3 options.

- 3 **Matters Arising:** CS Reported on a meeting he had with Jan Matecki and David Ayton-Hill, to discuss WCC / TTG working together, including officer attendance at meetings; project delivery issues; and the process of getting to a Transport Plan.

**Attendance at TTG meetings:** JM advised that he doesn't attend similar meetings to TTG across the county, but he does read the minutes. He has a clash with other meetings, when the TTG meets, but could attend where there are specific issues to report, maybe on a 3 monthly basis. He prefers face to face meetings. CS to invite as necessary.

**DA-H** advised that resource constraints did not allow for an officer to attend meetings. However, if a schedule of outstanding issues is advised in advance of TTG meetings, WCC would prepare a response.

CS

CS

**Project delivery:** CS gave a brief history of each of the projects planned for the SoA area - including Birmingham Road, Knight's Lane, Greenway, Alcester Road cycle tracks, Evesham Rd roundabout - explaining how these had been promised many times, some with money already assigned such as the Greenway, and all had design / delivery problems, which the TTG considered not acceptable. CS made the point that this could not be blamed on developers, who in several locations appeared to have done an excellent job.

**Transport Plan:** It was noted that LTP4 was high level, and that the 5 district plans that would sit below it would equally be high level.

CS reiterated that SoA has serious problems, particularly the unprecedented level of traffic on the Clopton Bridge, an incredible volume of 5 and 6 axle HGVs, and that without a detailed plan funding could not be sought, and locations for enhancements of any mode could not be safeguarded.

JM had advised that Shipston town had commissioned a consultant to do a transport plan, and maybe SoA needed to do the same. CS advised that the TTG had produced two reports and a concept over the last 2 years, but this needed further work. CS

DA-H advised WCC were aware of the concept, (see also item 4.4)

**Ticket Office Closures:**

Email sent to CEO of West Midland Trains about the Ticket Office being closed due to staffing issues at Stratford. No reply to date.

#### 4 Strategies and forward plans

**4.1 Sustainable Parking Strategy:** A report from the TTG working group set up by KR to review progress on this was tabled before the meeting. In summary, only stage 1 of an anticipated 3 stage report has been carried out and WCC have advised there is neither funding, or intention to continue the work to create the initially intended stages 2 and 3 which would have included recommendations and implementation. The result is a 600-page report, which must have cost a considerable sum, and is a waste of public money, as it will not be taken further. CS noted that the TTG Technical Sub-Group commented on the brief and scope of this work at the outset, but it appears these comments were not taken in to account.

Given the situation, it was agreed CS should draft a note for agreement by TTG members, before sending to Monica Fogarty WCC CEO. CS

**4.2 South Warwickshire Local Plan:** GC confirmed that work is continuing. Discussions are still ongoing, but there is disagreement over the number of houses and land that SoA will be required to provide. GC

#### **4.3 Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan [LCWIP]:**

Timescale now slightly delayed as it will go to the February cabinet.

**4.4 Towards an Integrated Transport Plan:** Following CS discussion with JM, CS has contacted Shipston Town Clerk with a view to finding out more details on the scope, and funding of the Shipston transport plan. Response awaited.

CS

It was noted that the next TTG face to face meeting (14 March) would be a workshop to progress a transport plan.

**4.5 Bus Strategy:** No further update

#### **7 Projects - See attached Status Schedule**

**8 Planning Applications:** None to report.

**9 Any Other Business:** CN said there will shortly be a survey about resident parking permits. (post meeting note: it has been clarified this is a specific issue concerning holiday lets, and only those with resident permits will be consulted)

**The next meeting is 9.30am - 11am on Thursday 8 February 2024  
by Zoom**

# Stratford-upon-Avon Town Transport Group (TTG)

Update: **11.01.24**

## Stratford-upon-Avon Transport Project Status

|   | Project                                   | Status   | Action             | Last Update             |
|---|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Pedestrian of Bridge Street & High Street | Scheme drawn up and consultation completed. Awaiting funding.<br>Request to look at splitting the work to create quick win, e.g. High Street Pedestrianisation first. SDC looking at implementation summer 2024.   | SP<br><br>SDC /WCC | 19.1.23<br><br>SDC      |
| 2 | Birmingham Road                           | Phase 2 enabling works are ongoing. TS and CS met Simon Prescott (who has taken over Birmingham Road at WCC) on site to discuss the various comments and proposals TTG have made on Phase 3 of the scheme ( the middle part). SP is reviewing the scheme with a view to make it compliant with LTN 1/20, and side road junctions consistent. Also modelling Western Road left out only, CS proposed Arden St traffic light pedestrian crossing alternative. Design works are ongoing.<br><b>Phase 2 works are now on the web. CF have commented. It was noted that this design still does not appear to comply with LTN1/20 for side road crossings, in fact what is proposed is what is there now. AL suggested WCC should be asked how it is considered to comply.</b> | WCC<br><br>AL      | 17.5.23<br><br>11.01.24 |
| 3 | Clopton Bridge / Tiddington Road Junction | Original scheme withdrawn. Awaiting updated proposals from WCC. TTG advised they will be involved.<br>Potential for weight restriction to be investigated (WCC DA-H). Advised this has now been dropped.   | WCC                | 23.12.22<br><br>8.6.23  |

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| 4 | Evesham Roundabout                                  | Now open, WCC to decide how to connect cycle paths through the junction.  | WCC                                | 14.12.23                                    |
| 5 | Alcester Road A46 Roundabout (Shottery Relief Road) | CS wrote to National Highways (7.12.23) to request timescales for starting construction and completion. No response yet. CS has written to Nadhim Zahawi, as suggested by TP.   | National Highways<br><br>CS        | 7.12.23<br><br>11.01.23                     |
| 6 | Alcester Road Cycle Tracks                          | Awaiting concept plans from WCC. Advised this will follow LTN 1/20 guidance. TS advises design complete. Plans awaited. Advised funding had now been pulled to be used instead to cover a shortfall in the government funding for the Warwick Road safety improvements. This project has been waiting over 9 years, and a lower cost solution was proposed by the Cycle Forum several years ago. TTG expressed concern to leaders of WCC.   | WCC<br><br><br><br><br><br><br>WCC | 13.7.23<br><br><br><br><br><br><br>16.11.23 |
| 7 | South Western Relief Road                           | Report on viability of sustainable alternatives delayed linking into SWLP.  | SDC                                | 20.1.23                                     |
| 8 | Greenway All-weather Surfacing                      | Work not started due to S106 funds being insufficient. CS has asked WCC why the worst affected half of the route could not be progressed with the available funding. David Ayton-Hill has responded to CS request for update. Additional funding to be sought via CIL process, with decision in April 2024. Meanwhile he has asked the team to explore breaking up the work into sections to get moving on key bits now. CS reminded DAH 13.9.23. Response 9.10.23 suggests half may potentially be done before Easter. TTG discussed concerns around WCC not carrying out work when funding is available, especially on a simple piece of work such as this. | WCC<br><br><br><br><br><br><br>DAH | 26.4.23<br><br><br><br><br><br><br>10.8.23  |

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| 9  | Knights Lane Footway                                       | A solution has now been drawn up, based on a derogation of standard for implementation in the Autumn, but still requires agreement from the farmer. Meanwhile KR has obtained agreement that, traffic signs warning of pedestrians walking in the road and 'SLOW' carriageway markings will be installed as a temporary measure. DAH advised temporary works would be complete by end July. One "SLOW" marking has appeared on the road, nothing in the opposite direction. Signs now in both directions, but partially obstructed by hedge growth! | WCC | 13.7.23           |
|    |  |   | WCC | 14.9.23           |
| 10 | Canal Quarter Regeneration                                 | Meeting with SDC held 15.6.23. TTG outlined concerns about delivery of the vision in the site masterplan (SDP) as land parcels come forward individually for planning approval. Infrastructure needs to be funded and implemented in advance of plans for homes, or it is unlikely to "fit", and will be more expensive. Canal crossings are a key example. SDC officers to investigate options and report back.<br><br>Update requested. JF requested update on proposals for bridge crossings.  | SDC | 15.6.23           |
|    |  |   | RB  | 10.8.23           |
|    |  |   | SDC | 11.01.24          |
| 11 | Gateway  | Presentation made to TTG 8.6.23. Workshop with Strategic Partnership. Public consultation 19 Oct to 1 December, feedback being evaluated.   |     |                   |
| 12 | Warwick Road Safety Improvements                           | Concept proposals circulated to TTG. Works close to start, a requirement that funds need to be spent this year.   |     | 8.6.23<br>10.8.23 |
| 13 | Tow Path improvement, Bishops Lane to Timothy's Bridge Rd. | S106 Funding available from Bishopton Housing development. SDC negotiating with Canal & Rivers Trust to do the work.  | SDC | 12.10.23          |