

Roads Working Group – feedback from meeting on Sunday 20th

August

Roads Working Group:
PP – Phillip Percival
CLJ – Claire Lewis-Jones
NJ – Nick Jackson
SS – Sue Stott

Present: CLJ, PP, NJ apologises SS

At the last Burland and Acton Parish council meeting we decided to form a 'Roads working group' to keep us all updated with the different projects around the villages, the people involved and the priorities.

The following only relates to the road projects from the former Acton, Edleston and Henhull Parishes.

Much of the meeting was focussed on accurately stating our current position and then identifying the next steps.

At the end of this report are listed actions that we request Councillor Becky Posnett could possibly help us with and ongoing issues for the working group.

Background and projects unfinished

- S106 monies from Kingsbourne Estate
Councillor PP has kindly allowed us to look through a copy of the official agreement for the use of s106 monies from this source. There is a lot of detail of areas not involved within our boundaries. In order to focus our understanding, listed below are the 'pots of money' from this project in relation to Acton, Edleston and Henhull Parish Council and their stated intended use locally. Anyone wishing to see the full document please discuss with Councillor PP.
 - A) ACTON VILLAGE WORKS
£659,528 to facilitate Acton Village Works and for no other purpose. 'Acton Village Works' relate to traffic management works in Acton including (but not limited to) kerb realignments, resurfacing & surface treatments, build-out, raised blockwork for uncontrolled crossings & lining removals.
 - B) BURFORD ROUNDABOUT CONTRIBUTION
£1 382 425 to be used to facilitate Burford Roundabout works and no other purpose. 'Burford Roundabout Works' relate to reconstructing the Burford cross-roads as a 3 arm roundabout junction. The works shall include (but not be limited to) new carriageway, resurfacing, re-kerbing, realignment and drainage.
 - C) WINDMILL JUNCTION CONTRIBUTION
£180 301 to be used to facilitate the Windmill Junction Works and for no other purpose. 'Windmill Junction Works relate to realigning the traffic priorities at the

Monks Lane/Cuckoo Lane/Wrexham Road junction so that the priority is taken away & the priority route becomes the A543 Cuckoo Lane – Wrexham Road. The works shall include (but not be limited to) breaking up of the kerbs, kerb realignment, resurfacing, relining and new signage and..(incomplete statement).

It was reported that monies for some above projects have been received and are currently being held by Cheshire East.

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S106 monies from Cheshire Green

Cheshire Green is the new business park just beyond Barbridge in the fields on the left-hand side (towards Chester- on former WW2 airfield), accessed off a new roundabout, on the A51 near the Wardle straight. Monies from this development, it is our understanding, are for improvements to the A51 along its length.

This is of importance to us as the A51 comes to and away from the Burford cross roads. Monies may be intended to also make a contribution to the new roundabout here together s106 monies from Kingsbourne Estate. Any delays in monies from this source, therefore, may impact the building of the new Burford roundabout.

Monks Lane – One way trial - 6 months followed by 12 months while reviewing feedback

After a series of incidents including: vehicle collisions, pedestrian concerns, flooding issues and bricks being knocked out of 'Corner House' wall on the junction between Chester Road and Monks Lane in the centre of Acton Village the parish council were requested to improve safety at this busy junction. Various options were considered and the council decided they were in favour of a trial one-way system.

- Minutes 19/1/2023 record a vote in favour of trialling the one-way system 4:1. Reservations were also expressed as it would seem prudent to consider the Windmill junction changes, the effects on visitors to the church and enforcement of the weight limit prior to any changes. However, due to the severity of damage to Corner House it was voted that the trial one-way system should go ahead as soon as possible.
- Councillor SP in minutes 13/10/22 . Money from Councillor SP's ward fund to fund a traffic survey.
- Email 30/09/2022 from Matt Rodway to SP, 'Members funding request for Monks Lane, Acton has been logged onto system' – for an impact survey.
- Councillor SP in minutes 13/10/22 . Money from Councillor SP to fund a traffic survey with the aim of quickening whole process up. This was carried out in Nov 2022 and results were not shared with the Parish Council by SP.
- Email CM to SP 7/3/23 – asked for update regarding progress, timescale and approximate costings of one-way system on Monks Lane. No update received.
- Email to CLJ as a resident from Paul Hurdus 26/03/2023 after requesting details of changes on Monks Lane. Reply said he was going to undertake a feasibility study – no further information received.

Windmill Junction

Discussed regularly. In original proposal for one-way system on Monks Lane, although it was decided to go ahead with this prior to any other road improvements, comment was made by SP that Windmill Junction would be taken into consideration. Email CM to SP 7/3/23 – asked for update on carriageway improvements on Cuckoo Lane at the Windmill as there had been another accident, this time an air ambulance and the fire brigade were involved.

Weight Limit Monks Lane

There is a mandatory weight limit of 7.5 tonne limit on Monks Lane. Councillors have reported that this is regularly ignored by larger vehicles including many farm vehicles.

Email CM to SP 6/6/22 – requesting that the weight limit be redefined, made clearer and policed. No specific advice received.

- Acton Traffic Calming – historic project
- Over 10 years ago a scheme was funded to improve the traffic flow through the village of Acton with several traffic calming measures. This was undertaken by ‘Martin Stockley’. NJ is going request any known details from CM.

Malbank Waters Cil monies

- The Malbank Waters development provided CIL monies to fund local projects. Earlier PC meetings and consultation of Malbank Waters residents by a previous PC member and resident of Malbank Waters requested enhancement of the Marsh Lane for walkers and cyclists.
- £43,517 is currently in new bank account specifically for this project.
- Minutes dates 13.10.2022 – the minutes state quotations for work for footpath from Marsh Lane (Nantwich end) Bridge to Dig Lane with the addition of a cycle path were discussed. (The aim being to link local circular walks).
- Minutes dated 24.11.22 – SP ‘The footpath you want from Queen’s Drive to Farmer’s Arm’s would come after these major projects have been decided upon..’ - (no reasons given to delay as money present and no complications of other junctions having to be taken into consideration). The buying power of the money being held is depreciating – work needs to be started as soon as possible.

‘Welcome to Acton’ – Signage

- 6/11/22 SP copied members in on an email to Matt Rodway prompting production of signage.
- Minutes 19.01.2023 – SP reports that new signage were on their way – to be funded by s106 Kingsbourne monies.
- Email from CM to SP on 07/03/2023 asking for an update on the production of the ‘Welcome to Acton’ signage .
- Currently two signs have been replaced but the third on Monks Lane has been omitted. NJ reports that these were funded from SPs Ward budget.
- The third sign omitted needs to be commissioned and paid for.

People involved:

Paul Hurdus (NO LONGER IN POST) – replaced by Paul Griffiths) , Highways Officer
Paul.Hurdus@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Matt Rodway(NO LONGER IN POST). Matt.Rodway@ringwayjacobs.com (Ringway do infrastructure on highways for local authorities).

Paul Griffiths (CURRENT), Paul.Griffiths@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Director of Highways and Infrastructure Cheshire East.

Local representatives:

CM – Carol Mace - former chair Acton Edleston and Henhull Parish Council

SP – Sarah Pochin - former Ward Councillor.

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NEXT Steps

Request Councillor Posnett contacts:

- Paul Griffiths regarding progress/update on Monks Lane one way system;
- Paul Griffiths regarding carriageway improvements at Windmill Cross Roads and Burford Cross Roads;
- Paul Griffiths regarding advice on how to make clearer 7.5 tonne limit on Monks Lane and how to police it – could traffic calming measures on Monks Lane be considered?
- Paul Griffiths regarding implementing footpath along Marsh Lane, Edleston. Why do we have to wait? This is not linked to any other developments/ road issues – a standalone project – is it possible to have a timescale on this please. Monies are already in parish account for this and buying power of funds depreciating rapidly.
- Matt Rodway's replacement - Request 3rd Welcome to Acton Sign- to replace the one on Monks Lane- already passed/requested by former parish council – to match the two recently replaced on Chester Road on either side of Acton Village.
- Gain information from s106 Cheshire Green , on the proposed use of monies along the A51 and any impact that this would have on the proposed Burford Cross Roads so we have full understanding of impact on Acton and timescales.

Roads Working Group to:

- Consider the traffic calming suggestions in Acton by 'Martin Stockley' and to check still appropriate and to consider any additional requests. NJ to contact CM and gain further information/documentation. Considering how effective current crossings and refuge islands and signs in road.
- Consider residents concerns: parking of cars along Wilbraham Road and near to the school on pick up and drop off times. Consider safety of properties at Grove Cottages (Cottages on sharp corner entering village from Nantwich direction).
- Poor sight for traffic exiting Smithy Bank onto Monks Lane and the challenge of frequent cars parked alongside church wall making the situation dangerous.
- Running of primary school children alongside Chester Road from school to village car park often with parents, however, appear unattended.
- Flooding of the road at the Monks Lane junction whenever there is heavy rain.
- Consider the more local issues such as ability to walk along footpaths particularly along busy roads and to get a regular group imputing requests into Cheshire East online reporting system.
- Consider use of SIDs (Speed Indicator Detectors) along roads entering and exiting village.
- Future consideration of street furniture: replacing of lampposts (currently more in line with dual carriageway lighting) with more appropriate village lighting e.g Tarporley, Nantwich, Ruabon etc. Widening of footpaths through village centre. All aimed at reaffirming village atmosphere rather than that of a busy highway.
- Put constant pressure on Local Councillors to keep pushing on priorities above.

PHOTOGRAPHS ILLUSTRATING ISSUES IN ACTON

Photo 1

Damage to Corner House wall at junction between Chester Road and Monks lane in centre of Acton. Note circular stone on road next to grid which marks a former concrete bollard which used to protect the corner which has also been demolished.



Photo 2

- Local bus service straddling of both lanes whilst negotiating narrow corner. Typically large farm vehicles are coming in the opposite direction at the same time.



- Path along Monks Lane, less than 1ft width - all verges overflowing with grass. Dangerous for pedestrians and pushchairs on a corner where farm vehicles over 7.5 ton limit seem to exceed speed limit.

Photo 3

- Path along Monks Lane, less than 1ft width - all verges overflowing with grass. Dangerous for pedestrians and pushchairs on a corner where farm vehicles over 7.5 ton limit seem to exceed speed limit.



Photo 4

Typical flood situation that occurs after heavy rain due to poor clearing of water drains. Constant flooding also affecting brickwork.

