

Minutes of a Meeting of the Poonah Road/ Pomona Road Neighbourhood Improvement Group held in the Old Magistrates Court, Seale Street at 6pm on Tuesday 16 January 2024.

Welcome and Apologies

Chairman: Connor Burgher, Town Centre and Events Manager

Apologies: Constable Simon Crowcroft and Deputy Rob Ward

Present: Jason Lagadu (Roads Committee member) and Michael Channing (Roads

Inspector)

Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2023.

The minutes were hereby approved.

Matters arising

Matters arising was hereby deferred until the Constable is present to be able to address any points.

Update on technical drawings

No update was given. It was resolved to add this to the agenda of the next meeting for an update from the Constable.

Update on the use of ANPR

It was confirmed that ANPR cannot be used to monitor speeding as by law it is necessary to have a 3-mile straight stretch of road to work out an average speed. However, it was noted that ANPR can be used for other types of enforcement.

Update on funding

No update was given. It was resolved to add this to the agenda of the next meeting for an update from the Constable.

Any other business

It was noted that the Parish had put up posters in the area to advertise the meeting. As a result of this a lot of people present at the meeting had not previously been aware of the work going on and had a few concerns regarding the draft plans. It was also noted that the plans displayed at the meeting were not the same as the ones on the website. It was

resolved to investigate which plans were the up-to-date ones. Furthermore, it was resolved to publish the initial survey results and give residents who hadn't received the initial survey the chance to reply to it.

It was emphasised for new members of the group that nothing has been agreed as of yet and only a small initial amount of consultation had been undertaken so far. It was confirmed that all residents will have the chance to comment on any potential improvements before they happen. It was noted that the project is still waiting on funding.

Residents agreed that they were all for improvements to the area so long as they are not to the detriment of the residents.

It was noted that the area needs cleaning up especially the roads and pavements.

It was raised that there are anti-social issues which come from the Hampshire Gardens estate. One resident claimed to have found drug paraphernalia in the area. It was suggested that homing individuals with substance issues in one area, especially near elderly people is asking for trouble.

It was noted that some residents do not believe that speeding is an issue and that cars don't use the area as a rat run and instead the anti-social behaviour in the area is the main issues. It was noted that there are often large groups on bikes all wearing black and often cycling the wrong way with no lights.

It was resolved to highlight this issue to the honorary police so they could provide more of a presence in the area. It was also resolved to invite the community police officers to the next meeting. CB confirmed that the community officers really care about their community and are always looking for intel on what areas are particularly bad. CB encouraged residents to report anything they see.

It was expressed that until funding is secured all this work is superficial/ pointless. It was requested that clarity be given on the funding. CB confirmed that there is no funding from the Parish, but that Simon has been doing what he can to secure funding from other places.

It was noted that there were concerns with widening the pavements. It was questioned as to whether you could mount the pavement to overtake a car if it had pulled over and you were unable to get round it is as the pavements had been widened. Concerns were also raised about the ability to exit properties.

It was expressed that the plans felt like access points had been overlooked.

One resident raised the issue of cars double parking outside her house and constantly blocking her driveway to the point that she couldn't pick her sick child up from school due to being blocked in. It was noted to bring this to the Constable to have his team investigate to see if anything can be done.

Members of the church on Aquila Road emphasised the importance of being able to drop people off by the Church so they don't miss their prayer times. They also raised that they have never been allowed a residents parking permit for their priests to use.

It was noted that there were plans for the Randalls site to be turned into a car park. It was resolved to ask the Constable for an update on where this was left.

It was noted that the Parish is currently undertaking a review of parking within the Parish particularly looking at the residents parking scheme.

Jason Lagadu expressed that town needs 'pretty-fying' in pockets. He noted that there was an issue with parking on Pomona Road and that access needs looking into as some pavements have not been lowered.

A major issue that residents raised is that post storm the residents are struggling to get any repair works done due to parking permit issues. No one wants to complete the works in the area as there is such an issue with parking. It was resolved to add this to the action list to investigate.