

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD  
ON WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2009,  
STARTING AT 7.00 P.M.

Present:

Councillor J A Harding, Chairman (as of item 177/09 below)  
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Spencer

Councillors:

Councillor M Brindle  
Councillor Mrs P P Quadling

Councillor M G Spencer  
Councillor S N H Wright

In attendance (for item 181/09):

Mr M Ludford, Croxton Road Residents Association  
Mr P Elliott, Norfolk County Council P & T

177/09 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Chairman

RESOLVED by re-electing Councillor J A Harding as Chairman of the Road Safety Committee for Mayoral Year 2009/10.

Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED by electing Councillor M Brindle as Vice-Chairman of the Road Safety Committee for Mayoral Year 2009/10.

178/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

179/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors G P Balaam and S H Chapman-Allen (work-related absence).

180/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 and duly received by Council on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008 under minute 408/07, be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Chairman.

## 181/09 MARKET PLACE ROUNDABOUT

Mr Elliott from Norfolk County Council P & T was in attendance to contribute to the discussion. He first pointed out that, in traffic engineer's parlance, what was under review was not a 'roundabout' but a 'traffic island'. The County Council was happy with its 'functionality' but he conceded that it was not exactly a thing of beauty. Furthermore, there was an acknowledged 'issue' arising from pedestrians' using it as a crossing place. That said, its total removal would run counter to the views of both the County Council and Norfolk Constabulary. After some rumination and debate, the following compromise position was arrived at:

RESOLVED to urge Norfolk County Council to, firstly, remove the white-on-black chevrons from the traffic island situated adjacent to the Market Place and secondly, as a further step, assess the feasibility of lowering the white-on-blue directional arrows to a less visually intrusive height, without thereby compromising road user or pedestrian safety.

## 182/09 ANY OTHER MATTERS

### Croxton Road Shared-Use Facility

The Planning Committee, having at its meeting two weeks previously (12<sup>th</sup> August 2009) first expressed concerns over some of the road crossing safety measures proposed for Croxton Road - recognising the need for a Puffin Crossing but not supporting the installation of refuges -, had gone on to note that this separate albeit related proposal of a 'shared use' facility was being referred to the Road Safety Committee for initial comment, with a further opportunity for comment by all town councillors to be provided at the Planning Committee's next meeting (scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009).

The proposal was for a shared use facility running parallel with the highway along the western side of Croxton Road. Mr Ludford of the Croxton Road Residents Association was permitted to speak and he had strong reservations, which Committee members went on to share.

RESOLVED that, at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009, the Planning Committee be asked to endorse the following views:

- Strong opposition should be expressed to any shared use facility being created on either side of Croxton Road.
- The proposed scheme is, in any event, being proposed for the wrong side of the road (the western rather than the eastern side) if, that is, it is intended to be primarily – at least, in the immediate term – for the benefit of, in particular, young cyclists attending either of the schools reached off Croxton Road and aiming to use the underpass.
- The side chosen is acknowledged to be 'the cheaper option', but that is no justification.

- The Town Council is not, in principle, against shared use in other parts of the town, but any such arrangement is unsuited to Croxton Road at the moment, with this proposal having given rise to concerns being expressed about pedestrian welfare.
- The scheme proposed amounts to the premature introduction of a piecemeal measure. Norfolk County Council is urged to take a broader view and recognise that the pressing priority for many local people is the serious road traffic problem at the Croxton Road/Mundford Road junction.
- Whilst a shared-use facility might be looked upon more favourably in due course as a 'follow on' measure (from, say, the introduction of traffic lights at the junction), its introduction as a first step would make little sense to local residents.
- Cyclists' competence (or lack of) may always be an issue, whether on or off the public highway; cyclist training remains an important need.

Chairman