TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP – 18 NOVEMBER 2025 7:00pm

Venue: Binsted Sports Pavilion

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Cllr Alison Melvin, Cllr Graham Jones, Jules Thomson, Ian McArdle, Alan Melvin, Tom Laidlaw
   Apologies: Clerk Mike Mordecai, Cllr Dom Hearne, Pete Day, Cllr Jo Ibbotson, Nial Dunne, Tammy Yates, Harriet Paskell
   Introductions: We welcomed Tom Laidlaw, who recently moved into Holt Pound (Fullers Road).

2. **Approval of Sept 2025 TWG Minutes**
   Proposed: Jules Thomson, Seconded Alan Melvin

3. **Progress and Next Steps, Frith End & Blacknest s106 Speed Calming scheme**

- **Reduction to 30mph in Frith End has been approved.** This will apply to 1km stretch of Frith End Road, starting 30m from A325 Jct until 40m beyond Frith End sign, NW end of village. Article will be included in Dec/Jan parish magazine (See Appendix A below).
- **12 Nov meeting with Highways:** Alison met Highways for an update on the s106 trafffic calming scheme:
  - Speed reduction and HGV signage improvements w.r.t. Frith End are being progressed as joint first steps. (Unsure if Weybank junction relining will be in this first phase.) Speed limit reduction will not require signage and Community Speed Watch can continue without any break during initial period of new limit.
  - No further statutory consultations are needed for delivery of any remaining elements.
  - Further safety improvements (traffic calming, gateways and other signage) will follow. Highways currently working through Safety Audit feedback on traffic calming draft plan. Meeting discussed the other signage items that the community is calling for ('B' Below). Concealed driveway signs will not be possible, but all other items will be included if possible. Re: village Gateway (northern end of Frith End village) – Highways will move a few yards further north. White posts/ signage for this will be funded under s106 project.
  - We are still pressing for the earliest possible implementation of the full scheme.
- **Blacknest & Frith End verge improvements, Village Gateway, and 'village pride':**
  - **Verges** Thanks to County Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee were noted, for escalating to Highways 'Operation Resilience' our so-far-fruitless campaign to get Highways to restore verges (degraded by 2024 B3004 diversions).
  - **Verge at Gateway point (Forestry land)** has 'scrubbed up'. Alison will ask FC to cut back scrub just behind the narrow vergeside strip that is managed by Highways, so pedestrians can use verge.
  - **'Neighbourhood pride' project?** Irrespective of actions by Highways, Highways pointed out that improving look of verges etc also helps to change driver behaviour. BPC already owns 2 unused planters. It was agreed that Alison will explore the potential for a small Councillor grant for the purchase of soil/turf/grass seed, to encourage residents to restore their verges and plant up the planters.

4. **Progress and Next Steps, Binsted School and Bentley Station**

- Mike & Henry Jennings (Binsted Head) are meeting Agata from HCC to discuss a school Travel Plan, as part of ongoing discussions about parking. Although it is agreed that additional parking in Church Road is needed, no decision on white lining Parking Strip has yet been reached - BPC councillors prefer option of incorporating new parking in area of church's Wildlife Project rather than white lining Strip ('urbanisation'). Mike is planning to get quote for white lining.
- In Rowledge School Road, Alison is initiating discussions with / application to Hampshire Highways for 20mph speed limit. We believe BPC would need to pay for this - the intention is to use EHDC CIL funding to pay for the application. Approval could take several years.

- Alison is trying again to obtain Surrey Roads' permission to deploy BPC's existing SIDs in School Road Rowledge (no useable post on Hampshire side of road). When approved, TWG will need BPC approval to pay Highways to increase post height.

5. Progress and Next Steps, SID operations

- **5 new SID locations have been approved by Highways:** 2x Station Rd, 2x BHO, 1x Isington. Highways need to extend height of existing speed repeater posts (volunteers not allowed to do this.) BPC has instructed Highways to go ahead, after approving costs (£1,850.29). Work may take up to 2 months.
- **We have bought (£3K) 1 x additional Elan City SID unit with solar power**, for new BHO location (A325 junction sign nr 'Halfway Houses'). Permanently installing SID at this dangerous location will avoid volunteers changing SID unit and SID batteries fortnightly. Volunteers will install once Highways' post work is complete.
- **Graham Jones, Jules Thomson and Ian McArdle volunteered** to help Alan Melvin and Pete Day to change SID batteries and organise rota. ElanCity batteries need recharging fortnightly.
- **Wed 10 December** was agreed as date for onsite meeting of Mike with SID volunteers to confirm new Risk Assessment for SID changeovers and train volunteers on SID operations. All involved to meet at Pav at 1pm.

6. Community Speed Watch (CSW) Teams

- Thanks were noted to the Frith End CSW team, who have continued weekly speed watch sessions throughout the summer and autumn.
- It was agreed that the 'reactivation' of the Binsted village CSW team, and the formation of a new CSW team covering BHO, Holt Pound and Rowledge (Hampshire part) will be picked up in Spring 2026.

7. Police - speed enforcement & recent collisions feedback

- Cllr William White is chasing up previously promised police speed enforcement and seeking police feedback on recent collisions on Blacknest Road bend and on A325 opposite garage.
- Alison reported that, independent to Frith End/Blacknest s106 scheme, Highways is working on improved signage at BHO/A325 junction, with particular attention to increasing height of signage for HGVs.
- Tom Laidlaw and Ian McArdle discussed their concerns about A325's ever-increasing traffic volumes, the dangers to pedestrians on pavements of Fuller Road and A325 and continuing concern about the 50mph speed limit at Shipwrights Way A325 crossing point. All present agreed to share any details of Haskins roundabout works, and to investigate which collisions are recorded on Dept of Transport's 'CrashMap' (https://www.crashmap.co.uk/).

8. Funding Opportunities

Police Commissioner's Grants for Yellow Speed Cameras

- BPC does not plan to apply: grant is only up to £8K for a £100K outlay, plus annual £55K oncost (staff member to manage data), which could be partially offset by fines collected.
  - **Community-Led Transport Grant | Hampshire C C.** Opened: 1 Oct, closes 28 February. Hampshire County Council has been allocated funding through the Department for Transport's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) 2025/26 Bus Grant. This is a single grant programme with two application routes:
- Ian McArdle asked Alison to share links for this initiative. These are included below as Appendix C.

9. AOB

- **Parish Lengthsman's next visit is 27/11.** Any items to be added to work list to be advised to Mike soonest.
- **It was noted that Mike has responded to SDNPA's Active Travel Network Plan consultation:**
  - *"The East Hants section the document references crossing A3 and A272 in relation to the top priority issue of Addressing Difficult Crossings (and Better Safety and Better Mobility ambitions references in Section 2). BPC believes A325 should be added to this list. The document references the Shipwrights Way (as a promoted route) and Alice Holt (as a popular local destination). The Shipwrights Way crosses A325 into Alice Holt and is a particularly problematic crossing. Whilst we don't have data comparing traffic volumes, I'd be surprised if the A325 isn't a busier road than A272 (in East Hants) and traffic volumes have increased considerably in recent years due to the*

huge expansion of Bordon, without a commensurate increase in Bordon's facilities/infrastructure, and very limited public transport options. A325 also has Birdworld (popular tourist attraction and its large garden centre, currently being redeveloped to attract more visitors,). The road has various speed limits along its route, but the point at which Shipwrights Way crosses the A325 is especially difficult: the speed limit increases to 50mph along a very straight stretch, so 50mph is widely ignored, making crossing it on the Shipwrights Way extremely hazardous and virtually impossible at some points in the day."

- *"In relation to "last mile connectivity" from rail stations, we appreciate that Bentely Station may not be scored as high priority in this plan, being on the periphery of the SDNP, but we work closely with the Community Rail Network Team and are keen to find ways to work in partnership with CRN, SDNP and Alice Holt to better promote accessing our end of the SDNP and Alice Holt easily without a car."*

10. Date for next Meeting – Tuesday 27 January, 7pm, Barn Owl pub

Appendix A: Parish Magazine Dec-Jan article

"New speed limit approved for Frith End

We're delighted that Hampshire County Council last month approved a long-sought speed reduction through Frith End village. The new 30mph speed limit will apply to a 1km stretch of Frith End Road, starting 30 metres of its junction with the A325 Farnham Road, and continuing some 40m beyond the Frith End sign at the northwest end of the village.

The speed limit reduction is part of a wider traffic-calming project that Hampshire Highways is developing for the route through Frith End and Blacknest, using developers' contribution funding from Whitehill-Bordon's expansion. Installing the new speed limit signage will be followed by a second phase of further safety improvements and signage changes.

Alison Melvin, lead for the parish council's Transport Working Group, is excited that - after years of work - this traffic calming project is finally getting underway. She explains:

"Funding for Frith End-Blacknest traffic-calming was promised way back in 2012, as one of 9 local routes affected by Bordon & Whitehill's expansion. By 2023, traffic calming had been introduced on the other 8 routes ... but Hampshire Highways had become convinced that Frith End wasn't covered by these agreements! Fortunately, we tracked down the document proving that Frith End was included and - after further lobbying - secured ring-fenced funding and agreed the project scope in November 2024.

It's especially exciting to secure the 30mph speed limit. Speed reductions are hard to secure: they require the approval of the police and County Councillors, followed by a six-week public consultation. Huge thanks to all local residents who responded to this speed consultation (and have supported previous consultations); to our speed watch teams who generate vital local road data; and to the Highways teams working to implement the changes.

Of course there's still lots to be done to make our local roads safer. In Frith End and Blacknest, we still need the road to be resurfaced and its verges repaired, and to improve HGV signage, the various junctions, and the safety of horse riders and cyclists. Elsewhere in the parish there are multiple areas where we're seeking to improve road safety, not least around the parish's two primary schools. All this will take time, but we'll keep you informed!" "

Appendix B: Other items the community wants as part of s106 traffic calming

	Location	Request
	All signs	Use signs with yellow reflective backgrounds
1	Verge adjacent to junction with A325	Pave, to increase safety of pedestrians accessing bus stop
2A	Village gateway signs	Put sign on west side of road on a low post, to avoid removing tree? Add flower planters?
2B	On road, near junction	Paint on 'Keep Clear' markings to assist householders to safely join towards A325 road junction and "concealed driveway" or "turn slowly" signs on A325 turn.
3	Junction with Bridleway 62	Bollards to highlight Bridleway joining road
4	Existing 40mph repeater at ///lakeside.reset.exact (SID#3)	Retain this sign to enable post's continued use for SID and/or add a Pedestrians warning sign replace the speed repeater?
5	Signless (redundant) post, just north of Straits Inclosure parking layby	Can this continue as potential further SID location and/or add Pedestrians sign?
6	New 30mph repeater post	Add a Pedestrians warning sign
7A	Village gateway signs	Add planters/ flower baskets?
7B	Driving south towards 'Brackendale'	Can 'concealed drive' sign be added? **NO**
8	Driving south from Barn Owl pub junction	Add 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign
9	Between golf club and Blacknest Fields	Add Horse warning signs
10	Barn Owl pub junction	Add 'dragons teeth' road markings
11	Blacknest (north) of pub junction	Paint '40mph' on road
12	Blacknest Fields	Bollards to highlight Bridleway joining road AND Wildlife (=hedgehog) sign
13	Blacknest approaching bend from south	Replace missing bend sign
14	Blacknest bend	Upgrade bend chevrons (inc yellow reflective backing)
15	Approaching Bentley bridge underpass from Blacknest	Cyclists warning signage
16	Driving south towards bridge underpass from Bentley	Cyclists warning signage
17	Station Road Bentley	Pedestrians sign
18	Weybank/ Station Road	Redraw Weybank halt line
18	Driving south towards Bentley Station junction	Paint '40mph' on road

Appendix C: HCC's Community-Led Transport Grant:

Hampshire County Council has been allocated funding through the Department for Transport's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) 2025/26 Bus Grant. This is being used to offer eligible organisations a single grant programme with two application routes:

- **Stream A: Publicity Funding for Existing Services (fixed amount of £500)** - for promoting existing services through targeted publicity and engagement activities.
- **Stream B: Develop or Expand a Community-Led Transport Service** - for developing or expanding community-led transport services or the enhancement of existing provisions in areas with unmet demand, particularly where services are not currently covered by Hampshire's tendered or commercial bus network. The aim is to enable communities to develop flexible and innovative transport solutions that reflect local priorities.

An information session was held on 23 October about the funding opportunity. BPC did not attend. It apparently included presentations from organisations who already provide local transport services; and opportunities to network with organisations who can potentially work with your community to provide local solutions (those who operate services, group hire providers, voluntary car schemes and community minibuses, etc.)

Background on this topic is available from the Community transport toolkit | Transport and roads | Hampshire County Council, which is designed to help parish councils and community groups identify and respond to local transport needs. Further information about the Community- Led Transport Grant, including how to apply, is also available via the webpage: Community-Led Transport Grant | Hampshire County Council. HCC's Community Transport Project Officer is Sarah Gonzalez, in HCC's Community Transport and Contracts Team.

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