

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 9 November 2020

Rosemary Lane Monitoring

Introduction & Background

At the meeting of PC on 9 March 2020, the Council agreed to proceed with the recommendations in a report that I presented on the options for traffic restraint in Rosemary Lane.

These were:

- Monitoring of traffic at 3 locations; top of the Rosemary Lane, Dunkirk Mill and at the entry to Sharpstone Lane. The cost was then estimated as £170 per location = total of £510. The funding proposed was 50% from Neil Butters' Councillor Empowerment Fund (if approved by BANES) and 50% from the Parish Council.
- Once the data is obtained, conduct a consultation exercise with residents, to gauge their opinions of the options suggested in the paper of 9 March 2020.

These actions were put on hold since the first lockdown commenced on 23 March 2020 leading to a significant reduction in traffic levels.

Update October 2020

The activity commenced following the Parish Council meeting on 12 October, when it was reported that the funding had been received from the Neil Butters' Councillors Empowerment Fund of £255.

On Friday 23 October 2020, I surveyed the potential physical locations for the monitoring radar with Stefan Chiffers, Senior Engineer, Traffic Management, Environmental Services at BANES. I was informed that the service for monitoring was now in-house, so that unit cost per location was now £125. He suggested we have 4 locations; the three originally proposed and a further location on Abbey Lane, so that we could access the potential impact if the Rosemary Lane traffic were to be displaced along Freshford Lane.

Hence the total cost of the four locations would $£125 \times 4 = £500$.

We agreed on the siting points for all locations for the radar which have subsequently been confirmed by the officer responsible for fixing the radar equipment.

It should also be noted that no condition has been placed on the Freshford Mill planning application. Highways are seeking the Condition and I think it likely that it will be made part of any approval but that has not yet been agreed. If the condition is approved and the developers are required to pay £5000 then that may also negate the requirement for Freshford PC to pay any monies for the data collection - see the Highways Report on the planning portal:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/webforms/planning/details.html?refval=20%2F02020%2FVAR>

Under Plans and Documents, see the Highways response date 21/9/2020 from Chris Griggs-Trevarthen.

"... securing a financial contribution of £5,000 [from the developers] would allow the LHA to undertake data collection, analysis as well as formal consultation."

Second Lockdown announced by HM Government on 31 October 2020.

The PC needs to review the planned actions in view of the announcement of the second lockdown which commences on 5 November. The lockdown would probably lead to a similar reduction in traffic volumes as in the first lockdown, making the results of the monitoring mis-leading. If we went ahead residents on either side of the debate would subsequently challenge the data collected and then call for a further survey.

Following discussions with John Adler and Nick Stevens, I recommended to Stefan Chiffers that the monitoring is paused, until December, or more likely, early in 2021. This would depend on the date when the Second Lockdown ends, which is at this point very uncertain.

Actions for the Parish Council

- 1 To approve the decision to delay the monitoring until 2021, with a checkpoint in December, so that I can report back to the December meeting of the PC.
- 2 To approve, in principle, the monitoring at four sites, not three, to ascertain the impact of displacing the Rosemary Lane traffic along Freshford Lane.
- 3 To ask Cllr Neil Butters' approval to retain the funds from the Councillors Empowerment Fund in Parish Council accounts. We have made the decision to conduct the traffic levels on Freshford Lane; it has been delayed due to the Second Lockdown. It is our intention to proceed with the monitoring when traffic levels are restored to normal.

Julian Carpenter

Freshford Parish Council

2 November 2020.