

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council
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Planning and Highways Committee
Tuesday 14th December 2021

MINUTES

In attendance: - Andy Rogers (AR) (Chair), Paul Bohill (PB), Andy Hodges (AH) Sarah Evans (SE) (Clerk).

49/21 Apologies for absence and approval

Eric Parkinson (EP) David Mullen (DM)

Johny Hunt (JH) Apologies were not received nor approved.

50/21 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest

A Member who declares a DPI in relation to any item on the agenda will need to leave the meeting for the whole of that item and will not be able to speak or take part, unless a relevant dispensation has been granted by the Clerk)

(A Member who declares an OSI will be able to speak on the item but will be required to leave the meeting for the vote).

A Member may also declare a voluntary Interest if they are unsure of their position. Inclusion and voting will be decided at the time or the declaration.

i. Updating of Declarations of Interest for the Code of Conduct

ii. To note the granting of any requests for dispensations and the decision

51/21 To agree minutes of the last Planning and Highways Committee meeting and sign Proposed PB Seconded AH

Resolved: Having considered any comments made by full Council, the Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chair

52/21 To consider responses to Planning applications

- a) 21/02094/AS 21 to 34 Newtown Green, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0PE
 Reconfiguration of Entrance Doorways for Disabled Access and Replacement of External Tile Hanging with Cladding.

Resolved:By unanimous agreement no objections

- b) Certificate of lawful development proposed crossover use has been agreed.

Resolved: Agreement of crossover was noted.

- c) Any other applications received before the meeting

Resolved: No further applications were received before the meeting

53/21 To consider street by street analysis reports from the Clerk on Herbert Road and Turner Close.

Members considered previously circulated reports and an update report from the Clerk from Sunday 12th December and an appendix of photos

Resolved: 1) Herbert Road to forward the report to Council and recommend it lobby Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council for a) adequate signage on Herbert Road b) to investigate the possibility of a reserved bay for the passing of oncoming traffic or reversing c) to clarify if the track path is adopted and if so lobby for better lighting Action SE to investigate if Track path is adopted.

2) Turner Close a)_to forward the report to Council to date, b) to carry out a further analysis of Turner Close when larger fixtures are on at the nearby SWAN Centre and Football Club and measure its impact in light of comments from the Residents survey c) To recommend to Council that when evidence is gathered it lobby 1) ASDA to provide

overflow parking access for fixtures and events in the supporting community and suggest to local event organisers it use it and then offer its parking facilities to guests. 2) Lobby Ashford Borough Council to consider if Wainwright Car Park could be used for football game visitors at weekends only once the Construction works are finished.

54 /21 To agree the date of the next meeting as January 2021 and items to be included on the agenda.

Meeting date agreed as 19th January 2021

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 7:26pm

Signed _____
Chair

Date _____

Appendix of Reports**Report 1****South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council****A report of the Clerk on a Street by Street analysis of Herbert Road.**

The clerk surveyed Herbert Road by car Tuesday 7th December and on foot Thursday 9th December 2021.

Observations

Herbert Road off Earlsworth Road is a dead end road. Pedestrians can then follow footpaths leading to the Outlet, Supermarket, SWAN Centre and Playing Fields on Frog Island. Herbert Road has x number of houses, mainly terraced houses, of varying ages.

Approaching Herbert Road from Cudworth Road direction, the road is clearly signposted and street lamps are in place and it is well paved.

Herbert Road is a narrow Victorian era street, the road is only wide enough for parking on one side of the street. Which restricts access for neighbouring properties and visitors.

Drivers cannot turn around in the road as it is so narrow and must drive to end of the road, the pedestrian access to turn around or use Hamilton Road which is also very compacted to turn as the road is so narrow.

A number of houses on the left side (even number houses) of the road have rear access to their properties via a track path, which does relieve some of the pressure but only if a home is the owner of a single car. This track path can be accessed either from Earlsworth Road or by turning left at the end of the dead end on Herbert Road - which also provides access to this track path, and pedestrian access which is broad and well paved to walk to the Fairview area. The track path however, is unlit, dark, muddy and slippery. Only 1 rear accessed shed had security lighting and any sign of visual security. The clerk had to use a torch on both visits.

Approaching the street on Tuesday afternoon at 4pm by car the Clerk was not able to drive to the end of the street due to oncoming traffic, the clerk had to reverse 3 times and turn right down Hamilton road and allow for oncoming traffic. Visibility was reduced due to dark evening and heavy rain and it was difficult to see oncoming traffic due to wide vehicles and vehicles wanting to turn left out of Hamilton Road.

Approaching the street Thursday evening in rain and dark evenings the Clerk noted that the only opportunities for reverse parking were created by drop kerbs and driveways rather than capacity for turning or pulling in. Therefore if 2 vehicles are driving Herbert Road in different directions the sure method to pass each other is at the entrance to Hamilton Road or the final end of the street.

The clerk noted on the left hand side of the street 3 properties using hardstanding on what would have been front gardens to park however dropped kerbs were not in place.

The clerk noted on the right-hand side x number of dropped kerbs and off road parking. However due to the number of Victorian terraces having very small front gardens there did not appear to be any other opportunities to increase off road parking. The clerk noted on the left hand side of the road 6 properties of post war age with front gardens which could be adapted to allow for off road parking. However, these properties were well maintained and appeared to adapted for those with restricted mobility so it would need enquiry as to whether the owners wanted or needed off road parking and would be willing to bear the expense.

Signage

There was no signage to advise the road was a) a dead end, b) a narrow road, c) visibility restricted, d) if the track path road was privately owned or adopted.

Access

An emergency vehicle would severely struggle to access this street and the neighbouring Hamilton Road. It would also be extremely difficult for rubbish carts to access the street and delivery vehicles. It would only take one case of inconsiderate parking for access to the road to be completely denied.

Appendix of Photos.**Report 2****South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council
A report of the Clerk on a Street by Street analysis of Turner Close.**

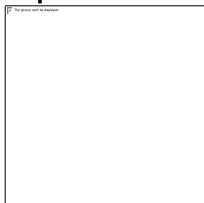
The Clerk approached Turner Close on foot during the evening of Thursday 9th December. Approaching from Cudworth Road end, the initial approach to the street has car parking areas designated to specific properties.

A walk around the close found no examples of illegal parking. Most vehicles were either parked in the designated car parking areas. The clerk noted 6 examples of parking on the street immediately outside the properties.

The close itself is well lit and well paved, however the approach from Cudworth Road or the Spinnery is not well lit for pedestrians and provides a black spot.

However, this was on a Thursday evening and no events were being held at the local football club and no large event at the neighbouring SWAN Centre or Waterside Centre.

Feedback from the 2 residents surveys the council has undertaken, demonstrate the main issues are related to parking by visitors to these venues. A further assessment will be carried out on the weekend of 11th & 12th December 2021 when matches and events are running to give an accurate correlation and a further report will follow.

Report 3 Turner Close

The report is attached with these minutes as a second PDF.