

Evesham Town Transport Strategy

Evesham Transport Stakeholder Group Meeting Notes

Meeting of 17 July 2018

Held at the Evesham Hotel, Coopers Lane, Evesham, WR11 1DA

Apologies: Robin Walker

Attendees: Councillor Dr Ken Pollock, Worcestershire County Council (**Chair**)

Councillor John Smith, Worcestershire County Council Councillor Bob Banks, Worcestershire County Council Nigel Hudson, Worcestershire County Council

Henry Harbord, Worcestershire County Council Councillor Bradley Thomas, Wychavon District Council

Councillor Martin King, Wychavon District Council Councillor Mark Goodge, Evesham Town Council

Councillor Gerry O'Donnell, Wychavon District Council Phil Merrick, Wychavon District Council

Shawn Riley, Wychavon District Council Brian Chilver, Vale of Evesham Civic Society Deborah Rolls, VECTA

Clive Bostle, Ramblers

Colin Tether, Cycle Evesham Vale

Please note: many of the Councillors attending the meeting represent constituencies at more than one tier of Local Government; for simplicity, only one tier is set-out here.

1. Findings of the Pre-Feasibility

The following points were raised relating to the findings of the Pre-Feasibility Option Testing study. The numbering corresponds to the proposal numbering adopted in the Pre-Feasibility Option Testing/ summary Report:

Pro p. No.	Proposal	Comment	Action
1	Abbey Road/ Waterside/ Cheltenham Road/ Pershore Road junction.	There was a suggestion that Abbey Road right-turn filter signal (into Pershore Road) gives too much time for this manoeuvre (but this was not agreed by all). And there was a request for the 'arrows' to be repainted on the road.	Advice on both matters will be sought from the Traffic Signals Team.
2	High Street/ Greenhill/ Worcester Road junction.	A request from several members of the group for pedestrian facilities to be added here and for visibility to be improved.	If the traffic model testing shows that improvements at this junction are worth pursuing, the development of this proposal will consider all users. Continued/

Prop. No.	Proposal	Comment	Action
3	Cheltenham Road/ Davies Road junction.	A planning application for housing near to this junction is anticipated. The "Keep Clear" road marking that served the old ambulance station is no longer needed. There was a suggestion that there is poor box-junction compliance.	Noted. Removal of the "Keep Clear" and the means to improve compliance will both be investigated.
4	Induced Queueing To Alleviate Port Street (Air Quality Management Area; AQMA).	Members of the Group confirmed that air quality will continue to be monitored (a concern was raised that it might not subsequent to the recent revocation of the AQMA Order).	
5-11	The seven 'town centre' proposals.	The six proposals that all included some amount of two-way traffic on the Mill Street/ Chapel Street/ Swan Lane corridor were ruled-out because of the effect on HGVs and buses; there was a suggestion that this needed greater explanation.	This will be considered.
5-11	The seven 'town centre' proposals.	There was a suggestion that current standards might not be appropriate for Evesham's old roads.	This cannot be taken on: for a number of reasons, but most importantly for safety, all highways schemes, whether they might be brand-new proposals or amendments to existing infrastructure, must comply with current design standards and guidance (including considerations of sightlines and vehicle-tracking).
5-11	The seven 'town centre' proposals.	There was a suggestion that Mill Street was 'narrowed' at the time that it was converted to one-way; couldn't it be re-widened?	Whilst it might be possible to widen the stretch of Mill Street in between its junctions with Bridge Street and Mill Bank, there isn't any room to widen the carriageway where the difficulties exist (at the junctions themselves).
12	20 MPH Limit in the town centre.	A concern was raised that this proposal has been dropped.	Noted. This proposal will be 'kept in mind' for further development. Continued/

Prop. No.	Proposal	Comment	Action
16	New roundabout at Worcester Road/ Tesco entrance.	It was suggested that this is a safety issue.	Advice will be sought from the Traffic Management Team.
20	High Street/ Greenhill/ Worcester Road junction; additional proposal – add a left- filter signal from Worcester Road.	There was a suggestion that this might be more feasible (i.e. more affordable when considering the small gain) if done to coincide with any future redevelopment of the garage.	Noted.
22	Swan Lane/ High Street/ Avon Street junction: make Avon Street one-way, away from High Street.	There was much discussion on the effect this proposal might have on the quadrant of the town to the west of High Street: including HGV movements and residents' access.	Assessing the effect on access to that part of town is intrinsic to the development of the proposal. An assessment of the TROs governing HGV movements will be made.
23	Port Street/ Waterside/ Bridge Street junction: upgraded signal control equipment.	A number of members of the Group were keen to see pedestrian facilities provided here.	If the traffic model testing shows that improvements at this junction are worth pursuing, the development of this proposal will consider all users.
24	Improved walking and cycling infrastructure.	There was strong support for this proposal.	

2. Other issues

The following issues were discussed:

Issue	Action
The pedestrian crossing on High Street (opposite Lawrance's Bakery) is thought to revert to the pedestrian phase too quickly.	This will be raised with the Traffic Signals Team.
There is frustration over the amount of housing that is proposed/ under construction in the town.	Noted.
Public transport needs to be part of the Strategy, and it needs to be efficient, convenient to use, affordable and available in to the evenings.	Noted; this will be picked up by the Strategy.
There was support for a concerted push on PR.	Noted; this will be actioned.
Reference to a walking and cycling "plan" in the notes to the previous meeting should instead be "map".	Noted (and amended accordingly).
	Continued/

Issue	Action
The chevron parking on both High Street and Vine Street was discussed. There is concern that it does not function well (despite it being set-out according to guidance).	This can be picked-up during the Strategy's review of car parking.
Concern over timescales was raised.	Noted. A programme for the traffic modelling commission will be shared as soon as it is available.
Cars parking on the Pershore Road approach to the Abbey Bridge traffic signals are affecting queue capacity.	This will be raised with the Traffic Management Team.

3. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

4. Key messages for sharing

Members of the Group are asked to share what it is discussed at the Group with their own organisations and, where possible, more widely too. Key messages from the 11 June meeting are:

Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council are working in partnership to develop and deliver the Evesham Town Transport Strategy.

Evesham's issues with poor access and congestion cannot be remedied by a simple, single solution. A measured, incremental package of schemes that considers all modes of transport is needed.

The Strategy seeks to assess what schemes there might be that can be delivered in the shorter term, it seeks to develop medium term schemes, and all the while, to build the business case for longer term schemes.

A computer-based traffic model of Evesham's road network has been 'constructed', founded on the results from the town-wide traffic surveys to ensure that it properly reflects how Evesham's roads function.

Worcestershire CC had before it a large number of proposals for improving transport in Evesham: some from Worcestershire's Local Transport Plan fourth edition and many kindly shared by residents of Evesham. An independent assessment into which of these proposals could work on Evesham's roads has been done. This assessment will be shared on Worcestershire CC's web site, and the results determine which proposals now go on to be tested in the traffic model.

The model-testing will determine what package of measures will then be put forward for funding, with the aim of delivery in the short term.

Work continues on the development of a proposed network for walking and cycling in the town and Worcestershire CC is working in partnership with Highways England

to develop a bid for funding for improvements to the A46 junctions in the vicinity of Evesham.

The results from the traffic surveys have been published on Worcestershire CC's web site.

Concerns over communication are understood and are being acted upon; the Stakeholder Group is the first component of a communication plan for the Evesham Transport Strategy.