

Community Travel Plan report for 2012 AGM

The Community Travel Plan steering group was founded in 2002 as an attempt by the community to address local concerns about speeding traffic on our streets and traffic management and infrastructure generally.

Supported by Herefordshire Council, the idea for a community-wide travel plan (the first in the country) was developed by St James and Bartonsham Community Association, following a public consultation exercise in June 2001.

The Steering Group meets quarterly and comprises residents, Ward Councillors, Council Officers, an Amey Manager, the Cabinet Member for Highways and a St James's School representative. Unfortunately, no Council Officers have attended for at least 18 months, despite a specific request to the Assistant Director for them to do so (which went unanswered). Following the elections in May, Cllr Blackshaw took over as Cabinet Member for Highways - the group prepared a briefing paper for him (available on our website) and specifically invited him to attend. We did not receive a reply and he has not attended any meetings.

Progress has been slow and negotiations with the Council at best frustrating. However, perseverance has seen many of our initial aims come, or about to come, to fruition, albeit some in a truncated form;

1. Compulsory 20mph speed limit. This is a Council led initiative which the CTP have had input on. It replaces the voluntary scheme introduced some years ago.
2. Residents parking in Park Street. This is a Council led initiative which the CTP have had input on.
3. Hereford Greenway - pedestrian and cycle access to Rotherwas and on to Holme Lacy, including a new bridge at Outfall Road. This is a Council led initiative which the CTP have had input on. A St James representative also sits on their steering group (this post has just become vacant - a volunteer is needed).
4. Additional residents parking spaces in Harold Street and Mill Street.
5. New pavement in front of 90 and 92 Green Street, following donation of the land by the two owners. Planning application submitted.
6. Red footpath marked at the WRVS entrance and bollard installed.
7. Bicycle contra-flow up St Owens Street - discussions are in progress.
8. Build-out at Nelson/Mill St corner to reduce conflict between speeding vehicles and pedestrians - although an aim for 10 years now, we have been unable to persuade the Council to commit funds to this.

There is still much to achieve, and the CTP are actively involved in developing and promoting further improvements to the area. It is felt that more involvement with the community would be beneficial and, to this end, an open meeting for residents will be held on Monday 26 March at 5.30pm at the WRVS, with a view to appointing new members to the Steering Group.

Tim Ford, Chair CTP