

**Notes of the Meeting of the Lower Henlade and Stoke
Road Residents Association held on Thursday 21 April 2010
at The Mount Somerset Hotel**



Present: Gill Ellis (Chair)
Mike Westlake (Treasurer)
Paul Stroner (Vice Chair)
Jacqueline Cairns (Committee Member)
Kelly Durdan (Ruishton and Creech District Councilor)
David Fothergill (Somerset County Councilor)
Steve Chapman (Police Community Support Officer)
11 residents of Lower Henlade and Stoke Road

**ACTION /
NOTES**

Gill opened the meeting and welcomed new and returning members,

1. TAUNTON DEANE CORE STRATEGY

- 1.1 Gill notified the meeting that a letter outlining objections had been sent to the Council, and thanked David Fothergill for organising the Stoke St Mary road show.
- 1.2 Gill further reported that consultation is ongoing with the Taunton Business Forum

2 PCSO Steve Chapman

- 2.1 PCSO Chapman attended the meeting. He reported that he is one of four PCSO's working with PC Maria Jennings whose "patch" goes out as far as Burrowbridge, but that he and PCSO Lynsey Gamblin covered the Ruishton, Creech and Lower Henlade area.
- 2.2 PCSO Chapman explained the roles and responsibilities of the PCSO and the differences with respect to Police Officers, most notably that PCSO's in the Avon and Somerset area do not have the authority to arrest
- 2.3 Gill Ellis and Keith Hammond noted that there had been some difficulties in getting a response with regard to Speedwatch. PCSO Chapman apologised for this and explained that certain issues can only be authorised by specific officers.
- 2.4 PCSO Chapman committed to be present for a number of future Speedwatch sessions but could not make a firmer commitment due to operational issues.
- 2.5 Gill asked for assurance that action was taken on the data submitted following the Speedwatch sessions. PCSO Chapman explained that the details were entered onto a database and each offender received a letter. Those who offend frequently are then

targeted by the police.

- 2.6 The plans for the Fire Brigade to take over the administration of Speedwatch and for the electronic submission of data had not yet materialised.

3 Speedwatch

- 3.1 Keith Hammond explained that Speedwatch has been running since autumn 2009 and from 10 surveys carried out 1424 vehicles had been surveyed of which 217 were travelling beyond the speed limit.
- 3.2 The speed monitoring device has now been recalibrated and the intention is to start again from 26 April 2010.
- 3.3 There are now five local residents trained along with Kelly Durdan, and Gloria Westlake has also volunteered. Anybody else who would like to volunteer should contact Keith.
- 3.4 Keith reported that he would also be erecting Speedwatch signs permanently, which may act as a deterrent.

4 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

- 4.1 Mike Westlake reported that he felt it was not of much value to distribute the Neighbourhood Watch bulletins on paper and he would not be doing so. Note 1
- 4.2 Mike reminded everybody that spring time was always a time to be more vigilant especially where garden sheds is concerned. Keep them locked don't give thieves the opportunity. Also be aware that leaving windows open in your property may invalidate insurance policies.

5 NOTICE BOARD

- 5.1 Gill Ellis reported that the notice board had been delivered and Steve Cozens has agreed to be in charge of putting it up at Barrow Corner. Jacqueline Cairns and Paul Stroner offered to help Steve if required but both would need some advance notice.
- 5.2 Following discussion it was agreed that there is enough room at Barrow Corner to make a safe location for the notice board, but it may be possible to approach Highways to request that some flexible posts be installed. Note 2
- 5.3 Gill thanked David Fothergill and Ruishton Parish Council for meeting the costs.
- 5.4 Gill undertook to invite the Somerset Gazette to an official opening. Members are invited to attend this occasion. Gill Ellis

6 LITTER

- 6.1 Gill Ellis reported that she had contacted Taunton Deane Borough Council to request that litter be picked up from the roadside verges in the area (Greenway Lane, Lower Henlade, Haydon Lane and Stoke Road). The response from the Council was that this is done every six weeks, though nobody has ever seen them in the area. Gill undertook to contact the council again to ascertain when the litter pick would be done next. Gill Ellis
- 6.2 Following discussion about the litter problem generated by McDonalds David Fothergill to write to the company regarding this issue. David Fothergill

7 SOCIAL

- 7.1 Gill Ellis reported that the annual Barbecue would take place on Saturday 19 June 2010. Two walks were also proposed:
- ❖ Circular walk to Ruishton, with a visit to the Ruishton Inn, 23 May 2010, start at 11.30am Note 3
 - ❖ Walk along River Parrett, visiting the Wyndham Arms at Kingsbury Episcopi, provisionally agreed date 18 July 2010 Note 4

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A 358

- 8.1 David Fothergill reported that funding of £4.6M had been made available to resurface the A358

Trucks exceeding weight limit

- 8.2 Details of offending vehicles should be forwarded to the local PCSOs. Note 5

Park and Ride

- 8.3 All were in agreement that the new road layout by the Park and Ride was potentially dangerous and encouraged speeding.

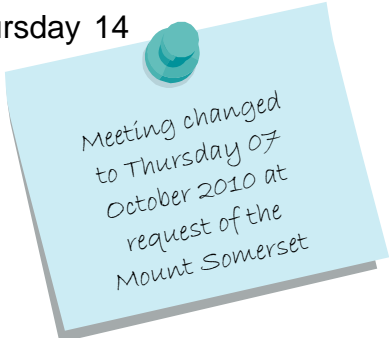
Footpath between Hankridge and Ruishton

- 8.4 David Fothergill reported that Sustrans were considering installing a footpath/underpass between Hankridge and Ruishton

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday 14 October 2010, 7.30 pm at the Mount Somerset Hotel.

With thanks to Paul Stroner for these notes.



Meeting changed
to Thursday 07
October 2010 at
request of the
Mount Somerset

POST MEETING NOTES

Note 1 – Paragraph 4.1, Neighbourhood Watch

Although Neighbourhood Watch bulletins are not routinely circulated on paper, all can be found on the web site and any that are particularly relevant or urgent will be distributed to members who do not have e-mail. The monthly Village Hall newsletter distributed to all households also contains messages from your PCSO's.

Note 2 – Paragraph 5.2, Notice Board

Highways have subsequently agreed to install flexible posts either side of the area in front of the notice board for additional protection.

Note 3 – Paragraph 7.1, Social – Ruishton walk

Meet at farmyard entrance of Musgrave House Farm (Stoke Road – where you enter for BBQ) at **11.30 am on Sunday 23 May**. 4.63 miles / 7.45 km approx. Walk across fields and by the River Tone. No hills but farm animals will be encountered! Could be a bit muddy but only in a few places if there has been a lot of rain beforehand. Intention is to stop for a drink but not eat at the Ruishton Inn.



Note 4 – Paragraph 7.1, Social – River Parrett walk

Meet Wyndham Arms car park, Kingsbury Episcopi **10.30 am Sunday 18 July** (unless otherwise notified). This is 14.6 miles from here (the car journey, not the walk!) according to Google maps, so can we car share? Contact Gill on 444539 if interested or for directions. Directions can also be found on the web site – click on the link in the Diary page. For satnav users, destination postcode is TA12 6AT. The walk is 4.66 miles / 7.5 km approx. No hills, peaceful riverside walking. As the pub is at the end of this walk there will be no problem if anyone wishes to eat there (booking probably advisable – 01935 823239, www.wyndhamarms.com). *Note from Gill: as this is further afield than usual I don't want to turn up there alone! Would appreciate it if anyone interested could let me know beforehand - even the day before would be OK.*

Note 5 – Paragraph 8.2, Trucks exceeding weight limit

The restricted weight zone runs from the Stoke Road/Greenway Lane junction through Lower Henlade and all the way up Haydon Lane almost to Chestnut Drive. Trucks making deliveries within this zone, eg to Haydon Farm, are therefore entitled to drive through Lower Henlade. We will see if it is possible to have the boundary moved to this side of Haydon (so that heavy vehicles would have to approach it from Chestnut Drive), but it won't be easy!