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Tuesday 16 July 10.00am

Meeting between:

Nikki Swift, NFDC Community Safety Manager

Swan Gan-Marsh, NFDC Community Safety

Nick Hubbard, Beaulieu Parish Council

Sara Steele, Beaulieu Parish Council

Jo Cooke-Hurle, High St resident

The purpose of the meeting was to review the traffic arrangements in Beaulieu village. The following key risks were discussed:

- Vehicles speeding on Palace Lane coming down from, and going up to, Hilltop
- Large articulated lorries having to manoeuvre around the blind corner outside the Montagu Arms
- Inconsiderate driving in the High Street

In summary the issues discussed in relation to these risks were as follows:

Palace Lane: this area is regularly covered by Speedwatch and Operation Mountie. More recently, NFDC have put up a temporary speed limit reminder. NFDC advised that a full-time reminder is not as effective. Whilst they cannot commit to timings, their intention is to put up the reminder again. Whilst there is a nuisance factor with speeding traffic, the risk of accident is low.

Montagu Arms corner: it was recognised that there is nothing that can be done to stop large lorries cutting through the village when going from Lymington and surrounding areas through to Waterside and Motorway connections. It was also noted that there is a natural slowing down of traffic for west-bound traffic as they go over the bridge towards that corner, given the natural bends in the road. There is also a pull in outside the hotel which west-bound traffic sometimes have to use to allow large juggernauts to negotiate the corner. There continues to be a risk of accident on this corner but there is no obvious further mitigation action at this stage.

High St: a key risk identified is the safe transfer of the children in and out of school. With the volume of parked cars and the incidence of inconsiderate driving the risk of accident is moderate to high. It was recognised that there are existing safety measures to prevent such accidents that have already been taken. These include: speed, humps, zigzag lines by the school, double yellow lines, where the road narrows up towards Fairweathers. A 7.5-ton maximum limit is in force and this is clearly signed at the entrance to the High Street.

It was recognised that there is, however, inconsiderate driving with drivers, motorcyclists and cyclists not driving to the conditions of the road. It was doubtful that that drivers are regularly breaking the 30-mph speed limit. NFDC advice is that installing a 20-mph speed limit together with additional signage does not have a track record of successfully addressing the type of inconsiderate driving that is regularly witnessed.

NFDC advised that it is important that all accidents (excl wing mirror incidents) are reported. This can be done through 101 online. If there are 10 reported incidents in any 12 months, NFDC will investigate further.

NFDC advised that the B road classification of the High St cannot realistically be changed. It is also not realistic to try to get Satnav companies to re-route around the high St. They advised that it would be more effective to use social media, including at the school, to get the message out about the village traffic risks. They also advised that there is no limit to the number of traffic measures installed, they just need to be the effective ones at the time.

It was agreed that NFDC would install a Speed Limit Monitor (SLM) on the High Street in the coming weeks and also repeat this monitoring in the autumn. This will provide accurate data to decide what, if any, additional measures might be considered.

Such measures might include:

- Arranging for the local police attend at the beginning or end of the school day to (1) be visible and (2) provide advice and education including to drivers picking up children.
- Local volunteers attending at the High St at peak times in Hi-Viz might also help. There needs to be clear instructions including to stay on the pavement and not to approach people. Advisable that the local police are involved to start with to agree such arrangements.
- Addressing the wide opening at the entrance to the High Street which allows both East and West bound drivers to swing too quickly into the High Street. It is this speed of access that is likely to encourage some of the inconsiderate driving that has been observed. One potential option to slow traffic down is to narrow the entrance into the High Street, including moving the bollards. This would require agreement with the Beaulieu Estate. NFDC advised that such a move would also require significant wider consultation and may take several years to achieve.

It was agreed that BPC would write to HCC Highways about the risks once the initial data has been obtained from the SLM.