

## Notes of meeting held on 21/08/19 in Wilstead Village Hall with Bedford Borough and the Developers (Henderson & Taylor) to discuss the A6 closure.

Chaired by Eric Benton - Vice Chairman - Wilshamstead Parish Council.

Matt Soper - Bedford Borough Council - Manager for Engineering Services

Dave Bennett - Bedford Borough Council - Team Leader Highways and Major Projects

Andy Prigmore - Bedford Borough Council - Manager Highways

Matt Lynch - Henderson and Taylor - Ops Director

Paul Reader - Henderson and Taylor - Project Director

Approx 40 villagers attended

- Developers showed a video of work undertaken so far and updated on progress. Currently work is on schedule.
- Where possible materials are being recycled and reused.
- Concern was expressed that the meeting had not been advertised widely enough  
**Information about the meeting had been in the Village Newsletter and on Facebook.**
- Bedford Borough was thanked for the actions they have already taken to attempt to keep the traffic through the village and responding to the calls to the helpline when the pedestrian lights failed.  
**Bedford Borough is looking into the lights being connected to the mains as this will hopefully alleviate the reliability issues as they are currently battery operated. Sign outside the Woolpack will be moved to allow people to use the pavement when using mobility aids the current position is making this difficult.**
- Developers were asked to clarify who had decided the reconstruction was needed and if the timescale was realistic.  
**Trial holes had confirmed the initial findings that level of reconstruction was needed and timescale was confirmed as being realistic due to the work that was needed.**

- The diversion signs were discussed as people felt they were inadequate, particularly when travelling south bound.  
the developers and Bedford Borough agreed to look at the signage... including making the electronic one a single page only, as the length of closure was not thought to be as important as getting the message across about the diversion and the closure.  
Bedford Borough will discuss with Highways England if they can sign the closure from the A421.  
Bedford Borough will also investigate if the A421 can be used as part of the diversion route. (previously this had been refused by Highways England.)
- The existing weight limit for HGV's is not being observed.  
Bedford Borough will look at better signage to reinforce the existing weight limit, only the police are able to enforce this. Parish Council will discuss with the police.
- Traffic down Luton and Bedford Road is causing issues at the crossroads.  
Bedford Borough and developers outlined why 4-way traffic lights would not help to improve the situation and would also require the pedestrian crossing to be moved.  
The meeting noted that the key issue was the safety of pedestrians especially children and the elderly  
Bedford Borough agreed to look into the possibility of a small roundabout.
- Increased traffic on Cotton End Road and the speed this is travelling at was raised as an issue, especially when schools go back.  
A third crossing will be put in; concerns about parking will be discussed with Borough enforcement officers.  
Parish Council will write to school requesting they remind parents about parking outside school.
- Average speed camera on Cotton End Road  
Parish Council has liaised with Bedford Borough about a willingness to contribute towards the cost.  
Some parishioners stated they felt that people living on Cotton End Road would also be willing to make a contribution. Nb. They cannot be linked to the average speed cameras on Luton & Bedford Road.  
Bedford Borough will come back to Parish Council with further costings.  
Approx cost for 2 is £60k
- Bedford Borough was asked about the number of prosecutions from the average speed camera

Bedford Borough does not have this information but will request it from the police.

- Future resurfacing of roads was discussed

Bedford Borough stated that Whitworth Way is in the plan for 20/21, Luton road 21/22

Bedford road is being surveyed.

**Next meeting September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 in the Village Hall.**