

Dear Littleton Parishioner,

### **A Traffic Plan for Littleton**

As you may be aware, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) have proposed changes to the A51 which are likely to have a significant effect on traffic through Littleton.

**These changes are intended to increase both the amount and the average speed of traffic travelling along the A51, including through Littleton.** CW&C, along with the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (C&W LEP) have identified the A51 as a key strategic route for freight traffic between the M6 and the A55. **The proposed changes are part of a broader scheme to increase the volume of freight, business and commuter traffic using the A51 corridor.** <sup>[Footnote 1]</sup>

Locations of the proposed road layout changes include Stamford Bridge, the Tarvin roundabout, and the junction of the A51 with Littleton Lane and Hare Lane. However, the Parish council recognises that the changes are likely to have a significant impact on other roads, as local road users will need to change their routes.

#### **Where can I find out about the proposed changes?**

CW&C plan to hold public consultation meetings about these proposals. Dates, times and locations provided by CW&C are as follows:

**Date : Tuesday 3 September 2019**

**Time : 10:45 -16:45, (time restricted by other commitments at the club)**

**Venue: Chester Rugby Club, CH3 7DB**

**Date : Wednesday 4 September 2019**

**Time: 11:00 -19:00,**

**Venue: Stamford Bridge Inn (conservatory), A51/Barrow Lane, CH3 7HN**

At the time of writing, CW&C have not provided details of the proposed scheme to Littleton Parish Council. CW&C plan to publish the details of the plan on their website before the public consultation.

#### **What local traffic concerns have local residents reported to the Parish Council?**

- The A51 is not a trunk road, and therefore does not form part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) managed by Highways England. Residents are concerned that the A51 is not designated nor equipped to cope with the proposed increases to volume and flow of traffic, particularly freight.
- Records from Littleton Parish Council's Speed Indicator Device (SID) shows that at certain times of the day, traffic along the A51 exceeds the 40 mph speed limit. At other times, high volumes of traffic reduce the road to a virtual standstill.
- SID records show frequent occurrences of the speed limit being exceeded on Littleton Lane and The Bye Pass.
- Nitrogen Dioxide levels (reported in both the Mott MacDonald report and by local residents) exceed limits recognised by the World Health Organisation- vehicle emissions are the most likely cause of this. CW&C have an obligation to reduce levels of harmful pollution resulting from vehicle emissions.
- Pedestrians (especially children) find it difficult to cross roads safely in Littleton, particularly the A51 and Littleton Lane which is often a 'rat run' to escape congestion on the Sainsbury's roundabout.

### **What concerns do Littleton Parish Council have?**

- An increase in traffic flow rates could hinder safe crossings, and prevent safe entry and exit to and from residential properties.
- Increased volume of traffic could increase levels of harmful air pollution.
- Bottlenecks arise from traffic light sequencing and traffic volume at the A51/A55 junction at Vicars' Cross roundabout and the Stamford Bridge junction. Increased traffic capacity on the A51 is likely to displace queueing from non-residential areas (east of Stamford Bridge and west of the Rugby Club) to residential areas within Littleton.

### **How can Littleton Parish Council (LPC) help Littleton residents?**

We'd like to capture your concerns and thoughts so that we can build a common view about what's important to the community with respect to traffic. LPC plans to distil those views and concerns into a 'Traffic Plan'. We believe a documented strategy would enable us all to have constructive interactions with CW&C.

To this end, we have drafted the following as a starting point for discussion:

***Our Strategy for the Littleton Parish is for an environment that enhances the well-being of the community where people are the priority and which:***

- ***reduces noise and air pollution;***
- ***maintains the safety of individuals as they move around the community;***
- ***re-builds social cohesion.***

***We aim to achieve this by:***

- ***ensuring that both noise & pollution levels in the village are below the WHO standards;***
- ***ensuring that all roads in the village are safe to cross;***
- ***providing traffic measures to manage traffic for the benefit of residents, pedestrians and cyclists;***
- ***introducing appropriate speed limits;***
- ***recognising the need to work in collaboration with all stakeholders and experts to achieve our objectives.***

Please provide any comments via email (([dr.rob.evans+LPC@gmail.com](mailto:dr.rob.evans+LPC@gmail.com)) to us and we will consolidate the responses.

Regards,

Littleton Parish Council.

### **Footnotes:**

1. A51 Tarvin- Chester Improvements Scheme Outline Business Case, Mott MacDonald, March 2018  
<http://www.871candwep.co.uk/content/uploads/2017/11/Tarvin-Road-OBC-Rev-H.pdf>