SCAR Meeting 8th January 2025

Chair Adrian Walters

Speakers Councillor David Smith

Parish Councillor Phil Whitehouse

Matt Crowton Group Manager Walsall Council

Alana Saunders Road Safety Manager Walsall Council

Councillor Gary Perry Leader of Walsall Council

Apologies

Jean Folkes, Adrian Berg, Sue Bray ,Peter Terry, Deb Orgil, Liz Daly, Beth Villers

Adrian Walters gave a brief overview of the work done by SCAR and the petition that lead to the support from Walsall Council

Presentation (which will be made available to SCAR) given by Matt Crowton and Alana Saunders

This covered the process leading to the speed reduction , signage and road marking improvements being carried out by Walsall Council

We are scheme number 77 out of 91 across Walsall which highlighted the importance of incident reporting community support and data collection to support this and any future issues

It also highlighted Operation Snap and the reporting of incidents to West Midland and Staffordshire Police Forces

The section of Chester Road covering the Main St and Gravelly Lane junctions will see a speed reduction from 50 MPH to 40 MPH

2 Vehicle activated signs are on order

Road markings will include cross hatching and a gateway feature

45 new/ replacement signs and 27 removed (increased signage)

Friday 21st will see a 21 day Regulatory Order will be issued

Friday 14th will see a Road Safety Audit carried out

Scheme will be implemented in March / April with the VAS signage fitted when ready

Concerns were raised by attendees about the lack of a Traffic Light Scheme as not all accidents have been Speed related

Sign Maintenance and Lighting issues highlighted

Councillor David Smith raised the issue we have with the village being used as a ‘Rat Run’ the impact on Shire Oak junction and if Traffic lights would make cutting through the village a more attractive proposition

Attendees also raise concerns and accident reporting and some incidents not being reported (A Motorcyclist was injured in Birch Lane and this doesn’t appear to have been reported) *Edit. This has been reported and more data has now been added to the SCAR log.*

Stop signs were put forward as a proposal

Crossing the Chester Road is seen by some residents to be more of an issue than travelling down it

Birch Lane residents can’t cross with Horses and would like to see a pedestrian crossing and speed bumps. They also feel that the 30 MPH markings are missed because they are too close to the junction and get missed

Councillor Gary Perry spoke to give his thanks to his officers and fellow Councillors

He acknowledged the passion in the room , the petition and the tragedy that has impacted the Preston family

Speed Camera issues are being looked at with Staffordshire Council

He has given assurance that the Traffic Light proposal will be looked at and reviewed with the Highways Team

Councillor David Smith acknowledged the impact of SCAR addressing a full council meeting , he also thanked all involved for the hard work

Speed and poor driving are having an impact on the area

Thank you to Walsall Council for attending a community meeting in numbers

Questions that get submitted will be raised with Walsall Council

Adrian Walters SCAR Chairman spoke about the Chester Rd Petition and the impact it has had

The Neighbourhood Plan is now in

Speeding issues on Wallheath Lane , Cartersfield Lane and Church Lane are an issue

SIDS project being carried out by Adrian Floyd has been submitted to the Parish with the aim of securing funding across Stonnall, Shenstone and Little Aston

Projects like this take a lot of time which raised the need for support from residents who have been asked to join SCAR as Directors or canvassers and general help to carry on the work required to challenge Councils

Mick Cox has asked for Speedwatch volunteers which is vital to better data collection required to support issues in and around the village

Councillor Phil Whitehouse thanked Walsall Council for attending and Keith Seers and Amanda Parkes from Walsall Council for also attending

Thanks to Gary Perry for looking closer at our scheme and hopefully spending more cash.

The issue of the 2 councils involved communicating was raised but it has been noted that there is more engagement now that Gary has taken over from Mike Bird . The feeling is that because of the level of support shown by Walsall Council things will get done .

Adrian Floyd discussed SIDS and the options being looked at

ANPR’s are being looked at but need licencing

A SID position review is needed to find the best location and as previously mentioned its been put to the Parish for funding consideration

Ian (Treasurer) SCAR has £2875 in funds after raising £600 from the Cheese and Wine