

Atworth Traffic Action Group (ATAG)

Email: atag@email.com

Website: <http://atag.99k.org>

Report of a meeting of the Organising Committee of the Group (Meeting reference 20111212)

A meeting of the Organising Committee of ATAG was held on Monday 12th December, at 57 Godwins Close, Atworth.

20111212/1 Present

Dave Seabright, Norma Seabright, Ruth Griffin, Christine Gibson, Pippa McVeigh, Mavis King, Lynne Spencer, Kenneth Spencer.

20111212/2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Rosemary Ward and Lesley Vaughan.

20111212/3 Events Since Inauguration

20111212/3.1 Mavis King

Mavis King drew the attention of the group to several cuttings from articles from the recent press, in which residents of communities had used various methods to publicise the effects of traffic in their communities.

We will be able to learn from the ideas of other communities.

20111212/3.2 Wally Beall

Wally Beall had sent a letter to Kenneth Spencer, which he read out. Wally considered that speed-activated flashing 30mph signs might be approved by the authorities if we requested them. In discussion it was noted that Atworth's Neighbourhood Police Tasking Group (NPTG) members have campaigned for these or other speed activated signs for many years, but that the banding of speeds mean that we have not been eligible thus far. However, other news [see 20111212/3.3 below] is now very promising.

In the letter, Wally also made the suggestion that posts could be erected on the road edge at those places where the pavements are narrowest. This would reduce hazard and fear induced by HGVs rushing past pedestrians on the narrow pavements. It was agreed that this should be added to the existing list of possible improvements to be pursued.

20111212/3.3 Speed Activated Signs

Kenneth Spencer reported that Mark Griffiths had confirmed that following the recent NPTG meeting, and the Melksham Area Board (MAB) meeting of the next day, MAB would be investigating the purchase of two more mobile speed indicators, and that they would be deployed in Atworth at either end of the village. They would be shared with some other parishes.

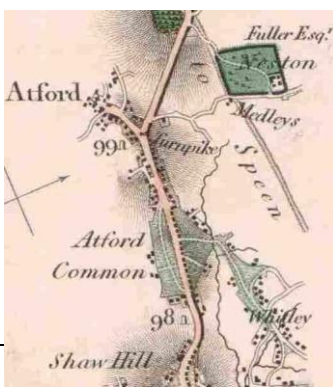
This provision would be outside the current bandings of eligibility for speed control devices.

[Information note: The bandings of speed control device eligibility are understood to be: 15% over 42mph=fixed speed activated signs; 15% over 38.5mph=mobile speed activated signs; 15% over 35mph=community speedwatch. NB: These figures may require confirmation.]

Details of funding had yet to be decided. It was agreed that this is excellent news for Atworth.

20111212/4 Neighbourhood Police Tasking Group

It was agreed that a strong presence of ATAG members would be necessary at each NPTG meeting, with members wearing ATAG badges to promote the identity of the group.



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20111212/4 continued ...

Kenneth Spencer would circulate the recent minutes of the NPTG to members - these minutes included the date of the next meeting so that ATAG members could be sure to attend.

20111212/5 The Public Meeting

Ruth Griffin informed the group that there was a strong possibility that Neston Park Farm Shop could be used for the Public Meeting to be organised by ATAG. Ruth agreed to check and confirm this as soon as possible. The date for this meeting was agreed as Wednesday February 15th at 7:30pm, subject to NPFS availability.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Organising Committee would be arranged for early January to determine the format of the public meeting.

20111212/6 Election of Officers

It was agreed that the group could now seek a proper public profile and that officers should therefore be elected.

20111212/6.1 Chair

It was proposed that Kenneth Spencer should be Chair, as the group was his original idea. However, he declined because he considered that his profile was high enough in the village, between the magazine and website, and it may be better to spread responsibilities amongst more individuals.

In his absence, it was agreed that Kenneth should seek the acceptance of Paul Escott in the filling of this rôle.

[*Post-meeting note: Paul has agreed to serve as Chair of the group. However, as he cannot attend meetings on Wednesdays, Mavis King, as Vice-Chair, may be required to step in for the Public Meeting.*]

20111212/6.2 Vice-Chair

Mavis King accepted the rôle of Vice-Chair

20111212/6.3 Minutes

Lynne Spencer accepted the rôle of Minutes Secretary.

20111212/6.4 Communications

Kenneth Spencer accepted the rôle of Communications.

20111212/7 Other Business

It was suggested that the group attempts to seek a meeting with the Wiltshire Chief Constable, to make our views known. Our views are applicable to nearly every rural community in the county where a busy road reduces the quality of life and causes risks and hazards. This idea will be pursued and possibly extended to include the Leader of Wiltshire Council.