15.03.2021

**Baldock Town Talk**

Present:

* Cllr Michael Weeks (CHAIR - NHDC)
* Cllr Jim McNally (NHDC)
* Cllr Michael Muir(NHDC & County Councillor)
* Cllr Steve Jarvis (NHDC & County Councillor)
* Cllr Tom Tyson (NHDC)
* Cllr Valentine Shanley (NHDC)
* Ashley Hawkins (Community Engagement Officer)
* **MOA = Member of Audience**

Cllr Weeks welcomed everybody to the meeting. Unfortunately, on this occasion there were no members of the public in attendance. Michael Muir informed the group that he had received a question from a resident who was unable to attend the zoom Town Talk.

The resident’s question was with regards to speeding traffic in the town especially on the High Street, South Road, Clothall Road and Hitchin Street.

Michael Weeks started the discussion by saying that Michael Muir had recently looked into this matter and about introducing a 20 mph speed limit.

Michael Muir stated that the issue was last discussed around 8 to 10 years ago and a consultation exercise was carried out. In total 21 replies were received, 2 for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit and 19 against the proposal.

Michael Weeks said that the 20mph speed zones could possibly work on Residential roads but not on the High Street and South Road.

Michael Muir interjected that Cllr Judy Billing had been successful in introducing numerous 20 mph speed limit zones in Hitchin.

Steve Jarvis added that he had introduced 3 such schemes within his Ward area also.

Tom Tyson said that Ashwell High Street had a 20mph speed zone in place which has been successful but given the parking on the High Street it would be difficult to drive above 20 mph in the first instance, but that Baldock High Street was different.

Michael Muir said that that the Police had informed him that unlike London Road it would not be safe to carry out speed checks on the High Street as there was insufficient space for officers to use the speed gun safely and then for another officer to pull in the driver and educate on the dangers of speeding.

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