



COPY OF REPORT PRESENTED TO T&T 07.12.21 BUT NOT DISCUSSED DUE TO INQUORATE MEETING

REPORT ON: Future of Traffic & Transport Committee

WRITTEN BY: Parish Clerk

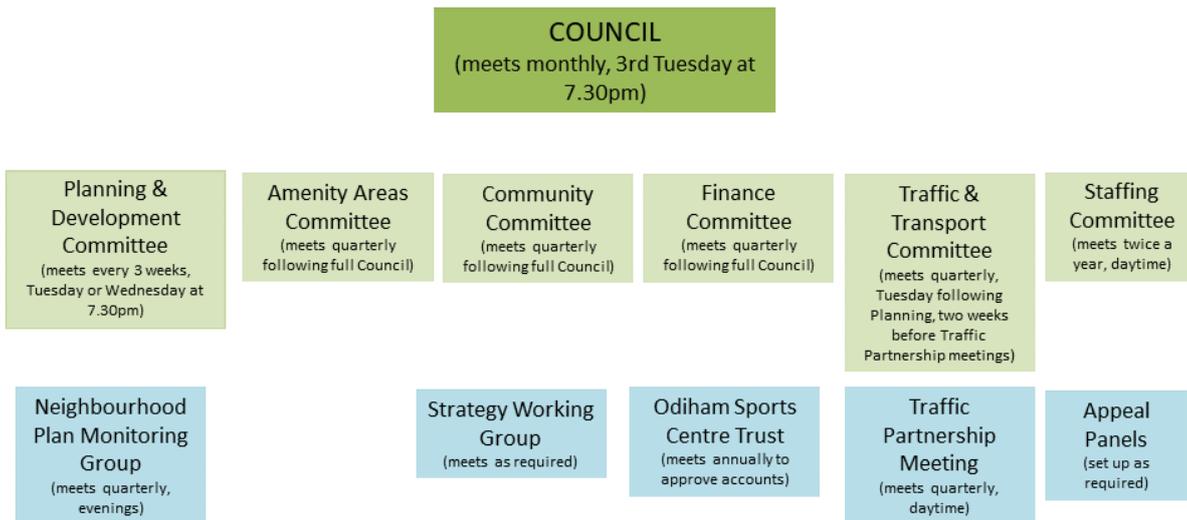
MEETING DATE: 18th January 2022

AGENDA ITEM: 162/21

Introduction

A local Council is permitted to delegate some of its functions, work and decisions to committees and, in line with the rules, OPC’s current committee structure was last reviewed and agreed in May, as follows:

Odiham Parish Council Committee Structure (agreed 4th May 2021)



The Traffic & Transport Committee has been a key Council committee for several years where local highways issues are discussed in detail and some later referred to the relevant authority through the Traffic Partnership group. However, more recently the Committee has seen a rise in direct referrals from residents but a reduction in the options available to remedy their concerns.

All levels of local government are facing stringent times and this is particularly pertinent for principal authorities who’s precept increases are capped at 2% (excluding social care). This trend is likely to be influencing OPC’s local voice on highways related matters. Hampshire County Council’s mission to “Balance the Budget to 2023” is widely reported and even though the most recent press release suggests HCC will “consider additional spending in the budget of a further £7 million in the maintenance of Hampshire’s roads” it is inevitable spending will be focussed on the highest priority issues.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/04112021Balancingthebudgetto2023>



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This report seeks a discussion on the effectiveness and constraints of the Traffic & Transport Committee and seeks agreement on the way forward which strives to:

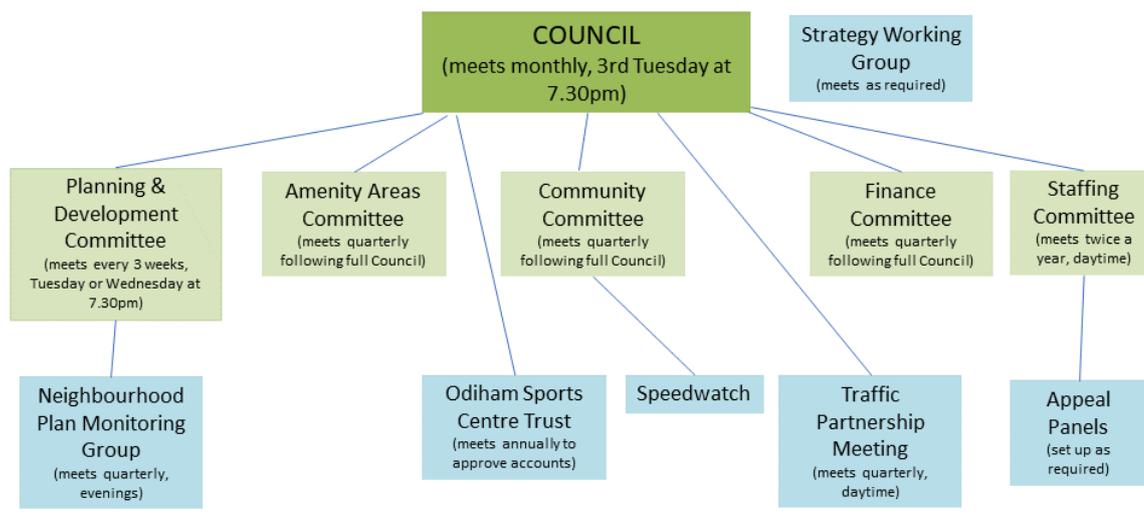
- Acknowledge residents’ concerns on highways related issues.
- Provide a process for debating key issues and lobbying higher authorities to implement changes where required.
- Manage residents’ expectations on the level of control available to OPC to make positive changes.
- Utilise OPC’s minimal resources in the most efficient and effective way.

For consideration

- Full Council is permitted to discuss and agree any issue which falls under a committee’s terms of reference.
- Council staff regularly take calls from members of the public and refer issues directly to HCC, HDC, the Police or register on www.fixmystreet.com.
- The Speedwatch project has been well received by residents and will soon see an increase in volunteers as soon as training takes place. This project would naturally sit with the Community Committee and an increase in volunteers will better support the group running independently in the future.
- The Traffic Partnership meeting appears to be working effectively and considered useful by Councillors and staff but future effectiveness will depend on commitment from all members of the group.
- Abolishing this committee will free up valuable meeting time for other work eg projects arising from the Environment and Climate Change working group and Village Centre Action Plan.
- Below is a suggested new structure:

Odiham Parish Council Committee Structure

(Suggested)



For decision

To agree whether to abolish the Traffic & Transport Committee, alternative arrangements for discussing local highways matters and when the new arrangements will take effect.