

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES TO THE JULY 2023 AGENDA:

Correspondence Item a)

“The group has discussed use of dye previously. The volume of water in the quarry is significant so the amount of dye required would also be significant to make an impact. The dye would also have to be refreshed on an ongoing basis to make sure that it remained effective. Officers recall that the last time the dye was used it behaved in an unusual way with a tendency to gather in one area, which had an effect on impact. We have discussed the use of dye with the company recently and at that point there was the indication that dye would not be considered again due to perception of efficacy and cost.

The group has also discussed the use of dye and unanticipated impacts of use. Although the dye would be non-toxic, it would be harmful to aquatic life if it got into water courses and this could effectively stop the owners pumping out water until the dye degraded. The dye could act as a deterrent for people jumping into the water, but if someone were to jump in the reduced visibility may also increase the possibility of someone hitting an underwater object based on their choice of jump location.”

Correspondence item c)

“We are grateful that you have provided some additional context about the problems caused by inconsiderate parking along this road. This does suggest that there may be a wider issue over and above the type of transient parking caused by school pick-up and drop-off activities.

Our officers receive many requests for site meetings, which can be very resource intensive. We therefore only agree to such requests if they would help our understanding of an issue, or if we had topics which would benefit from an on-site discussion. As these criteria do not apply in this case, we must respectfully decline Councillor Juckes' request for a site meeting at this time.

I was concerned to hear of two recent non-injury collisions on Mossy Lea Road. Whilst such incidents are always regrettable, I am pleased to hear that those involved were unhurt. The police do share injury collision data with us, which includes an independent assessment of the likely causal factors. This information helps us identify locations where we can have the greatest impact on reducing casualties. Unfortunately, we do not receive the same information for non-injury collisions. This means we do not know how they occurred, or if they were caused by factors over which we have limited influence, such as mechanical failure or individual driver error.

We do acknowledge that vehicles parked on both sides of a carriageway can restrict the free flow of two-way traffic. In light of your further concerns, we have already carried out one site visit to assess the local conditions. This noted a level of sporadic parking consistent with what one could expect for a village population. Of course, as with most roads, this degree of parking could still mean traffic has to give way to opposing vehicles on occasion. Our first site visit did witness some isolated incidents of this nature, but they were not considered to be excessive.

Of course, one site visit would not necessarily provide a full understanding of the reported problems. We therefore plan to conduct further site visits over the coming weeks (at various times of the day and week). These visits will help provide a more comprehensive picture of the problems on Mossy Lea Road. They will also help capture any changes in activity in and around local business premises. Once we have completed our site assessments, we will update you on our findings. We will also notify you of any interventions we may be considering. At which point, we will be in a position to further engage with local stakeholders and consider their feedback.”

Correspondence item d)

“We do not have a 'No-Mow-May' policy, If we were to follow such a policy, it certainly wouldn't apply to play and recreational areas like the site at Mossy Lea, for all the reasons outlined in your email, areas like this need to have short grass!

..... sorry that the site got into such a state and accepts that it wasn't maintained to a satisfactory standard. Due to operational issues, combined with perfect grass growing conditions, the normal 28 day cycle of mowing slipped, but is now back on-track.

With regards to the request for 'cut and lift', sadly we cannot offer this service. We do not have the machinery or resources to do it and would not be able to dispose of the grass. The only grass WLBC collect is from areas within sheltered housing schemes and bowling greens. The machinery we have for cut-and-collect is limited in size, would not cope with long grass and is fully tied up through the mowing season. Sports (football) pitches are cut with the tractor, which does not collect the cuttings, but those sites are cut more often than sites such as Mossy Lea. We do not currently have the capacity to cut the Mossy Lea site any more than we do.
