Frodsham
TOWN COUNCIL

Amenities & Planning Committee

14th April 2025

Meeting pack

Contents

Agenda item		
		Agenda
4		Minutes 10-03-2025
6		Hob Hey Wood designation
12c		Festive lighting report
14		Active Travel Working Group report

Frodsham TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes from the Amenities & Planning Committee held on 10th March 2025 at 7:00pm at Castle Park Arts Centre, Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SE

Attended by: Cllr D Critchley, Cllr J Critchley, Cllr H Hayes, Cllr A Holman, Cllr R Lofts (Chair), Cllr P Lowrie, Cllr M Nield, Cllr B Wade (Vice Chair), Cllr G Wood & J O'Donoghue (Town Clerk)

Meeting 2

1. Apologies and reasons for absence

To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence from members.

NOTED: There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

To note any declarations of interest on items which are on the agenda.

NOTED: There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public participation

Members of the public are invited to speak on items which are on the agenda in accordance with FTC policy on public speaking at meetings: https://frodsham.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Public-speaking-at-meetings-2023.pdf

NOTED: No member of the public attended the meeting.

4. Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes from the Amenities & Planning Committee Meeting held 10th February 2025

RESOLVED: The minutes from the meeting were unanimously approved and signed.

5. Committee Budget

To approve a virement from budget item 4760 (Play area additional works) to 4999 (Ship Street play area) of £2,876 to cover additional works carried out.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to approve a virement from budget item 4760 (Play area additional works) to 4999 (Ship Street play area) of £2,876 to cover additional works carried out.

6. To consider the following planning applications:

Reference	Address	Description	Comments
25/00309/TPO	77 Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QU	1x lime (A) - reduce height by 5m, reduce radial width by 1.5m 1x lime (B) - reduce height by 5m, reduce radial width by 1.5m 1x holly (c) - reduce height by 4m, reduce radial width by 0.5m	**NO OBJECTION**
25/00251/FUL	46 Howey Lane, Frodsham, WA6 6DL	Single storey rear and first floor side extension	**NO OBJECTION** subject to the extension meeting the requirement of Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Domestic Outbuildings

25/00306/FUL	Marling House, Top Road, Frodsham, WA6 6SN	Two storey rear extension	**NO OBJECTION** subject to the extension meeting the requirement of Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Domestic Outbuildings
24/02834/FUL	Car Park, Eddisbury Square, Frodsham	Installation of 4 Electric Vehicle Charging Bays, feeder pillar, EV power units, substation, a flood light and bollards with signage	**NO OBJECTION**
25/00415/FUL	95 Townfield Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7RJ	Install new render to all external brickwork	**NO OBJECTION**
25/00579/TPO	15 Orchard Close, Frodsham, WA6 6DS	Oak (T1) to be dead wooded - Crown reduction of 30% (appox 3m) to growth points	**NO OBJECTION**
25/00416/FUL	51 Fairways, Frodsham, WA6 7RY	Single storey rear extension, first floor side extension above garage with part conversion of garage to habitable space. Alteration to ground floor front window opening	**NO OBJECTION** subject to the extension meeting the requirement of Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Domestic Outbuildings

7. To note comments already submitted to meet CWaC deadlines between FTC meetings

Reference	Address	Description	Comments
25/00309/TPO	77 Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QU	1x lime (A) - reduce height by 5m, reduce radial width by 1.5m 1x lime (B) - reduce height by 5m, reduce radial width by 1.5m 1x holly (c) - reduce height by 4m, reduce radial width by 0.5m	No objection
24/02834/FUL	Car Park, Eddisbury Square, Frodsham	Installation of 4 Electric Vehicle Charging Bays, feeder pillar, EV power units, substation, a flood light and bollards with signage	No objection

8. Grant from Mersey Forest

(a) To note that that Northwich Town Council can supply 175 trees (at cost) and equipment as specified in the grant (£1,370) and will provide the planting labour at no cost.

NOTED

(b) To note that Hob Hey Wood Friends will provide support with planting together with members of the FTC admin team.

NOTED

(c) To agree a planting date and time for week beginning 24th March 2025

RESOLVED: It was agreed to carry out planting on Wednesday 26th March, time to be confirmed. Cllrs Hayes and Lofts agreed to take part.

(d) To agree any further action

RESOLVED: Clerk to invite all councillors to participate in planting 175 trees alongside volunteers from Northwich Town Council, Hob Hey Wood Friends, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Lofts, J O'Donoghue (Town Clerk) and L Bosman (Admin Officer).

ACTION: JO

9. Hob Hey Wood

(a) To receive a report from Cllr Hayes on the designation of Hob Hey Wood as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), with no financial cost to the Council.

NOTED: It was noted that: Hob Hey Wood meets all the requirements to be designated a Local Nature Reserve and Hob Hey Wood Friends can complete the necessary documentation on behalf of Frodsham Town Council for submission to Natural England.

(b) To agree action to be taken

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed, under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, to make an application for Hob Hey Wood to be designated a Local Nature Reserve to Natural England.

ACTION: JO

10. Christmas Lights Working Group

(a) To receive a verbal report from Cllr M Nield

NOTED: It was noted that the group has not yet held a meeting.

(b) To consider action to be taken

RESOLVED: It was agreed that: a meeting be arranged with Cheshire West and Chester Council Highways to clarify festive lighting requirements; meeting to be arranged with Cllr Nield, Town Clerk, I Parkin (working group member) and KDE to discuss the current situation.

ACTION: JO

11. RoSPA Play Area Inspections

To note that the annual inspections will take place in April 2025.

NOTED

12. Safety Surfacing – Top Road & Churchfields Play Areas

(a) To note quotations received

NOTED: Deferred pending further quotes

(b) To agree action to be taken

NOTED: Deferred pending further quotes

13. Planters

(a) To note the report provided and receive any additional information from Cllr Hayes

NOTED: The report was acknowledged, but no agreement was reached on installing planters at the entrances to Frodsham signage.

(b) To agree any action to be taken

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to make application for a licence for street furniture (planters) to CWAC.

ACTION: JO

14. Active Travel Working Group

(a) To note the report from a meeting held 12/02/2025 (circulated via email on 4/03/2025)

NOTED

(b) To note the report provided by Cllr Holman

NOTED

(c) To agree any action to be taken

RESOLVED: Cllr Holman to provide details regarding future events to the next Amenities & Planning Committee Meeting.

15. **Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 20:00

Frodsham
TOWN COUNCIL

Frodsham Christmas Lighting

Main Street

High Street

Church Street

Frodsham TOWN COUNCIL

Contents

Amendment History 3
Distribution List 3
Introduction 4
Approach 4
Current solution 5
Main Street. 5
High Street 6
Church Street 6
NOTES 6
Current known Weaknessses and issues 7
Weaknesses 7
Main Street 7
Church Street 7
High Street 7
All locations 7
Issues 7
Scope 8
Options available. 8
recommendations. 8
Design 9
Next section 9
Appendix A - Information 10
Appendix B – Lamp Post Pictures 11
Appendix C – Lamp Post Wiring 12
Appendix D – Street Maps 13
Main Street 13
Church Street 14
High Street 15

AMENDMENT HISTORY

Date	Version	Reason for issue
10/10/2024	V1.0	Initial release for discussion
07/04/2025	V1.1	Addition of current solution, weaknesses etc

DISTRIBUTION LIST

As this document is marked as Confidential, the distribution list is as follows. Prior approval should be sought from the author before onward distribution.

Person	Role
Jo O'Donoghue	FTC Town Clerk
Mark Neild	Project Lead
Helen Hayes	FTC Chair
Richard lofts	Amenities Chair
Working Group Members	tba

INTRODUCTION

The current Christmas lighting in Frodsham Town Centre has been in-situ for several years and it has been suggested that consideration be given to a refresh to give a better representation of Frodsham. This refresh would be in line with the council's agenda to both promote Frodsham and instil civic pride.

It is envisaged that this document will be a living document to be used to track the development, financing and deployment of any design that is approved.

APPROACH

Given the potential for a significant amount of precept payers money to be utilised in the delivery of a town wide solution, it is important that a methodical approach is taken to the way that this is undertaken. It is proposed that the following steps are undertaken

1. A detailed inventory shall be compiled indicating all lights / sockets / locations etc.
2. Any current known issues shall be documented.
3. The proposed scope (locations) for any lighting be agreed.
4. An end point design determined.
5. Consideration of how a phased approach could be undertaken to ensure a responsible call is made on the precept.
6. Detailed proposal completed along with any timescales / phased approach.
7. Quotes Obtained for both the infrastructure and on-going maintenance costs. Guarantee options requested from suppliers.
8. Supplier selected.
9. Work undertaken.
10. Work confirmed as delivered correctly.
11. Detailed maintenance and check sheets / records maintained.

Items 1 and 2 have been completed in this document to date, Item 3 is an ideal next step, all other items have been added to give an indication of how this may proceed from that point. It also recognises that all applicable Frodsham Town policies shall take precedence over this proposal, albeit this document could be used to drive this project forward and fully document what is likely to be a significant investment of precept payers' money.

CURRENT SOLUTION

The current Christmas lighting throughout the town is based entirely on festoon lighting. All lighting is fed from 8 of 10 lamp post feeds, each comprising a 20A capacity / 30ma trip breaker located in lamp posts. In addition, following the initial switch-on, the lighting is then controlled by individual timers in each lamp post feed. These lamp posts are located as follows

Location	Lamp Post Number	In Use
Main Street	131	Yes
Main Street	130	Yes
Main Street	119	Yes
Main Street	118	Yes
Main Street	115 (Check)	No
Main Street	112 (Check)	No
High Street	2	Yes
High Street	3	Yes
Church Street	1	Yes
Church Street	11	Yes

NB the electrical provisions within the lamp posts have not been verified by inspection, the pictures in Appendix-C are for illustrative purposes only.

MAIN STREET.

The lighting on Main Street is based on festoon lights that attached vertically to Candy Cane shaped lamp posts with horizontal festoon lights between them. Several lampposts to the western side of Main Street have no lighting. No lighting traverses from one side of the road to the other.

The lighting on each side of Main Street is fed from two points. The horizontal run of festoon lights feed both the run of festoon lights themselves along with the vertical candy cane lights on a “loop in / loop out / tap to cany cane lights” configuration.

Additionally, lamp post 131 also feeds the temporary Christmas tree located outside the Bears Paw.

HIGH STREET

The lighting on High Street is based on horizontal festoon lights that utilise buildings, a tree and lamp posts. Several lamp posts to the eastern side of High Street have no lighting. No lighting traverses from one side of the road to the other.

The lighting on each side of High Street is fed from two points. The festoon lights are fed in one continuous run and terminate on the lamp posts feeding those on Main Street westbound (130 / 131)

CHURCH STREET

The lighting on Church Street is based on horizontal festoon lighting which traverses the road in a zig-zag pattern and breaks in two sections at the railway bridge. Except for one fixing point, all lighting is attached to buildings, the singular exception being attached to a lamp post. The run of festoon lights starting at the traffic lights also feeds the faulty tree lights on the tree located outside Frodsham Tap.

There are also two additional feeds on Church Street on Lamp Posts 5 and 4, both feed the faulty tree lights only which are located on trees outside the Cholmondeley Arms and Zucca.

NOTES

For full audit information showing the locations of all assets, the locations of electrical sockets and junction boxes, you are referred to the spreadsheet “FTC Christmas Lighting Inventory V1.0.xlsx” or later versions. This Inventory excludes the lighting on the three trees on Church Street and the four trees on High Street as these have been determined as faulty and are currently marked for removal at a date in the future.

This audit does not include any areas outside the currently defined scope of works, nor does it include any brackets etc that may currently be in-situ.

CURRENT KNOWN WEAKNESSSES AND ISSUES

The current solution has several weaknesses and issues that should be considered.

WEAKNESSES

The biggest weakness in the current design relates to the way the lighting is fed. Should a single issue occur, that being a faulty breaker, timer, festoon belt etc that causes the breaker to trip, the following will occur.

MAIN STREET

Approximately ¼ of the horizontal festoon and vertical cany cane lighting will fail as a contiguous block.

CHURCH STREET

Half of the horizontal festoon will fail (the existing faulty tree lighting has been ignored).

HIGH STREET

Half of the horizontal festoon lighting will fail.

ALL LOCATIONS

The current solution requires 8 individuals to turn on the lighting simultaneously. As this is a manual solution dependent upon the co-ordination and reaction times of those 8 people, the lighting can be seen to turn on over a few seconds. It also has associated costs.

ISSUES

1. Failure of the 7 trees wrapped due to age / tree growth.
2. The horizontal festoon lighting on both sides of Main Street and Church Street traverse through trees that later may be impacted. That said, as these festoon lights are attached to a catenary wire, this may provide a degree of protection.
3. Several cable ties on the horizontal festoon lighting on both sides of Main Street and Church Street have failed and need replacing.
4. On Church Street the junction box at the fixing point adjacent to the Golden Lion is not attached to the building.
5. Some 16A plugs have been disconnected and left exposed to the elements and may need replacement prior to use, albeit this looks as if they feed the failed fairy lights wrapped around trees.
6. The scheduled testing of the catenary wires is overdue; however, this is now being rectified.
7. The lighting deployed is highly likely to have been in-situ for at least 20 years, some 30 years.

SCOPE

This document seeks to address the Christmas Lighting solution to be deployed in the following locations.

- Main Street from the town centre traffic lights to the railway bridge.
- High Street from the town centre traffic lights to Plumbstons Lane.
- Church Street from the town centre traffic lights to London Road

It is recognised that other locations in the town may benefit from Christmas lighting, these have not been included at this stage albeit, could be incorporated as part of a phased approach later.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE.

All options are available, that being partial or full replacement of the existing lighting on a like for like basis, partial change to the design or a full redesign. Cheshire West and Chester council have indicated that in principle, there would be no issues in running lighting across the carriageway, albeit have stated this must have a minimum height of 7.2m and reserve the right to approve the design.

The limitation on any design would now be financial.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

There are several recommendations that should be incorporated into any design.

1. All feeds to the lighting should be checked and given the low monetary value of the parts, replaced.
2. Additional feeds should be considered to provide more resilience especially if lighting that traverses the carriage way is considered.
3. Should the horizontal festoon and vertical candy cane lights remain, a more resilient solution can be deployed to ensure any single failure does not have such a noticeable impact.
4. Turn on automation deployed where possible to allow lighting to be turned on throughout the year without the current associated costs.
5. Whilst the catenary wires have been checked, given the age, the low cost of the materials etc, these should be replaced and with a greater capacity to allow for automation / resilience should that be incorporated into the design.

DESIGN

NEXT SECTION

APPENDIX A - INFORMATION

Hi Mark,

Thanks for your reply. We tend to buy our stock from either LITE or Blachere (Blachere seem to be the better-quality company, but they are usually more expensive).

My contact at LITE is Martin Avill (Sales Director), Tel: 01827 337108, Mob: 07786 367312, Email: martin@lite-ltd.co.uk, website: https://www.lite-ltd.co.uk/
My contact at Blachere is Tom Walmsley (Regional Sales and Projects Manager), Tel: 07525 324 784, E-mail: t.walmsley@blachere-illumination.co.uk, website: https://www.blachere-illumination.co.uk/

We also have a specialist lighting company to install and service all our lights (AMR Technical). They will be able to answer any technical questions about installation and specifications. My contact is Alan Radband (aradband@hotmail.com).

If you would like to install any motifs, you'll need to get this approved by CW&C – they can also install the right gear and timers for you on their lighting columns. I'm not sure who the best contact is these days but someone from their highways department should know. I think it costs around £750 per lighting column to do this. Alan Radband can also install this equipment.

We have an MPAN agreement with Npower for the lights. The electricity costs us around £700 per year. Each year, I have to send them an inventory with the wattage and hours lit and they send the bill around March/April time. This was set up well before my time here as clerk so I'm not sure what the process would be to register as a new user.

Feel free to pop in or I'm happy to answer any further questions you have by e-mail or phone.

Kind regards,

Claire

APPENDIX B – LAMP POST PICTURES

Should a design be considered for lighting that traverses the carriageway, it should be noted that the lamp posts narrow at two points, both points being below the 7.2 minimum height stipulated by Cheshire West and Chester council.

APPENDIX C – LAMP POST WIRING

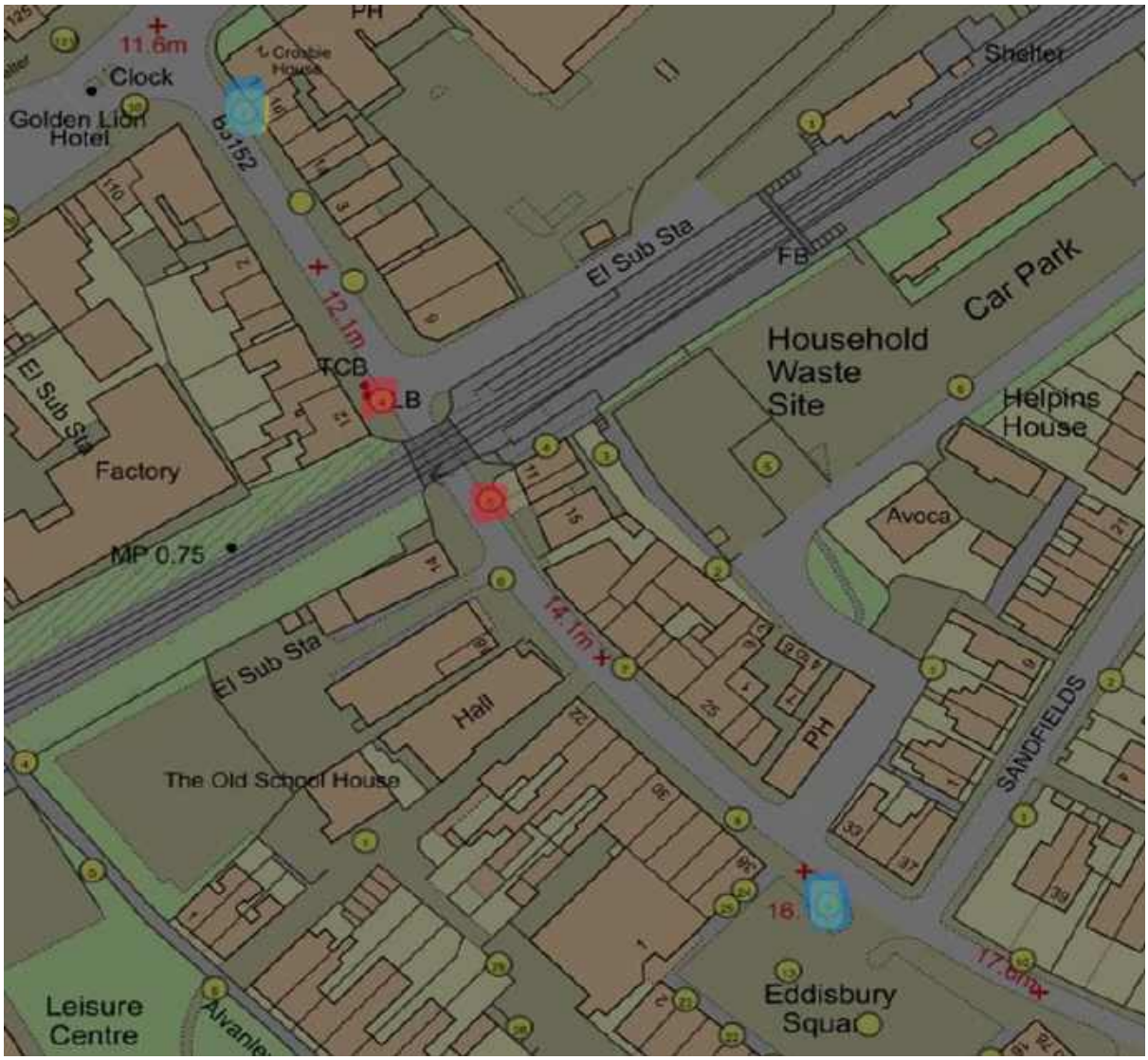
These pictures have been included to demonstrate the age of the internal wiring of power provision within the existing lighting columns.

APPENDIX D – STREET MAPS

MAIN STREET

The power feeds are the blue circles and feed westbound towards Helsby.

CHURCH STREET



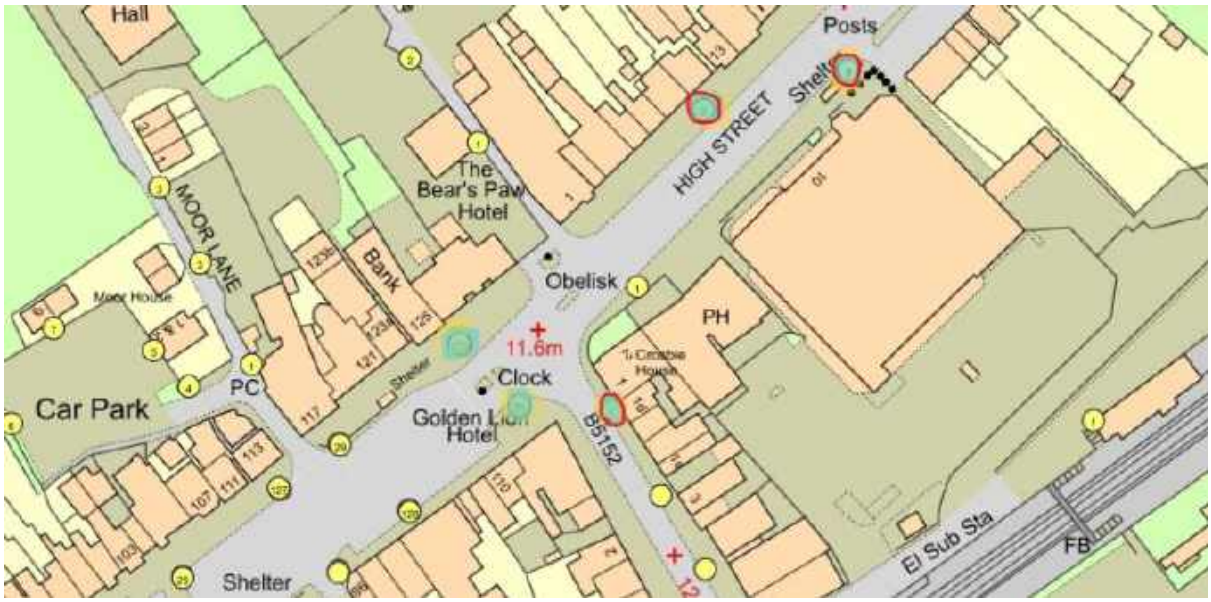
For information, the blue circles ae the feed in, the red circles are the termination point. The two runs of festoon lights are as follows.

From the traffic lights to the Railway bridge which also feeds the faulty tree lights outside the Frodsham tap.

From Eddisbury Square to the Railway Bridge.

There are also two additional feeds on Church Street on Lamp Posts 5 and 4, both feed the faulty tree lights only which are located on trees outside the Cholmondeley Arms and Zucca.

HIGH STREET



The two power points located on High Street feed westbound towards the traffic lights, the southern side traversing the Main Street / Church Street / High Street junction and the northern side traversing the entrance to the Bears Paw carpark.

PLANNING & AMENITIES COMMITTEE 14/04/2025

ACTIVE TRAVEL

REPORT FROM CLLR HOLMAN

DATED: 7/04/25

1) The Discover Frodsham Boards are nearing completion: A test fitting occurred at the Bus Stop on Main Street with the help of Phil Leach from CWAC. The Actual Map should be fitted soon, and Phil tells us replacements/extra copies are cheap to make and if we want more we just have to let them know! All obstacles delaying The Railway Station Boards have been overcome and we are told these will be fitted this spring.

2) Big Bike Revival. As advised previously Active Travel would like to run an event to promote Bikeability and Bike Maintenance. We will also invite Neil Flanagan for a bike marking session, along with representatives from FTC Active Travel and CNC. Cost of £150 for the Bike Maintenance Course Run by Bren Bikes. We intend to run this around the 2nd week of the summer school holidays.

3) Speed Limits Through Frodsham: We understand that CWAC has been considering changes to the speed limit through Frodsham, to reduce it to 20mph. Both Church Street and Main Street fit the criteria for 20mph zones. The criteria relate to current average speeds and number of pedestrians hit in the last 3 years. The criteria is 2 or more within 100m in the past 3 years. We also believe it is widely supported by residents. Cllrs Lowrie and Sumner will be meeting a CWAC officer to ask about details.