

Report of the Town Transport Group for 2020

John Deegan, Transport Officer



The Society co-sponsors this group, along with Stratforward and the Town Council, and it addresses any transport matters of potential significance for the town. It meets approximately ten times per year and its meetings are generally well attended. The Society is currently represented by John Deegan and Jann Tracy. Because of COVID, meetings in 2020 were held virtually, using the ZOOM software.

As a result of COVID restrictions on vehicular traffic in the town, much of the TTG's attention has been focused on advising the highway authority about road closures and parking changes, which are visible on the ground. As far as possible, the TTG sought to protect the interests of pedestrians, cyclists, blue badge and public transport users. In particular, the closure of High Street provided an early opportunity to implement a key element of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The challenge now ahead is that with the easing of COVID restrictions, and the expected associated growth in town centre traffic demand, it is likely that there will be pressure to remove the closures and thereby reduce the opportunities for permanent improvement in the town centre environment. It will be down to the Town Centre Group (which has representatives of the TTG, and separately the Society is represented by John Scampion) to try to resist this pressure.

COVID aside, there has been little significant change on the ground; even the planned Birmingham Road improvements have been delayed because of COVID precautions. Instead, there has been a resurgent interest in transport policies and strategies, most of which have been seen on multiple occasions in the past.

I am retiring as a Society representative on the TTG, and I hope new blood will offer an opportunity to reinvigorate our thinking about Stratford's transport needs.

20 April 2021