**Background**

**Topic Groups should aim to support WCA in its aims:**

* As a group of groups, helping people to connect and share experience and expertise on specific issues (If centres of excellence exist, we can learn from these across the county).
* To debate emerging issues together and come to consensus on how to respond.
* To coordinate pressure on and support for WC in its response to the climate and ecological emergency.

**How we define ‘Transport’:**  it’s comprised of both movement (people & vehicles) and infrastructure (what is moved on/supports)

**Introductions**

Some members are here to learn more in order to progress action areas within their local groups. Others have a detailed background in transport-related campaigns.

**Remit of Transport Group – Broad Suggestions**  
Guiding principle should always be **reduce** – reduce need to travel, trips and impact of travel and transport of goods.

Focus on **integrated transport** – includes public transport which is convenient and will attract individual car users. Connected infrastructure – e.g. bus to train.

But - need to focus on specifics we can have impact with as it’s too broad otherwise.

WC don’t have sufficient time and resource to plan well – we can help inform sensible plans/spend. We can also offer endorsement on sustainable plans.

We can also expose and challenge bad decisions.

Need to act quickly now as lots of planning activity is currently underway.

Need to identify Wiltshire businesses who are major polluters (e.g. Hills) and educate/inform/challenge on their plans for carbon neutral 2030.

**Remit of Transport Group – Specific Suggestions**

1. **Cycling / Active Transport (include walking)**

* Needs to be a focus – lots of cyclists and lots of interest in local groups
* Less trips, replacing car with AT for smaller distance trips – health benefits etc
* Planning better pedestrian and cycle paths/lanes, plus secure places to store bikes and connectivity to other modes of transport (integrated transport model)
* A current WC consultation is happening on walking/cycling – try to input on this via Ariane Crampton. Alan Creedy is the Transport Officer, and has offered to consult.
* Infrastructure planning is difficult and time-consuming to get right. Need to support on this as WC may get wrong.
* Agreed E-bikes need to be a big focus. Move away from dominance of cars, and promote advantages (e.g. less emissions, cheaper, connect to public transport for easier single-person trips/commute).

1. **Electric Vehicles**

* Agreed very important to promote EVs and demand good infrastructure ASAP.
* Some thought this would happen without much pressure as WC already on board and demand is growing/private sector will provide. Nick says WC are not moving quickly enough though and we should continue to add pressure in this area.
* Hydrogen battery powered vehicles are generally included in a broad definition of EV.

1. **Roads**

* Strong experience within the group on anti-road campaigning.
* A350 / A36 Corridor Alliance, Western Gateway, CAUSE groups.
* Wiltshire’s current plans not in line with emissions reduction agenda – **urgency** of need to stop unnecessary roads being built.
* Not just roads themselves but planned settlements built around car use and commuting continuing to be passed by WC despite the environmental case. (Cause Wiltshire)
* Freedom of Information requests can be a useful tool in campaigns – Andrew can offer expertise on data.
* Road campaigns need the weight of WCA and its network. Campaign(er)s are often overpowered by sustained dominance of highways in infrastructure planning.
* Support WC in formulating sustainable plans (they currently seem to lack) within an integrated transport model. We can offer time, expertise and endorsement for them.
* Related suggestions: to promote car share; to raise awareness around SUVs.

**Format of Transport Group – Suggestions**

Important not to add too many new meetings and workstreams for already busy activists!

Could in time divide into separately themed groups, but at the moment there is a degree of crossover of interest, so preference to keep under one roof, but use technology to have separately themed discussions.

Transport Group could support and be central meeting point for themed sub-groups.

**Decisions**

1. The next meeting will be on ‘Cycling and Roads’, in a fortnight’s time.
2. We will use breakout rooms within the meeting to focus on each then come together to share conclusions and actions.
3. EVs will be a focus of the Transport group, but not a focus of the next meeting.
4. Emphasis will be on questions for full council meeting on Oct 20th.

**Actions**

| **Action** | **Who** | **When** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Set up and advertise next meeting-Zoom (1st Oct) | Bill | 22/09/20 |
| Develop ideas for format of next meeting | Andrew, Margaret W, Bill | 28/09/20 |
| **Promote meeting to anyone in our networks, particularly those who may offer particular expertise** | **ALL** | **01/10/20** |
| Review Website, looking at forums particularly | Bill >>Chris | 01/10/20 |
| Contact Ariane Crampton for:   * meeting with Alan Creedy on cycling * Availability of Council traffic surveys -establish traffic mix to enable target polluters * Meeting to understand how to influence WC roads planning | Bill | 28/09/20 |
| Analysis of traffic mix and potential major traffic polluters in the county | John | 01/10/20 |
| Contact rail pressure groups to gain information on plans and possibly join WCA | Andrew | 01/10/20 |