

Notes from the meeting between Marshalls and Bleadon Parish Councillors on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Marshalls would like to have a regular dialogue with the Parish in the future, and suggest that regular liaison meetings take place, where members of the Parish Council and other locally elected residents can become part of this group.. Marshalls have 55 sites across the UK, and this dialogue happens elsewhere. A public meeting will be arranged by the Parish Council to discuss the setting up of this working group in the New Year. If anyone would like to be included in this group then please contact the Parish Clerk at [parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Most Marshall's employees come from the NSC/Sedgemoor areas. There are a total of about 30 employees. Efforts are always made to employ local people.

The opportunity to close the Bleadon site is not available to Marshalls at present, although there are no plans to expand the site. There are no plans for extra HGV traffic into and out from the site, as the 'ceiling' has already been reached.

There are occasionally a maximum of 100 HGV movements every day (in and out). This varies greatly. Sometimes the figure is much less.

There was once a protocol regarding HGVs arriving at Marshalls at different times of the day, but this is very difficult to enforce, as there is little control over third party contractors. Marshalls' own drivers are very responsible, and are professional drivers.

Marshalls would be prepared to consider funding any extra signage on the A370 directing HGVs to their site if NSC feels that this is needed.

District Cllr Porter told the meeting *'the NSC highways department has recently inspected the kerbs and verges in Bridge Road, and their view is that there are no specific problems apart from superficial damage. The highways officers from NSC have decided that bollards on the A370 would make little difference to the current traffic situation. Experience elsewhere shows that a change from a 60 to a 50mph speed limit would also make little difference. There are other junctions in the NSC area which are more dangerous than this one, and NSC does not have the funds to make major changes at these junctions. The size of HGVs is regulated by central government, and every vehicle which uses the Bridge Road junction to visit Marshalls meets the regulations. To change a speed limit requires the road to have the characteristics to match the limit. It is accepted that there are major local concerns at this junction, but it meets all legal standards according to the current highways regulations. The statistics are that there have been 3 injury accidents at the Bridge Road junction in the last six years, including the tragic recent fatality'*.

Marshalls are prepared to work with NSC to improve highway matters in the vicinity if they can. HGV movements generally do not occur before 7am or after 7pm. If third party haulage firms do not confirm to these guidelines then they can be banned from the site. There are no regular complaints about HGV movements outside these operating hours. If a member of the public wishes to complain about the driving of third party contractors then the HGV vehicle registration number should be provided to Marshalls so that they can investigate. Marshalls encourage members of the public to provide information regarding bad driving by third party contractors. Information should be passed to Sean Clarke, the Marshalls business manager on 01633 284603 or 07733 318461.

The Parish Council thanked Marshalls for their efforts in trying to resolve these local issues.