

## BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES - 30th September 2021 4.00pm

### Virtual Meeting (not held in public)

<b>Chairman:</b>	Councillor C Siddall (Chairman) (ECC)
<b>Panel Members:</b>	<p>Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint (ECC)  Councillor G Butland (ECC)  Councillor T Cunningham (ECC)  Councillor D Louis (ECC)  Councillor R Playle (ECC)  Councillor P Schwier (ECC)  Councillor P Thorogood (ECC)</p> <p>Councillor Mrs M Cunningham (BDC)  Councillor P Euesden (BDC)  Councillor R van Dulken (BDC)  Councillor Mrs S Wilson (BDC)</p> <p>Councillor J Bendall (BALC)  Councillor D Gronland (BALC)  Councillor P Rawlinson (BALC)</p>
<b>Officers:</b>	<p>Sonia Church - Highways Liaison Manager, Essex Highways  Samir Pandya – Operations Strategy and Policy Manager (BDC)  Charlotte O’Connell - Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways</p> <p>Also in Attendance:-</p> <p>Corinne Foster – Governance and Members Officer (BDC)  David Gollop - Design Manager, Essex Highways  Lisa Hinman - Area Manager (North Essex Parking Partnership)  Neil Jones – Principal Planner (BDC)</p>
<b>Secretariat:</b>	<p>Alison Webb – Governance and Members Officer (BDC)</p> <p>(ECC - Essex County Council)  (BDC - Braintree District Council)  (BALC - Braintree Association of Local Councils)</p>

Item		Owner
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions:</b>  Councillor C Siddall welcomed everyone to the meeting.	

2.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Public Questions:</b></p> <p><b>Apologies for Absence:</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs S Simpson (BALC).</p> <p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b></p> <p>There were no interests declared.</p> <p><b>Public Questions:</b></p> <p>The meeting was not held in public, but the Chairman allowed two people to make statements, the details of which are set out below:-</p> <p><u>Statement by Councillor J Abbott, Braintree District Councillor for Silver End and Cressing Ward</u></p> <p>Councillor Abbott made reference to the following schemes:-</p> <p>LBRA198001 - New PRow, Church Road, Rivenhall Councillor Abbott requested information about the ‘difficulties’ which the PRow Officer had identified with this funded scheme.</p> <p>LBRA162022 – ‘20’s Plenty’, Valentine Way and School Road, Silver End Councillor Abbott stated that the signs for this funded scheme had not been positioned as originally planned and one was directly under a tree and could not be seen. Councillor Abbott asked if this sign could be moved.</p> <p>LBRA182021 – Removal of lay-by, installation of pedestrian guard rail and preservation of grass verges, School Road, Silver End Councillor Abbott wished to support the retention of this funded scheme within the Panel’s programme of work for 2021/22.</p> <p>LBRA182005 – Revision to grasscrete, School Road, Silver End Councillor Abbott wished to support the retention of this funded scheme within the Panel’s programme of work for 2021/22.</p> <p>HGV ‘Low Bridge’ Warning Signs, Rivenhall Councillor Abbott was pleased to report that these signs were effective in reducing the number of HGVs travelling towards the</p>	



<p>Kelvedon and Earls Colne and, in particular the first stage of this route between Earls Colne and Coggeshall for which some funding was available via a Section 106 Agreement.</p> <p>It had been acknowledged that currently there were no specific cycling schemes in the Panel's schedule of 'Schemes Awaiting Funding' and that the Panel could only fund schemes listed in the schedule. However, it had been proposed that Officers should attend the next meeting of the Panel to report on the options available.</p> <p>Mr David Gollop, Design Manager, Essex Highways attended the meeting and spoke on this matter.</p> <p>David Gollop made reference to the Earls Colne to Coggeshall stretch of the proposed cycle route / walk way between Kelvedon and Earls Colne and he stated that there were no reasons from an engineering perspective why it could not become a cycle route for leisure purposes. However, it would be necessary to re-designate some existing Public Rights of Way as permissive cycle routes. This was a legal process that could take some time to complete and could be quite costly. It was noted that a large part of the proposed route was not designated as public highway and that the support of landowners would therefore be required. It was acknowledged that some people may wish to use the proposed cycle route to travel from surrounding villages to places of work at Earls Colne airfield industrial estate and that provision may need to be made for use by 'e-cargo bikes'. However, the Government's Local Transport Guidance Note 120 required that 'commuter' cycle routes should be lit, have a hardened surface and be a minimum width.</p> <p>Reference was made to a proposed cycle route between Maltings Lane and Howbridge Road, Witham which would provide a link to Witham town centre. It was estimated that design work for the scheme would cost £50,000 and that the overall cost would be £150,000. Approximately £46,000 was available for this scheme via a Section 106 Agreement, but the Panel would be required to meet the balance of the cost. The scheme would also have to be implemented within a given timeframe.</p> <p>In discussing this Item, it was proposed that the Panel should support the Kelvedon to Earls Colne cycle route and the Maltings Lane to Howbridge Road, Witham cycle route, but the Panel did not agree to fund either scheme specifically at this stage pending more information. The Panel proposed that any funding which remained available within the Panel's budget should be allocated for the upgrade / repair of existing cycle routes. It was also proposed that Braintree District Council and</p>	
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	<p>Essex County Council should consider recommending the appointment of a joint Officer to lead on cycling initiatives in the District.</p> <p>Members of the Panel were advised that they would not be required to make a decision about this matter at this time. However, they agreed that the estimated cost of providing the proposed cycle routes from Earls Colne to Coggeshall and Maltings Lane to Howbridge Road, Witham should be obtained.</p> <p><b>Action By: Charlotte O’Connell, Essex Highways. To obtain details of the estimated cost of providing the proposed cycle routes from Earls Colne to Coggeshall and Maltings Lane to Howbridge Road, Witham.</b></p>	(HLO)
5.	<p><b>Vehicle Activated Signs and Speed Indicator Devices</b></p> <p>Mrs Sonia Church - Highways Liaison Manager, Essex Highways gave a presentation on a new proposal by Essex Highways to enable Parish, Town and District Councils to purchase a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and / or Speed Indicator Device (SID).</p> <p>It was reported that a VAS was a sign with a solid message which flashed if a vehicle was being driven over a certain speed limit. A SID flashed more often to relay a message such as ‘slow down’, or ‘good driving’, or to display a happy / sad emoji face.</p> <p>Currently, the Local Highways Panel could recommend the funding and installation of a VAS or SID only if there was a significant speeding problem in an area, which had been identified following a speed survey. However, it was now proposed that Parish, Town and District Councils could purchase a VAS and / or (SID) under a licence arrangement if there was a perceived speeding problem. It was estimated that the cost of a small sign would be £3,500. Councils could collaborate to purchase and share equipment if they wished. It would also be possible for a Parish, Town, or District Council to pay a yearly subscription for an ‘app’ or data download to identify the number of vehicles which exceeded a speed limit and where and when. If any trends were established the information could be passed to the Police for possible targeted enforcement. Generally, VAS and SID signs would be powered by solar energy, or a battery and they could be moved to different locations subject to Essex Highways, who had ultimate responsibility for the equipment, being informed.</p> <p>Once the proposal has been agreed with the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport and</p>	

	<p>reported to each of the Local Highways Panels across the County it would be published on Essex County Council's website. The Essex Association of Local Councils would also be given details to enable them to advise their member Authorities. It was anticipated that the scheme would be launched by the end of October 2021.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> That the presentation be noted.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Funded Schemes 2021/22:</b></p> <p>Consideration was given to a report on the Panel's Funded Schemes for 2021/22, which had been recommended for approval. The report provided an update on the current position of all schemes in the 2021/22 programme of work.</p> <p>Members of the Panel were reminded that funding of £407,789 had originally been allocated to Braintree Local Highways Panel for the year 2021/22. Subsequently, a further £200,000 had been allocated making a total of £607,789 available for expenditure in 2021/22.</p> <p>It was reported that £399,000 of the Panel's budget had been allocated to various schemes within the programme of work and that £7,500 had been allocated specifically to safer roads schemes, making a total commitment of £406,500</p> <p>In discussing this Item it was reported that six schemes within the programme of work were no longer required and Members of the Panel were requested to agree to their cancellation. These schemes were LBRA162020 – Provision of layby, Finchingfield Road, Steeple Bumpstead; LBRA168001 – Improvements, Byway 3, Pentlow; LBRA182025 – Amendments to gateway signage to refer to speedwatch, A1017 Rowley Hill, Sturmer; LBRA192009 – '20's Plenty' scheme, Hall Drive, Gosfield; LBRA192013 – Installation of box junction, Lawn Chase, Witham; and LBRA192057 - '20's Plenty' scheme, Beridge Road, Halstead. These schemes had a total estimated value of £80,000.</p> <p>Reference was also made to scheme LBRA173005 – Provision of a zebra crossing outside Templars School, Cressing Road, Witham Estimated Cost:- £67,000 and scheme LBRA173006 – Zebra crossing, South of Stubbs Lane, Cressing Road, Braintree Estimated Cost:- £91,000 to which objections had been submitted following consultation. However, Councillor L Scott (Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport) would be presented with a Cabinet Member Action to make decision on the way forward. The funding of these schemes could be from the</p>	

	<p>financial budget for 2021/22 or the following year should they proceed, at a total cost of £158,000.</p> <p>With the deletion of the schemes proposed for cancellation and the addition of the proposed zebra crossing schemes in Witham and Braintree a sum of £123,289 was available to the Panel for expenditure in 2021/22.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> That the report be noted and that it be recommended that the following schemes are cancelled:-</p> <p>LBRA162020 – Provision of layby, Finchingfield Road, Steeple Bumpstead Estimated Cost:- £26,000 Reason for Cancellation:- Only two to three parking spaces possible due to visibility issues</p> <p>LBRA168001 – Improvements, Byway 3, Pentlow Estimated Cost:- £39,000 Reason for Cancellation:- Work undertaken in 2020/21</p> <p>LBRA182025 – Amendments to gateway signage to refer to speedwatch, A1017 Rowley Hill, Sturmer Estimated Cost:- £3,500 Reason for Cancellation:- Speedwatch is no longer active in the village</p> <p>LBRA192009 – ‘20’s Plenty’ scheme, Hall Drive, Gosfield Estimated Cost:- £4,000 Reason for Cancellation:- A suitable location could not be found due to the presence of statutory undertakers’ equipment</p> <p>LBRA192013 – Installation of box junction, Lawn Chase, Witham Estimated Cost:- £2,500 Reason for Cancellation:- This scheme has been delivered by other means</p> <p>LBRA192057 - ‘20’s Plenty’ scheme, Beridge Road, Halstead Estimated Cost:- £5,000 Reason for Cancellation:- A suitable location could not be found due to the presence of statutory undertakers’ equipment</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Schemes Awaiting Funding:</b></p> <p>Consideration was given to a ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’ report, which included details of requests received for funding from the Panel’s budget for the year 2021/22. Members of the Panel were advised that the report was for information only and that a decision about which schemes should be recommended for inclusion in the Panel’s programme of work would be made at</p>	

	<p>the Panel's meeting to be held in March 2022. The total value of unallocated schemes on the potential schemes list was £406,500.</p> <p>It was reported that six schemes included in the report had been assessed as having a 'red' status as they either did not meet Essex County Council policy, or there was not an appropriate engineering solution. In the circumstances, it was proposed that these schemes should be removed from the list of potential schemes.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b></p> <p>That it be recommended that the following schemes, the status of which has been assessed as 'red' as they do not meet Essex County Council's criteria, be removed from the list of Schemes Awaiting Funding:-</p> <p><u>Traffic Management</u></p> <p>LBRA142020 – Land negotiations and kerb design, Colneford Hill/Colne Park Road, White Colne Estimated Cost:- £19,500</p> <p>LBRA202009 – Request for 20mph zone/limit, White Court, Great Notley Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA202011 – Improved signage, Bardfield Road, Great Saling Estimated Cost:- £6,500</p> <p>LBRA202017 – HGV restriction, Moat Lane and Henny Back Road, Alphamstone Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA212005 (duplicate of LBRA202017 above) - HGV restriction, Moat Lane and Henny Back Road, Alphamstone Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p><u>Walking</u></p> <p>LBRA193010 – Dropped kerb improvements, Witham Road, Black Notley Estimated Cost:- Not known</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p><u>Vice-Chairman of Braintree Local Highways Panel – Appointment</u></p>	



	<p>It was reported that Essex County Councillor R Playle had been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of Braintree Local Highways Panel.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 27th January 2022. The meeting will start at 4.00pm.</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.35pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councillor C Siddall (Chairman)</p>	

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