

LOCAL HIGHWAY PANEL

31 MARCH 2015

Present:- County Councillor Anne Brown (Chairman)
County Councillor Sue Lissimore
Borough Councillors Nick Barlow, Lesley Scott-Boutell, Theresa Higgins
Parish Councillor John Gili-Ross

Substitute Members:- Borough Councillor Brian Jarvis for Councillor Will Quince

Other attendees: Alan Lindsay (Transport Strategy and Engagement Manager, ECC), Sonia Church (Highways Liaison Manager, ECC), Adrian Summons (Infrastructure Development Manager, ECC), Jonathan Baker (Democratic Services, CBC)

1. Minutes

The following updates were provided on the actions arising:-

- Culver Square - dropped kerbs: Sonia Church, Highways Liaison Manager, stated that this is included in the list of potential schemes on the agenda.
- Public Question Time – Station Road, Wakes Colne: Clarification was sought as to whether an officer or a councillor was to be the conduit between Essex Highways and the Parish Council. Sonia Church stated that the Highways Liaison Officer would be responsible for speaking to the Parish Council to discuss the scheme proposed. **(Action – Highways Liaison Manager).**
- Langham, Bus stop improvements: A request was made to ensure that the Parish Council and Councillor Chillingworth are kept up to date on the latest developments. Councillor Brown and John Gili-Ross also requested to be kept informed. (Sonia Church stated that the cost of the scheme would be approximately £400,000.) **(Action –Highways Liaison Manager).** Adrian Summons, Infrastructure Development Manager, ECC, confirmed that there had been a number of issues around bus stops in Langham. Seven of the stops have now been made official, with three yet to be confirmed due to ongoing issues. The first of which is outside the Community Centre/School and the other two are on Moore Road.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

2. Potential Schemes for Consideration of the Panel

The Panel considered the schemes set out in the Schedule. Sonia Church, Highways Liaison Officer, explained that the Local Highways Panel had been allocated a total of £1.25m of funding. Of the budget for 15/16, the existing scheme which require re-profiling including a sum for Wivenhoe Cycle route will be funded from this pot.

Improvement Schemes

In discussion, the following issues were raised:-

The Panel discussed the funding allocation for each category of improvement scheme and the way in which safer road schemes could be prioritised over those schemes, which whilst important do not increase the safety of the road user. Councillors also requested that a brief history of the scheme be included on the list to provide further information when making a decision. **(Action – Highways Liaison Manager)**

Members also questioned the possibility of installing dropped kerbs for temporary bus stops, but Sonia Church stated that whilst this would be ideal the cost of installing dropped kerbs makes this move prohibitive.

With regard to specific projects the Panel discussed the replacement of flags and poles across Colchester within the Passenger transport segment, it was agreed that other projects would take a priority due to the other schemes resulting in improvements in safety. The Panel did note that having uniform poles across Colchester Borough Council would aid navigation for those travelling on the buses. The Panel agreed that those schemes which included dropped kerbs would be approved.

During the discussion on the Safer Roads schemes, Councillor Higgins stated that the A134 Hythe Hill needed to be redesigned, as it would not be possible to see the oncoming vehicles with the current design. In addition the suggestion of grey screening boards was not supported by Members, and a preference of repainting the road markings be pursued. The Panel challenged the decision that this should be paid by the Local Highways Panel budget, and requested that questions be asked to the Cabinet member regarding the ECC maintenance budget funding this scheme and future line repainting schemes. **(Action – Highways Liaison Manager)**

As part of the Public Rights of Way schemes the Panel requested further information on the footpath between Hythe and Rowhedge, as further local knowledge would be required to make a decision. **(Action – Highways Liaison Manager).**

Under the Traffic Management Schemes, Councillor Scott-Boutell recommended that the design work at the London Road Junction with Lucy Lane South and Warren Lane Stanway be removed from the list until redesigned. Councillor Lissimore stated that the scheme on Milton Close Junction with Scott Drive be delayed until further information can be sought from the utility companies.

Councillor Brown recommended that the Ardleigh Road Scheme in Dedham go back to the Parish Council for discussion as there is already an existing Vehicle Activated Sign on that road. With regard to the scheme on Thaxted Walk, Councillor Brown requested that information be circulated to all members on whether to use grasscrete or bollards to protect the verge. **(Action – Highways Liaison Manager)**

RESOLVED that the following Improvement Schemes be agreed as set out in the Schedule of Schemes:-

Cycling

- Monkwick Estate

Passenger Transport

- IM2456 Highwoods Square
- IM2079 Greyfriars
- 14012003 St. Ives Road
- TEMP0018 St. Ives Road
- IM2486 Avignon Close – Raised Kerbs
- IM2486AA Avignon Close
- 33034001 Greyfriars
- IM2489 Lower Road

Safer Roads

- District Wide – Design money for CR sites for Colchester

Traffic Management

- The Strood
- Riverside Estate
- Goojerat Road/Circular Road West
- Maldon Road/Butts Road ladder roads
- Culver Street
- Mill Road
- Firs Chase
- Victoria Espanade
- Church Road
- George William Way
- High Street, High Street North, Barfield Road
- Milton Close j/w Scott Drive
- A134 Roundabouts x3

Walking

- Creffield Road/Oxford Road
- Plume Avenue, Prettygate
- Rectory Road j/w Heath Road and Hillside

Potential Revenue

- Northern Approach Road
- London Road
- Mill Road and Church Road
- Stratford Road

3. Approved Schemes List

The Panel considered the Approved Schemes List. In discussion, the following issues were raised:-

Traffic Island on Glen Avenue and A133 Cymbaline Way: Councillor Jarvis stated that the scheme had been on the list for a number of years, and that it should not be cancelled. Instead the scheme needs to be redesigned to incorporate a raised traffic island to reduce

the danger at the junction. Alan Lindsay and Sonia Church stated that the scheme should go back to the engineers and liaise with Councillor Jarvis on the future design.

A1124 Essex Yeomanry Way/Eight Ash Green Way and Dale Close: Councillor Scott-Boutell requested further information about the schemes.

RESOLVED that status of the schemes on the Approved Schemes List be noted.

4. Rangers Report

The Panel requested that the Rangers Manager attends the next Local Highways Panel meeting to learn more about the service provided.

Councillor Scott-Boutell requested clarification on the terminology within the rangers report. Sonia Church stated that committed relates to a scheme where money has been allocated and the scheme agreed but it has not yet been completed. Archived means that the scheme has been completed and uncommitted means that the scheme has not commenced and remains in the system. **(Action – Highways Liaison Manager)**

RESOLVED that the Rangers Report be noted, and that the Rangers be invited to the Local Highways Panel to provide further information on the report.

5. Any Other Business

The Panel highlighted the requirement to receive the papers further in advance of the meeting to allow for further consultation with each local area into the schemes suggested for approval.

In addition the Panel requested that the upcoming dates for the Local Highways Panels be distributed to members of the Panel. **(Action – Democratic Services Officer)**

The next meeting is confirmed to take place on 2 June 2015, with the following meetings to be confirmed.

The Panel extended its thanks to Adrian Summons who attended the meeting to provide information on passenger transport.