

COLCHESTER LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2022 - 10.00

ONLINE MEETING: MICROSOFT TEAMS

Chairman:	County Councillor Sue Lissimore
Panel Members:	County Councillors: Simon Crow, Dave Harris, John Jowers, David King City Councillors: Jeremy Hagon. Parish Councillor: Cllr John Gili-Ross and Cllr Robert Johnstone
Officers:	Essex Highways: Jon Simmons – Senior Highways Liaison Officer Daniel Maclean – Highway Liaison Team Leader
Secretariat:	Colchester Borough: Robert Carmichael – Democratic Services Officer.
Guests:	Councillor Rik Andrew – Wivenhoe Town Council

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: The Chairman welcomed Councillors and officers to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Hogg, Lesley Scott-Boutell, Julie Young, Lewis Barber, Mark Cory, and David King.	
3.	Guest Speaker The Chair welcomed Councillor Rik Andrew of Wivenhoe Town Council. The speaker outlined that there were two main issues that they wished to address the Committee about with the first being Heavy	

	<p>Goods Vehicles (HGV's) in Wivenhoe. The Panel heard that currently HGV movements were limited between the hours of 11pm-6am and questioned whether this could be changed to a 24 hour restriction like other areas. An example was given about lorries using Brightlingsea Road and that this was causing concern as it was often used by parents and children to walk to school as well as when the Cricket Club was in use. The speaker requested that the restrictions be changed to 24 hours to protect local residents and that this could be easily accomplished by removing signs and redirecting traffic to a better route.</p> <p>The second issue that the speaker requested the panels assistance on was regarding the funding of cycle stands in Wivenhoe as currently there were not enough to serve the community, or they were not in a serviceable condition. Wivenhoe Town Council had looked at 24 possible sites and shortlisted 12 and contacted Active Travel but were subsequently forwarded onto the Local Highway Panel to seek funding.</p> <p>It was confirmed by the Chair that the estimated costs were £13,000 broken down into £5,000 for the stands and £8,000 for the installation.</p> <p>Jon Simmons – Highway Liaison Officer advised the Panel that the cycling stands were currently in the validation process and engineering solutions would be sought. Though some of the proposed locations were not on the highway. With regards to the HGV restriction this would require changes to the Traffic Regulation Orders and that there would need to be consultation on these. He also advised that a LHP scheme request was needed to start the LHP process.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the request from Cllr Gili-Ross that a paragraph is added noting villages such as Tiptree submitting schemes as a joint proposal so that they could be considered in a holistic approach.</p> <p>The added paragraph reads as follows:</p> <p>Cllr Gili-Ross and Cllr Jowers stated that at the Panel meeting on 20th September 2020 they had raised the suggestion that Parishes etc should be allowed to combine proposed LHP schemes within their Parish on the Schemes Awaiting Funding List to create a package of works. The package of works could be then considered for funding in total by the Panel.</p>	

<p>5.</p>	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>Under minute 5. – Item 6. It was noted that an update should have been provided to Cllr Lissimore and Cllr Harris. The Highway Liaison Officer apologised that no update had been provided and confirmed that an update would be sent to the relevant Councillors following the meeting.</p> <p>Under minute 6. – Item 14. A question was asked whether this was sent out for consultation and the works regarding the roundabout. The Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that reducing the height of the mini-roundabout dome could be considered through the LHP Scheme Validation process.</p> <p>Dan McLean, Highway Liaison Team Leader, advised the Panel that the report looking at the arrangements for the LHP’s and the possibility of a Super LHP had been delayed and would not be heard by the County Councils Scrutiny Committee until January. It was noted that the item had been delayed to due to scrutiny of the Council’s budget. Following this it was confirmed that once the Scrutiny Meeting had happened the outcomes would be reported back to the Local Highway Panel.</p> <p>Councillor John Jowers queried whether there was an easier way to approve the schemes from the County Councillors and whether it was possible for Parish Councils to submit their own requests to make the system more efficient.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Team Leader responded that a tool for submitting proposals online was currently being built and would be a method for Parish and District Members to submit proposals to the County Councillors.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>DM</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes 2022/23</p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an update on the current position of all the schemes which the Colchester Local Highway Panel has recommended for inclusion in their 2022/23 programme.</p> <p>In discussion the following update was provided about the funded schemes in 2022/23:</p> <p>1. Bounstead Road/ Berechurch Hall Road / Berechurch Road, Colchester – Junction Improvements. The Panel were advised that the Road Safety Engineering team were now looking at this location as part of a 2023/2024 Safer Roads Scheme.</p>	

	<p>2. Mersea Tourism Signage – Investigation of East Mersea Tourism Signage to ensure it is all correct. The scheme was currently awaiting an implementation date.</p> <p>6. Shrub End Road, Colchester – Pedestrian Crossing improvements as near as possible to the Co-op/ Texaco garage on Shrub End Road. An objection had been received and as such a CMA was being submitted to the Cabinet Member for their decision.</p> <p>7. Footpath 5 off Tollgate Road, Stanway – PRow access improvements – Step and surface improvements to footpath to encourage pedestrian use. The dropped kerb/tactile paving design had been circulated and it was reported that there was a request that the short section of the footway had pedestrian guard railing installed as part of the proposal. Councillor Jeremy Hagon commented that the whole of the Tollgate area should be master-planned as the only way to access the east side was via a dropped kerb which may not be enough and asked whether consideration could be given to a crossing.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer responded that the original request had been for a zebra crossing but the proposal did not meet the criteria for a zebra crossing. It was noted that with the dropped kerb it was hoped that there would be an increase in pedestrians using the crossing point and that data could be gathered on whether a crossing was required in the future.</p> <p>9/10/11 Broomgrove Infant & Junior School, Broome Grove , Wivenhoe – School Street / Millfields Primary School, Bowes Road, Wivenhoe – School Street / Myland Primary School, Mill Road, Mile End – School Street. Following consultation with stakeholders it was noted that the schemes would be progressing and that Councillor King and Cory had been contacted with an update on this.</p> <p>17. Lakeland Estate, Stanway – Cul-de-sac signs. It was noted that this had been completed in September 2022.</p> <p>18. Lane Road, Wakes Colne – Unsuitable for HGV Signs. The scheme was currently awaiting an implementation date.</p> <p>21. O/s Fordham All saints C of E Primary School, Mill Road, Fordham. – School advisory 20 MPH with wig-wags. The scheme was currently awaiting an implementation date.</p> <p>23. Dedham Parish – Traffic management improvements feasibility study/review. For the feasibility study/review of traffic management improvements automatic traffic counts had now been completed and the study was being finalised. The report would be shared with stakeholders once completed.</p>	
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<p>7.</p>	<p>Report on schemes awaiting funding 2022/23</p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an update on the current position of all the schemes which the Colchester Local Highway Panel that were awaiting funding in 2022/23. The Highway Liaison Officer outlined that in the previous financial year the Panel was asked to review the schemes awaiting funding with County Councillors Prioritising two schemes and choosing one in reserve for delivery in 2023/24. The Highways Liaison Officer asked that this be mirrored this year and that Councillors submit schemes to their County Councillor and that these be confirmed by the end of January 2023 so that they could be added to the March agenda. Councillors were asked to contact their County Councillor to put forward their recommendations for priority and reserve schemes.</p> <p>The Chair asked that an update be provided to them on scheme 5, Goojerat Road / Circular Road West, Shrub End – Parallel crossing, outside of the meeting.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JS</p>

	<p>Cllr Scordis advised the committee that scheme 3, Lisle Road, Canterbury Road & Winchester Road, Colchester – Traffic Management improvements, could be removed from the list. Councillor Scordis explained that they were content with scheme 4 but detailed that schemes 42, King Edward Quay, Colchester – Traffic management improvements and 55, Mason Road, Colchester – Traffic management improvements were raised as there were “boy racers” speeding, going from one area to another causing issues and noted that these would need Police intervention. The Highways Liaison Officer advised that the schemes could remain on the list but some of the described anti-social behaviour would require Police intervention. A short discussion was had by Members on the priorities of the Police and whether they were interested in the issue.</p> <p>The Chair echoed the response from the officer that issues regarding speeding and noise issues as described should be reported to the Police. Councillor Jowers advised Members that speed bumps cost £7,000 a time and that he had seen lower speed in an area than expected but emphasised the responsibility of elected Members to be balanced and not go over the top on some schemes which would have a detrimental effect on others.</p> <p>It was noted that for any scheme to be implemented evidence was required and sometimes the perception of speeding from residents did not match the evidence obtained.</p> <p>Councillor Gili-Ross challenged the comments made regarding the Police that they did not care was wrong and unfair.</p> <p>The Panel continued to discuss the requirements for speed surveys and noted that the guidance from the Department for Transport (DfT) did not allow room for interpretation. The Chair noted that there were smartphone apps that, although not 100% accurate, did provide an indication of speed of road users. Furthermore, there was also equipment called Trucam which generated fines and did not have to be used by the Police, which was currently in use in some Districts by trained operatives.</p> <p>Councillor Hagon reminded the Committee that if there were issues then they could contact their Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and asked that item 10, Peace Road, Stanway, - Traffic Management Improvements to be added as a priority or as a first reserve.</p> <p>Councillor Jowers identified that there was a proposal for a three day road closure on The Strood and asked this to be looked into as the closure would cause significant issues in the area and could make it impossible for some residents to get home. He asked the Highway Liaison Manager to investigate the matter.</p>	<p>DM</p>
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8.	Any Other Business None.	
9.	Date of next meeting: 21 March 2023 – 10:00 via video conference call.	