

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES – 17 JANUARY 2022 18:00 HRS

VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

Chairman:	Councillor Ray Gooding (ECC Member)
Panel Members:	Councillors Susan Barker (ECC Member), Paul Gadd (ECC Member), Martin Foley (ECC Member), Geof Driscoll, (UDC Member), Rod Jones (UDC Member), Garry LeCount (UDC Member), Geoffrey Sell (UDC Member).
Officers:	Essex Highways – Rissa Long, Highway Liaison Officer Ringway Jacobs - Justin Styles, Design Manager UDC - Chloe Fiddy - Climate Change Project Officer UDC – Peter Holt – Chief Executive
Secretariat:	UDC – Clare Edwards – Democratic Services Officer

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Panel.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>Apologies were received from Danielle Frost.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were received.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting:</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Barker, the Highway Liaison Officer said that the A1060 was not duplicated but was on the agenda documents twice for both the design and implementation stages.</p> <p>In the last minutes under item 5, Public Speakers, the house name would be changed from ‘Haddocks’ to ‘Paddocks.’</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2021 were approved subject to the above amendment.</p>	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting:</p> <p>The issue regarding the financial contribution from Uttlesford District Council (UDC) was discussed. The Chair said it was about how and when the money was handed over to Essex County Council and a guarantee that UDC money would be spent within the district. He said it came down to a lack of trust between the parties.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer said that if the budget was available at the beginning of the year, they would be in a much better position to resource the items and deliver the schemes. She said the resource issue that had been identified by the Highways Liaison Manager at the last meeting related to funding received part way through the year.</p> <p>The Chief Executive said that he had already spoken to the Interim Place and Public Health Executive from ECC and had agreed that once budgets were set by UDC in February, ECC would be told what finance was available for the upcoming year. He said that this meant funds would be there at the start of the financial year and available to be used. He said there was obviously an absence of trust that needed to be resolved and if this could be overcome in future years there could be a 2 or 3 year settlement so that monies were promised much further in advance.</p> <p>It was decided that the best way to resolve this was to focus on the budget year 2022/23 and for the Chief Executive to set up a meeting with the Interim Place and Public Health Executive from Essex County Council (ECC) Andrew Cook, the Chair of the Highways Panel, Councillor Gadd and Councillor Hargreaves as the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Budget, in order to reach a mutual agreement on the way forward.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Mr Malcolm Rogers from High Roding spoke to the Panel about the issue of speeding in the area. He said the volume of traffic had increased as well as the number of vehicles that exceeded the speed limit. He suggested the following: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 40mph speed limits were extended at the South of the Village towards Aythorpe Roding and a short extension at the north end. 2. The 30mph speed limits to be extended at both ends of the village. 3. Speed tables to be installed. 4. Maintenance of signs which have either gone missing, were out of alignment or obscured by greenery. 	

	<p>The Chair asked that Mr Rogers forwarded on the information to Councillor Barker, and this would be considered for a future scheme.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer gave the following updates on funded schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 1 on page 8 – Langley Lower Green 30mph speed limit. Objections had been received during the formal consultation period and therefore the scheme could not go ahead until these had been resolved. She explained that the objectors were written to and an explanation given, if they were not all cleared then the Cabinet Member had to approve through a slightly different legal process. This would now be considered for funding in the new financial year. • In response to a query from Councillor Jones, the Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that no extra funding was required for number 4, Barnston road widening, and would hopefully be completed by the end of the financial year. • Item 10 on page 9 – Great Chesterford to Saffron Walden cycleway. The design complexity had meant that this would not be completed in this financial year, the scheme would need to be considered for funding next year. • Item 16 on page 9 - High Street, Saffron Walden, Tree Investigation, in response to a query from Councillor Gadd, the Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that she had sent the report through and agreed to discuss with him and the Landscape Officer outside of the meeting. • Item 25, page 11 - Quendon Village Traffic Calming, the Highway Liaison Officer said that this was unusual as the funding for the design and implementation had been agreed for the same year. The Parish Council had raised some issues with the design from a safety point of view. The Chair said these had mainly been resolved and he hoped that the majority of the scheme would be implemented within this year and the final item would then be reviewed next year. 	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer had received a large quantity of schemes leading up to Christmas and not all of them would be validated by March. She said her recommendation would be to keep some budget back for the June meeting and the Panel would then need to prioritise which schemes were funded.. Some schemes had already been agreed as priority 2 and these would be carried into the new financial year: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4, Walden Road Hadstock Signage • Item 8, Wicken Bonhunt, Traffic Management Improvements • Item 10, Church Street, Saffron Walden, Bollards 	

In response to a query from Councillor Jones about Hoblongs Junction in Dunmow that he had put forward, the Highway Liaison Officer said this was being considered as an 'add on' to a casualty reduction scheme in a similar location. She said it would be sent back to Highways if it was not able to be considered through this route. Councillor Jones asked for it to be put on the awaiting funding scheme with a note added to this effect.

Councillor Sell asked about item 5 and 18 which related to Grove Hill in Stansted, the Highway Liaison Officer said that these schemes would be taken on by Jacobs and would be progressed by them as they had the expertise. There was also potential for 106 monies. She said the intention was to have the weight limit introduced to all areas of Stansted with the exception of the B1383 with the idea to produce a lorry ban throughout that area. This item would be discussed in the March meeting and there would be a public consultation which would last between 8 to 12 weeks. The cameras would not be installed straight away but would be part of a phased approach, as there was currently government legislation going through to allow this to happen.

The Chair said careful consideration needed to be given to this scheme in order to avoid the problem being moved to another area. He said it needed to be part of the consultation and alternative routes considered as other Parishes might have concerns.

Councillor Driscoll asked if Grove Hill could be prioritised before the rest of Stansted as he was concerned about the long delay while the whole scheme was introduced.

The Chair did not think Grove Hill could be separated off from the rest of the scheme.

Councillor Sell wondered if ECC could lobby the government about Grove Hill and ask them to speed up the legislation.

Councillor Barker suggested going through North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP).

In response to a query from Councillor Barker who was concerned that the two casualty reduction schemes at Hoblongs and Braintree Road could on their own be more than the whole Highways budget. The Highway Liaison Officer said that these would be considered according to the number of incidents at a particular junction, which was calculated as the rate of return. She said this decided the value of the scheme against any potential savings from the implementation. If these schemes were over £500k they would become a major scheme but if they were lower the Panel would need to consider whether to fund them.

8.	Any Other Business The roundabout surface was crumbling at Barnston, the Highway Liaison Officer said it needed to be raised as a maintenance issue. Councillor Barker was concerned about the standard of the work and would raise it in her meeting with the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways and she would also raise the Hoblongs and Braintree Road junction. She said if there was anything else the Panel wanted her to raise to let her know.	
9.	Date of Next Meeting: Monday 28 th March 2022 at 6pm	

Meeting closed at 7:20pm