

Minutes

Braintree Local Highways Panel

9th October 2014

(Comprising representatives of:-

Essex County Council
Braintree District Council
Braintree Association of Local Councils)

Present:-

Councillor R Walters (Chairman)
Councillor J Abbott
Councillor J Bendall
Councillor J Clark
Councillor A Hayward
Councillor M Lager
Councillor R Mitchell (from 6.25pm)
Councillor Lady Newton
Councillor J Pike

Essex County Council
Braintree District Council
Braintree Association of Local Councils
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Braintree District Council
Braintree District Council
Braintree District Council
Essex County Council
Essex County Council

Councillor J Baugh (Braintree District Council) was also in attendance.

Officers

Alan Lindsay - Essex County Council
Matt Valentine - Essex Highways
Simon Walker - Essex Highways
Paul Partridge – Braintree District Council
Alison Webb – Braintree District Council

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Banthorpe (Braintree District Council) and Councillor M Fincken (Braintree Association of Local Councils).

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor A Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 - Schemes for Consideration by the Panel and specifically scheme 'LBRA142082 Dunmow Road, Great Bardfield – Speed surveys' as a Member of Great Bardfield Parish Council which had jointly requested the scheme.

Councillor M Lager declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 - Schemes for Consideration by the Panel and specifically an additional

scheme 'LBRA142097 Chipping Hill, near to White Horse Lane, Witham – PV2 survey' as he lived in Chipping Hill, Witham.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors Hayward and Lager remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion when the Item was considered.

2 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel held on 19th June 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

INFORMATION:

Minute 3 – Matters Arising (Gateway Signs)

At the last meeting of the Panel it had been agreed that a note should be circulated to Members of the Panel to clarify Essex County Council's position regarding the provision of decorative gateways at the entrance to towns and villages.

Members of the Panel were advised that a note relating to the county of Essex as a whole was being drafted by Essex Highways Officers. Matt Valentine agreed to circulate the note to Members of the Panel when published.

Minute 6 – New Scheme Requests Update (Survey Results Received)

At the last meeting, it had been agreed that the status of scheme 'LBRA132121 Guithavon Valley and Mill Lane, Witham – Traffic calming' should be reported to the next meeting of the Panel as it appeared to have been missed off the schedule of schemes. Matt Valentine advised that the scheme had been re-instated.

Minute 7 – Schemes Approved to Design Stage in 2013/14 and 2014/15 Requiring Funding in 2014/15

At the last meeting, it had been agreed that scheme 'LBRA142059 - Re-profile of gradient pedestrian crossing with tactile paving, The Grove/Newland Street, Witham ('Top-up' - £17,000)' should be removed from the schedule of schemes, subject to it being re-submitted for consideration if appropriate.

Matt Valentine stated that this scheme had been re-instated and that details would be reported to a future meeting of the Panel for consideration.

4 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were two statements made. Details of the people who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

5 **BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL BUDGET**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a summary of Braintree Local Highways Panel's capital budget and expenditure for 2014/15 as at 9th October 2014. It was noted that the budget amounted to £815,578 and that £886,052 had been allocated.

The Chairman stated that although the budget had been allocated in full, the Panel would be able to recommend the approval of further schemes to the value of up to 15% of the original budget allocation in order to offset any slippage that might occur in the programme.

DECISION: That the report be noted.

6 **NEW SCHEME REQUESTS UPDATE**

INFORMATION:

A. New Scheme Requests – Survey Results Received

The Panel considered a schedule of new scheme requests which had been assessed.

It was noted that scheme LBRA142054 Church Street, Great Maplestead - speed survey had been recommended for approval and that it had been included within the schemes for consideration by the Panel (Minute 9 below refers).

In considering scheme LBRA142047 Church Road, Rivenhall - speed survey, Members of the Panel expressed concern that the survey results could be misleading as the speed of vehicles had reportedly not been measured from the actual line of the current 30mph speed limit, but some distance inside it. Matt Valentine agreed to check the exact location of the survey and to advise Members of the Panel by E-Mail. It was also proposed that a Cabinet Member Action report is passed to Councillor R Bass, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, to approve the installation of a 40mph speed limit buffer between the current 30mph and 60mph speed limits in the vicinity of St Mary's Church.

In addition, in considering scheme LBRA142043 Mill Lane/Guithavon Valley, Witham - Two speed/volume surveys it was agreed that Matt Valentine should check where the surveys had been carried out and to advise Members of the Panel by E-Mail.

DECISION: That a Cabinet Member Action report be presented to Councillor E Johnson, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Small Scheme Delivery, and that he be recommended to approve the installation of a 40mph speed limit buffer between the current 30mph and 60mph speed limits in the vicinity of St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rivenhall (scheme LBRA142047).

B. New Scheme Requests – Awaiting Validation

The Panel was made aware of new scheme requests which had yet to be validated and assessed.

DECISION: That the schedule of schemes be noted.

7 **SCHEME UPDATE – VILLAGE GREEN, WHITE COLNE**

INFORMATION: It was reported that detailed designs for two improvement schemes (LBRA142020 and LBRA142021) relating to the Village Green, White Colne had been completed. The schemes related to the installation of kerbing at two sections of The Green in order to repair continual damage caused by vehicles over-running.

However, Essex County Council's Legal Services had stated that as the proposal would encroach on The Green, the ownership of which was unknown, it would not be possible to implement the work unless Essex County Council acquired the small area of land required via a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). Furthermore, the County Council did not have highway rights across the land.

Concern was expressed that the compulsory purchase of land could have significant financial implications and could take some time to resolve. As alternative options, it was suggested that the County Council should seek to acquire highway rights over the land and that White Colne Parish Council should register an interest in The Green as landowner.

DECISION:

- (1) That Matt Valentine and Alan Lindsay investigate the legality behind works being carried out on the village green and if other agreements can be considered. A further report to be submitted to a future meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel.
- (2) That White Colne Parish Council be advised that it may wish register an interest in The Green as landowner.

8 **SCHEMES APPROVED TO DESIGN STAGE IN 2013/14 AND 2014/15
REQUIRING 'TOP-UP' FUNDING IN 2014/15**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a schedule of schemes which had been approved in 2013/14 and 2014/15, following recommendations from Braintree Local Highways Panel, for the purpose of design and an assessment of feasibility. Members of the Panel were requested to consider which of these schemes should be recommended for approval.

DECISION:

- (1) That the following schemes be recommended for approval for funding and delivery in 2014/15:-

LBRA142084 – Construction of layby, Church Road,
Rivenhall
'Top-up' - £20,000

LBRA142045 - Installation of a chevron, slow marker and advance bend warning sign, Marlborough Road, Braintree
'Top-up' - £1,500

- (2) That the following scheme be recommended for approval for funding and delivery in 2015/16:-

LBRA142083 - Installation of signage and Traffic Regulation Order for 7.5T weight limit, Castle Hedingham
'Top-up' - £31,800

9 **SCHEMES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PANEL**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a schedule of possible schemes. It was anticipated that the schemes recommended for approval would be implemented and funded during the 2015/16 financial year.

In considering the public rights of way/byway schemes, Members of the Panel agreed that these were medium priority (amber status) and should not be recommended for approval at this time. However, it was proposed that the schemes should remain on the schedule and that information should be reported to the next meeting of the Panel on whether and how a byway may be changed to the status of a bridleway.

DECISION:

- (1) That the following schemes be recommended for approval, subject to the specific comments denoted:-

Improvement Schemes

LBRA142024 - Installation of advanced 'give way' sign on Buck Hill and 'SLOW' marking. Replacement of existing 'give way' signs on Bakers Lane and installation of a new 'junction on bend ahead' warning sign for eastbound traffic on Bakers Lane, Bakers Lane, Black Notley
Estimated Cost - £5,000

LBRA142044 – Low, medium and high cost options study, Panfield Lane, between junctions with Aetheric Road and Rayne Road, Braintree
Estimated Cost - £5,000

LBRA142054 - Installation of a 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of St Giles Primary School, including signage and Traffic Regulation Order, Church Street, Great Maplestead
Estimated Cost - £7,000

LBRA142065 - Installation of two 'Slow – Children Crossing' signs, Spa Road, Witham
Estimated Cost - £2,500

LBRA142068 - Installation of a small area of grasscrete outside house nos. 51 – 53, Oak Road, Rivenhall
Estimated Cost - £1,500

LBRA142005 - Installation of two warning signs 'mini-roundabout ahead', The Grove j/w Maldon Road, Witham
Estimated Cost - £3,000

LBRA142022 - Installation of 15 verge marker posts, Sudbury Road, Little Maplestead
Estimated Cost - £7,500

LBRA142069 - Feasibility study, Ashton's Corner, Braintree Road, Shalford
Estimated Cost - £4,000

LBRA142078 - Installation of one or two warning signs 'wildfowl crossing', Trinity Street, Halstead
Estimated Cost - £2,000

Small Works

LBRA142067 - Speed survey, Broadway, Silver End
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA142071 - Speed survey, Yeldham Road, Castle Hedingham
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA142076 - Safety assessment, Colne Engaine School, Colne Engaine
Estimated Cost - £500

LBRA142082 - Speed surveys, Dunmow Road, Great Bardfield
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA142079 - Two day junction survey, London Road j/w Inworth Road, Feering
Estimated Cost - £2,010

LBRA142080 - PV2 survey, Colchester Road, Bures
Estimated Cost - £900

LBRA142087 - Speed survey, Bakers Lane (both ends), Black Notley
Estimated Cost - £460

LBRA142097 - PV2 survey, Chipping Hill, near to White Horse Lane, Witham
Estimated Cost - £900

Bus Stop Improvements

LBRA145012 - Replacement of old shelter with a wooden shelter. The shelter to remain the property of the Parish, Stop ID 24005014, opposite The Bell Public House, Kynaston Road, Panfield
Estimated Cost - £8,500

LBRA145013 - Replacement shelter, London Road (North-East bound), Kelvedon
Estimated Cost - £8,500

LBRA145014 - Replacement shelter, London Road (South-West bound), Kelvedon
Estimated Cost - £8,500

Safety Schemes

LBRA141005 - Casualty reduction scheme, A131 jw Church Road, Bulmer Tye
Estimated Cost - £10,000
(This scheme to be funded from the 2015/16 budget and delivered within the 2015/16 financial year).

LBRA141006 - Casualty reduction scheme, Courtauld Road North bound approach to Julien Court Road, Braintree
Estimated Cost - £12,000
(This scheme to be funded from the 2015/16 budget and delivered within the 2015/16 financial year).

LBRA141007 - Casualty reduction scheme, B1024 jw A1124, Earls Colne

Estimated Cost - £5,000

(This scheme to be funded from the 2015/16 budget and delivered within the 2015/16 financial year).

- (2) That it be recommended that the following schemes be removed from the schedule:-

Bus Stop Improvements

LBRA145016 - Replacement of current shelter, Gore Pit Corner, (North-East Bound), Feering

Estimated Cost - £8,500

LBRA145017 - Replacement of current shelter, Gore Pit Corner, (South-West Bound), Feering

Estimated Cost - £8,500

- (3) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel regarding schemes LBRA148001 - Byway 9, (also known as Snakey Lane), Black Notley; LBRA148002 - Byway 10, Black Notley; LBRA148003 - Byway 13, Gestingthorpe; and Lanham Green Lane, Cressing and whether/how their status may be changed from a byway to a bridleway.

10 **PROGRAMME OF SCHEMES - ALREADY RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL/DELIVERED**

INFORMATION: A programme of schemes which the Panel had recommended for approval was circulated at the meeting. The programme included those schemes for which work had subsequently been agreed, cancelled, or recently completed. Members of the Panel were requested to refer any queries/issues regarding the programme to Matt Valentine via E-Mail.

DECISION: That the Programme of Schemes recommended for approval at previous meetings of the Panel be noted.

11 **BRAINTREE DISTRICT FLOODING – HOT SPOTS**

INFORMATION: The Chairman reminded Members of the Panel that Councillor R Bass, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, had allocated £50,000 to the Braintree District for flood relief on the basis that Braintree District Council provided match funding.

Members of the Panel were advised that the District Council had now agreed to provide match funding.

Flooding 'hotspots' across the District had been identified and details of these had been circulated to Members of the Panel. It would not be known until initial feasibility studies had been carried out whether the £100,000 joint funding would be sufficient to complete the work.

DECISION: That the report be noted.

12 **DATES FOR MEETINGS OF THE PANEL**

DECISION: It was noted that future meetings of Braintree Local Highways Panel would take place on the following dates:-

22nd January 2015

19th March 2015 (changed from 26th March 2015)

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.15pm.

Councillor R G Walters
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

9TH OCTOBER 2014

Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

- 1 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 7 - New Scheme Requests Update (LBRA142047 - Church Road, Rivenhall) (Speed Survey)

Statement by The Reverend Paul Watkin, (Priest in Charge (vicar) of St Mary's Rivenhall, and Governor of Rivenhall School), c/o St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rivenhall

- 2 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 10 - Schemes for Consideration by the Panel - (LBRA142044 – Panfield Lane, between junctions with Aetheric Road and Rayne Road, Braintree) (Feasibility study with cost options)

Statement by Councillor John Baugh, Braintree District Councillor for Bocking South Ward, 67 Church Lane, Braintree