

## MINUTES

of the

### CHELMSFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

15 September 2014

Present:

County Councillor John Aldridge	Essex County Council
County Councillor Jennifer Chandler	Essex County Council
Councillor Jude Deakin	Chelmsford City Council
Councillor Ian Grundy	Chelmsford City Council
County Councillor Ray Howard	Essex County Council
County Councillor Mike Mackrory	Essex County Council
County Councillor Dick Madden	Essex County Council
Councillor Jean Murray	Chelmsford City Council
Councillor Roy Whitehead (Chairman)	Chelmsford City Council

In attendance:

Derek Latimer	Chelmsford City Council
Averil Price	Chelmsford City Council
Mark Robinson	Essex County Council
Michael Row	Essex County Council
Jon Simmons	Essex County Council
Derek Stebbing	Chelmsford City Council
Rosa Tanfield	Chelmsford City Council
Joy Thomas	Chelmsford City Council
Will Young	Essex County Council

1. **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel Meeting on 24 June 2014**

The minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel meeting held on 24 June 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising**

*Arbour Lane Footway*

The Panel was informed that the clearance of the overhanging vegetation has been passed over to the Highway Rangers and should be completed shortly. However the scheme was continuing to be studied for feasibility and this was shown on programmes under agenda item 5.

*Rainsford Road/Primrose Hill*

Details had been emailed to Councillor Deakin.

**Action:** Jon Simmons to provide paper copies of the scheme proposal to Councillor Deakin.

*Colchester Road Widening Scheme*

The scheme was being progressed as quickly as possible, and resources are being identified by ECC. The developer had been approached, but they were not keen to take on the design work. It was noted that the design work for the scheme could still be funded from Section 106 monies.

**Action:** Mark Robinson to report to the next meeting on the likely timing of the design work.

*Scheme LCHE 142020 Chelmer Village Way near Brook End Road North*

The scheme was now on the approved works programme, agenda item 5.

*Highway Improvement Scheme Proposals*

With regard to the following schemes:

- 7 (c) LCHE132057 Old Moulsham (Moulsham Drive/Lady Lane/Hamlet Road/St Johns/ Vicarage Road/Moulsham Street) – a potential scheme was being developed
- 7 (e) LCHE145010 Broomfield Road opposite Skerry Rise – it was confirmed that First Bus vehicles were not yet fitted with transponder equipment so they were unable to display real time passenger information at stops at present. However, First Bus vehicles were likely to be able to interact with the equipment early in the 2015 calendar year.
- 7 (f) LCHE146006, 145011 and 145012 Boyton Cross, Green Lane, Roxwell and A1060 Roxwell Road – it was reported that the Parish Councils had not yet offered to contribute to the cost of any of the schemes. Raised kerbs and hardstandings were also to be included within these proposed schemes.
- 7 (i) Public Right of Way 40 South Woodham Ferrers station – Jon Simmons had obtained a breakdown of the cost, which included reconstruction and re-surfacing for a total cost of £7,000. County Councillor Aldridge asked who was liable for payment if the tree roots were growing out of private land and Mark Robinson agreed to advise the Panel on this matter.

**AGREED** that the scheme (Public Right of Way 40) be progressed and negotiations be carried out with the landowners about responsibility for the cutting of the vegetation.

*London Road/Westway potential casualty reduction scheme*

The Panel were advised that the suggestion of a yellow box marking at the junction of Robjohns Road/Westway was being considered as part of the proposal.

It was noted that £50,000 for the allocation of funds for schemes that required

additional funding had been agreed.

4. **Update on Cycling Schemes**

Will Young presented an update on cycling schemes in the Chelmsford City Council area. He reported that currently there were 51 km of off-road and 31 km of on-road cycleways. Cycling had increased in the city area by 3% in 2013 and had further increased by 10% in 2014 so far. The 2011 census indicated that some 7% of internal journeys to work were by bicycle and it was noted that this figure was comparable with the 8% for the Colchester area. However, the figure of 7% excluded journeys to Chelmsford Railway Station.

There were 31 km of new cycle network in the pipeline, which would be an increase of 63%. 17 cycle schemes were in the pipeline and some 30 new cycle stands had been installed last year and a further 15 were to be installed. Further capacity at the Railway Station was the subject of discussion with Abellion Greater Anglia. Overall, 14 LHP cycle schemes had been funded since 2012 and the £487,000 allocated amounted to 20% of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel budget over three years.

He reported that the schemes at the Odeon Subway, Chelmer Village Way Phase 1 and White Hart Lane Phase 1 had been completed. Works had been carried out at the Virgin Active Bridge, cycle parking had been installed in the City Centre and at Kings Head Walk. He confirmed that Chelmer Village Way Phase 2 and White Hart Lane Phase 2 were being designed and were planned to be implemented in 2014/2015, together with the Waltham Glen and Maltese Road schemes.

A revised route for the proposed Rainsford Road cycleway was being considered which would mean that cyclists would be diverted into Cedar Avenue and from there onto Parkway so that they were on the right side of the road as opposed to using the existing point at the junction of Rainsford Road and Parkway, where they would be directed onto the wrong side. Councillor Deakin asked about the difficulty of cyclists turning through 2 or 3 lines of traffic. Will Young understood the concern but the matter would be fully investigated.

To create a cycleway across Parkway at New London Road, the route would be through the underpass. The route would only be signed inbound as an outbound route would result in cyclists being directed onto the wrong side of the road.

Will reported on eight other schemes. Two are funded by the DfT Pinch Point schemes and will create cycle routes either side of Parkway in the vicinity of the Army & Navy. The Highways Agency would fund replacement of the Chelmer Viaduct. Five schemes would be funded via Section 106 monies. The Great Waltham route could be implemented once planning permission, land dedication and environmental surveys were complete. If there was to be a link into the Hospital Approach, discussions would also be held with the Hospital. The scheme for New Street would improve the connectivity of the network as it was a key arterial route. The Wood Street Toucan was being designed and was likely to be installed in 2015/2016.

He concluded his summary of the position by reporting that Sustrans understood that Central Government would be providing additional funding for cycling in the new financial year and therefore they were recommending that Authorities prepare schemes which would be ready to implement at that time. He also requested the Panel to consider allocating £5,000 for a feasibility study of a cycle route through Chelmsford on a north-to-south alignment but avoiding the High Street.

**AGREED** that £5,000 be allocated for a feasibility study of a cycle route through Chelmsford on a north-to-south alignment but avoiding the High Street.

County Councillor Madden asked about publicising the work of the Panel in promoting cycle routes in the Council's area. The Chairman agreed that one of the schemes should be publicised when complete and he suggested that Essex County Council liaise with Chelmsford City Council Corporate Communications on a suitable scheme. Derek Stebbing asked about the possibility of the Chelmsford City Council logo being added to the cycle map and Will Young agreed that this would be investigated.

County Councillor Mackrory asked about the application of Section 106 monies to schemes that are still to be completed. Will Young highlighted the position regarding the Great Baddow scheme which was being delayed because of land negotiations. Regarding the Great Waltham scheme, he confirmed that £300,000 had been secured or was to become available in the near future and progress was being made although there were land negotiations involved in this case too. Joy Thomas confirmed that £38,000 was available to transfer to Essex County Council for the Great Baddow schemes and similarly £71,000 was available for transfer for the Great Waltham scheme. A further £150,000 would be available upon commencement at Hospital Approach.

#### **Approved Works Programme**

5.

The Panel considered a report detailing the Approved Works Programme which had been split into 3 headings;

- Feasibility and design schemes update
- Schemes in progress update
- Schemes completed

#### **(A) Feasibility and design schemes update**

Jon Simmons reported Engineers were reviewing programme dates and a new schedule would be distributed at the end of September.

It was noted that Scheme 1 below had been postponed and new dates would be available at the end of September

County Councillor Aldridge asked whether Scheme 21 reflected the keep clear lines in the area and that the main entrance was now in Main Road, Roxwell and whether Scheme 25 reflected the imminent move of the Writtle Post office from its location on The Green into Preston's Garage.

**Action.** Jon Simmons to pass both matters to the Senior Engineer

No.	Cost Code	Task name	Parish	Works description	Allocated budget
1	LCHE132025	Lodge Road, Bicknacre	Bicknacre	Feasibility study into passing bays (to include speed/volume surveys and improvement options)	£4,000

21	LCHE 142010	The Street/ Vicarage Road, Roxwell	Roxwell	Design of bend improvements – signing and lining	£1,000
25	LCHE 142014	Ongar Road/Lordship Road, Writtle	Writtle	Route enhancement study to consider footway /carriageway surfacing, lining, signing, lighting also construction of lay-by near Doctor's Surgery	£32,500

**(B) Schemes in progress update**

Jon Simmons reported that-

- Schemes 4 and 5 below were complete, no entry and control signs had been installed, vegetation had been cleared and the columns had been improved;
- Scheme 8 was a draft proposal to resolve school crossing problems and involved additional keep clear signs which could be accommodated in the original budget
- Scheme 11 was now flagged in red as it was awaiting an update from School Crossing patrol study

Councillor Whitehead asked about progress with Scheme 16 and Jon Simmons confirmed that the implementation date of 23 January was due to negotiations about the names of the car parks. County Councillor Aldridge asked about the provision of a crossing by the Angel Public House.

**Action** Jon Simmons to provide County Councillor Aldridge with this information.

On a general point, County Councillor Mackrory asked what was meant by the term “scheme in progress” and was advised that once a scheme has been signed off by County Councillor Bass as the Cabinet Member for Essex County Council it was defined as a scheme in progress, which might refer to its being designed or being implemented.

No.	Design reference	Task name	Parish	Works description	Allocated budget
2	DC1406E	Broomfield Primary School	Broomfield	SCP/Site improvements	£2,950
4		ITS 0006 7F01 Army and Navy Flyover, Chelmsford	Non- parished	Vegetation clearance	£23,000

5		ITS 0006 7F01 Army and Navy Flyover, Chelmsford	Non- parished	Safer roads	£175,000
8	DC1404B	St, Michaels C of E Junior School	Galleywood	SCP/Site improvements	£2,000
11	DC1404D	Stock CE Primary School	Stock	SCP/Site improvements	£1,770

**(C) Schemes completed**

The report was noted.

**6. Proposed Schemes**

The Panel considered a report detailing the proposed schemes which had been split into two headings;

- Potential scheme proposals
- Highway improvement schemes proposals

**(A) Potential Scheme proposals**

Joy Thomas reported that with regard to scheme 1 below, she had urged Persimmon and Essex County Council to progress the development.

**ACTION:** Jon Simmons to report to the next meeting.

Jon Simmons reported that speed surveys were to take place for schemes 4 and 5 below.

Jon Simmons reported that Scheme 7 below had been deferred as it needed DfT Approval and the Cabinet Member had requested that the signage reflect Chelmsford's position as the County Town. The Chairman confirmed that Simon Burns MP had spoken with the DfT and the signs were to be approved. The Cabinet Member's views were discussed but it was considered that there was insufficient space on the signs for both Chelmsford and County Town wording. After inspecting the existing arrangements via Google Earth along Three Mile Hill on the route into Chelmsford from the A12, where both types of signs were displayed were satisfactory, it was considered that the use of differing signage was acceptable.

**AGREED** that the DfT letter of approval was anticipated, the Cabinet Member be asked to approve the scheme as the funding was available.

Jon Simmons reported on Scheme 8 below which involves footway widening and additional signage outside Hylands School, also required flashing lights, which could be funded out of the £50,000 top-up fund allocation. County Councillor Aldridge reported that the Parish Council wanted the speed to be reduced but he considered that the flashing lights would achieve the same effect at a lesser cost. Councillor Deakin agreed with this suggestion as it would enhance the safety in the vicinity of the school.

No.	Design reference	Task name	Parish	Works description	Allocated budget
1	LCHE 132069	Patching Hall Lane j/w B1008 Broomfield Road	Chelmsford	Signal upgrade to allow left turnout/right turn in phase and extension of two lane section	TBC
2	LCHE142034	Various Points within City	Chelmsford	Signage improvement	£40,000
4	LCHE142054	56 Main Road	Danbury	Vehicles leaving carriageway onto verge	£210
5	LCHE14022	The Common	East Hanningfield	Speed/volume of traffic	£420
8	LCHE142049	o/s Hylands School, Chelmsford Road	Writtle	Wigwag flashing signs	£7,000

### (B) Highway Improvement Scheme Proposals

The Panel received a report on nine minor highway improvement schemes, four bus stop/route improvements and one cycling scheme, each of which had been prioritised against set criteria and given a red, green or amber status to indicate priority.

Jon Simmons reported on the feasibility study in Scheme 1 below for a 20 mph zone/limit in Old Moulsham. The original proposal had been to create a 20 mph zone in a larger area of Old Moulsham but this had been now been divided into two schemes, and Scheme 1 below concerned only the northern half, where speed data had been obtained. With the benefit of the successful operation in the northern half, the scheme for the southern half could be progressed. County Councillor Madden confirmed that he was encouraged that the scheme was to be progressed and he would encourage local residents to write in support of the scheme. In answer to a query by County Councillor Madden as to the review date for the southern half, Michael Row confirmed that this was likely to be 2015/2016. In answer to a question from Averil Price as to what the scheme involved, Michael Row confirmed that the £26,500 in the budget would fund the traffic regulation orders, signage and lighting. Derek Stebbing reported that there was less than £10,000 available in Section 106 funding for this scheme but it was considered that some of this money could be used towards the public consultation exercise, although it was not known if this could happen in the current financial year.

**ACTION** Michael Row to advise the Chairman if the consultation exercise was to take place in 2014/2015.

No.	Design reference	Task name	Parish	Works description	Allocated budget
3	LCHE132057	Old Moulsham (Moulsham Drive/Lady Lane/Hamlet Road/St. Johns road/Vicarage Road/Moulsham Street)	Non - parished	Speed validation	TBC

7. **Highways Rangers Summary**

Jon Simmons circulated an updated summary of the Chelmsford City Highways Rangers work programme.

**AGREED** that the report be noted.

8. **Parkway Crossing Count Down (AOB)**

Jon Simmons reported that after investigation of the ITS system on Parkway, a countdown system was being considered as part of the scheme

**ACTION:** Jon Simmons to provide additional information at the next meeting about this proposal.

9. **Springfield Library Signage**

County Councillor Mackrory asked about progress with the revised signage for Springfield Library.

**ACTION:** Jon Simmons to discover what the current position on this matter was and to advise County Councillor Mackrory.

10. **Next Meeting**

**AGREED** that the next meetings be arranged for 27 November 2014 and 28 January 2015 at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 2:25 p.m.

Chairman