

**MALDON DISTRICT
LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
MEETING – 22 MARCH 2013
Council Chamber, Princes Road, Maldon – at 9.00am**

MINUTES

Present:

Representing Essex County Council – Councillors R L Bass (Chairman) and Mrs P A Channer.

Representing Maldon District Council – Councillors A J Cussen, F A Delderfield, R Pratt (Vice-Chairman) and Mrs M Thompson.

Officers: Mrs H Neve (Area Co-ordinator) and J Simmons (Liaison Officer), Essex County Council

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R G Boyce (Essex County Council) and Miss M R Lewis (Maldon District Council).

2. Minutes of Meeting – 8 February 2013

- (i) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 8 February 2013 be received.

Minute 5 – Potential Schemes List New Requests No 9

It was noted that Bull Green was not adjacent to the B1010 at the Post Office, Great Totham but to the B1022.

- (ii) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 8 February 2013 be approved and confirmed.

Before proceeding to the next item, the Chairman, Councillor R L Bass, said that the aim of this meeting was to have a finalised programme of works for 2012/13, an approved programme of works for 2013/14 and a residual list of works to be further considered.

3. Programme of Works 2012/13

Highway Maintenance Initiatives

It was noted that the planned works for Burnham-on-Crouch carriageway micro surfacing had been started and was due for completion by the end of March 2013 and that works on the footway slurry seal at St Nicholas Road, Tillingham had been delayed due to the adverse weather conditions.

Minor Schemes

Members expressed concern regarding delays in commencing works; there was a discussion regarding the batching of works to maximise efficiency. The Chairman urged that the 2013/14 works must be monitored to ensure timely completion.

The Panel was advised of the amended design for the kerbing outside of the Wickham Bishops library due to drainage concerns. The new design was agreed with the Panel noting the lower cost, the lessening of disruption during the works and the overall reduction in urbanisation in a rural location.

The Panel noted that the signing review at Althorne had been delayed as it would be part of a strategic review of traffic signing that was to take place across the Maldon District. In relation to the Wycke Hill, Maldon refuge island the Chairman noted that the monies had been allocated at the last meeting and requested that the work starts by the end of the first quarter of the 2013/14 financial year.

The Panel requested that the urgent repairs in D'Arcy Road, Tolleshunt Knights be completed by the end of the first quarter of the 2013/14 financial year and that any slippage in this time scale would be monitored and reported to the Panel. He requested a report back from Officers to the next meeting of the Panel.

The Chairman expressed concern regarding the delay in the lighting of one-way signs in Burnham-on-Crouch, noting that it was a straightforward scheme that could be undertaken by a lighting contractor.

The Liaison Officer reported that the junction improvements at Colemans Bridge, Little Braxted, required the closing of the road whilst operatives were on site at a cost of £4,800. It was noted that the budgeted figure of £10,000 should accommodate the cost of closure but requested an additional £2,000 contingency. The Chairman acknowledged that the works may go over budget and in such situations an exception report would be brought back to the Panel.

In regards to the relocation of the no entry point at Mill Road, Maldon the Panel was advised that the works had been delayed as it may be necessary to move residents parking bays and a consultation would be required.

Small Works

The Panel noted that these works were programmed to commence during the last quarter of 2012/13. The Liaison Officer distributed revised scheme costings for the HGV parking prevention at the layby at Maldon Road, Langford. There was a discussion regarding the differences in the cost of labour and materials for the alternative two schemes and the Panel agreed to revert to the original scheme of Hazard Marker Posts at a cost of £2,840. Members questioned the necessity of undertaking the numerous Road Safety Assessments highlighted in the costing breakdown; the Panel agreed with the Chairman that all necessary safety checks must be carried out to the highest standard, but were concerned that additional checks were costly and possibly unnecessary. The Chairman requested that a senior Officer reports back to the Panel regarding the issue of the road safety assessments.

Bus Stop/Route Improvements

It was noted that the new wooden shelter to be installed at Maldon Road, Woodham Mortimer was to go ahead as Essex County Council had agreed to pay for maintenance and damage.

Public Rights of Way

The Panel noted that, other than the PROW 24 Heybridge improvement already underway, the works were expected to commence in Summer 2013.

Casualty Reduction Scheme

The Panel noted these were all programmed to be completed by the end of the 2012/13 financial year.

4. Potential Schemes List

The Panel considered the updated List. Officers confirmed that the £60,000 surplus from 2012/13 had been approved to carry forward to the new financial year. It was noted that there were sufficient funds available to complete all the schemes detailed on the list, as set out below, and it would be possible to send a letter to Parish Councils requesting additional requests to the potential works list.

1. Basin Road j/w Goldhanger Road, Heybridge, dropped kerbs for mobility vehicles - two sites were allocated; cost £5,000.
2. Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, Vehicle Activated Sign - agreed; cost £8,500.
3. Viking Road/Dorset Road/Wordsworth Road, Maldon, Feasibility Study of options was agreed; cost £2,000.
4. East Street, Tollesbury School, crossing improvements – agreed; cost £5,000.
5. Witham Road/The Street/Maypole Road, Wickham Bishops, changes to Speed Limit –

The Chairman, Councillor R L Bass, declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the Chamber.

IN THE CHAIR: COUNCILLOR R PRATT.

The Officer reported that the scheme was currently undergoing validation. The Panel discussed the scheme noting that the scheme was supported by the Parish Council and residents. The moving of the 30 mph speed limit at Maypole Road was agreed, subject to the validation process; cost £2,000.

Councillor Bass returned to the Chamber and resumed as Chairman.

IN THE CHAIR: COUNCILLOR BASS.

6. Witham Road/The Street/Maypole Road, Wickham Bishops, traffic calming – the Panel agreed a package of works to reduce speed in the village; cost £20,000.
7. Maldon Road, Goldhanger, traffic calming – Officers reported that the scheme was currently undergoing validation. There was some discussion regarding traffic calming measures in rural locations. It was agreed that subject to the maximum agreed, Officers would produce a package of works for consideration; cost £20,000.
8. Maldon Road, Goldhanger, bend improvements – the Panel agreed the scheme subject to validation; cost £2,500.
9. Witham Road/Tolleshunt D'Arcy Road/Mill Lane/ Tudwick Road, Tolleshunt major Junction improvement – agreed; cost £5,000.
10. Braxted Park Road j/w Maldon Road, Great Braxted/Tolleshunt Major, verge protection – the issue of parking in this area was discussed and the Panel were concerned regarding the encroachment onto the B1022. The restriction of parking on verges was agreed; cost £10,000.
11. Walden House Road near j/w B1012, Great Totham, formalising reduced width lay by – agreed; cost £30,000.

12. Captains Wood Road j/w Maypole Road, Great Totham, Road junction improvement – agreed; cost £3,000.
13. Royal Oak Public House, Fambridge Road, Maldon/Hazeleigh, Feasibility Study into footpath extension – agreed; cost £1,000.
14. Church Hill, Purleigh, Feasibility Study into extending footpath – agreed; cost £1,000.
15. Walden House Road, Great Totham, parking improvements outside school – the Panel agreed that the works were for congestion reduction and safety; costs £5,000.
16. Summerhill/Burnham Road j/w Fambridge Road, Althorne, junction improvement – Councillor Mrs Channer declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item. Agreed; cost £1,500.
17. Summerhill, Althorne, Speed Indicator Device socket – Councillor Mrs Channer declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item. Agreed; cost £1,000.
18. Imperial Avenue, Mayland, footway/parking bay improvements – Officers noted that the issue was of cars driving over the footpath to park and due to the location of the Highways boundary it was not possible to carry out works on private land. The Panel agreed for this item to remain on the Potential Schemes list.
19. South Street and Bradwell Road, Tillingham Road, markings regarding 30mph boundary – agreed; cost £1,000.
20. Oaks Corner Roundabout, Woodham Mortimer, dedicated left turn lane – the Panel noted that Highway Modelling in conjunction with the Local Development Plan was being undertaken and could inform the works to be carried out. Agreed; cost £10,000 (included with 21 below).
21. Morrisons Roundabout, Wycke Hill, Maldon, dedicated left turn lane – this was reviewed and actions agreed together with 20. above.
22. B1021 Eves Corner, Burnham-on-Crouch, improvements to vehicle and pedestrian safety – agreed; cost £6,000.
23. Princes Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, footway and parking improvement – agreed; cost £1,500.
24. Crouch Road j/w Station Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, dropped kerb – agreed; cost £2,500.
25. The Street and end of Rectory Lane/Lower Burnham Road, Latchingdon, congestion relief vehicle count – agreed; cost £200.
26. Mill End, Bradwell on Sea, speed reduction – it was noted that the works were to be carried out under Speed Limit Review and would not form part of the Local Highways Panel programme of works.

Officers introduced potential schemes for consideration:

27. Asheldham Bends, Asheldham, Scoping Report – Scoping Report to be carried out in relation to safety issues and solutions. Agreed; cost £5,000.
28. Maypole Road/Holloway Road, Heybridge ditch – the Panel noted that the edge of the carriageway was falling into the ditch at Maypole Road and was creating dangerous road conditions for vehicles. Officers to request a Validation Report. The Panel requested this item be added to the Potential Schemes List and an urgent review carried out. Officers added that highways modelling was taking place in connection with the Local Development Plan and this may identify mitigating measures of a nature that could be considered by the Panel in the future. Schemes identified would be brought to the Panel in due course

Bus Stop/Route Improvements

1. The Clock Tower, Burnham-on-Crouch, formalising bus stop opposite– agreed: cost £5,000.

Officers introduced a potential scheme for consideration:

2. Village Hall, Latchingdon, replacement shelter – After some discussion regarding the need for a replacement, the Panel agreed that this request could not be supported at this time. The Parish Council could however resubmit its request with justification for a replacement shelter.

School Crossing Patrol Sites

1. Wantz Road, Maldon Primary School - agreed subject to site safety assessment; cost £3,000.

Cycling Proposals 2013/2014

It was noted that there was a budget of £75,000 for 2013/2014. After some discussion regarding the widening of the footway at Park Drive, Maldon it was agreed that additional information as to the benefits/justification would be required. Therefore, additional Cycle Parking at various locations in Maldon Town Centre at a cost of £8,750, Infrastructure improvements at Mill Lane j/w Anchorage Hill, Maldon at a cost of £15,000 and additional signing of NCNI across the Town at a cost £34,750 were agreed.

Casualty Reduction Schemes

Officers reported that two schemes were under consideration, minor signage at Great Totham and Althorne. These would be brought back to Panel.

Programme of Work – 2013/14 Budget

The Panel noted that the approved Programme of Works would cost £231,900, of which £60,000 would be carried forward from the current year, resulting in a cost of £175,000 from the 2013/2014 budget.

The Schemes listed above will now form the Approved Programme of Works for 2013/2014 and the Potential Schemes List 2013/2014.

The Chairman suggested that Officers now write to Parish Councils seeking requests for two additional schemes and one reserve scheme from each which would be brought to the Panel for consideration. Together with any further suggestions from Officers and other teams within Essex County Council, it was agreed that the responses would be required by the middle of May in order for validation to take place before the next Panel meeting.

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Heybridge Parish Council raising its concern regarding the low priority given to its requested schemes and the lack of involvement of the Parishes by the Panel into its considerations. It was agreed that Officers should respond detailing the works agreed for in Heybridge and inviting the Parish Council to submit additional schemes as referred to above.

5. Section 106 Funding

The Panel received and noted summary of the present position regarding monies arising from s106 agreements. There was some discussion regarding the monitoring of spending and ensuring time limits were not exceeded.

6. Highway Rangers Work Summary

The Panel received and noted a summary of the work carried out February 2013.

7. Arrangements for future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Friday 14 June 2013 at 9.00 am, with further meeting dates to be set at that meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.40 am.