

MINUTES

of the

CHELMSFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

24 April 2013

Present:

County Councillor Jude Deakin	Essex County Council
Councillor Ian Grundy	Chelmsford City Council
County Councillor Norman Hume	Essex County Council
County Councillor Mike Mackrory	Essex County Council
County Councillor Dick Madden	Essex County Council
Councillor Chris Rycroft	Chelmsford City Council
Councillor Roy Whitehead	Chelmsford City Council (Chairman)

In attendance:

Keith Blackburn	Essex County Council
Vicky Duff	Essex County Council
County Councillor Ray Howard	Essex County Council
Derek Latimer	Chelmsford City Council
Hannah Neve	Essex County Council
Averil Price	Chelmsford City Council
Jon Simmons	Essex County Council
Derek Stebbing	Chelmsford City Council
Rosa Tanfield	Chelmsford City Council
Joy Thomas	Chelmsford City Council

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**

Councillor Whitehead welcomed everyone present to the seventh meeting of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel.

Councillor Ian Wright had submitted his apologies.

2. **Minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel Meeting on 6 March 2013**

The minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel meeting held on 6 March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising**

County Councillor Deakin asked which policy had been the basis of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel being unable to recommend the crossing scheme at Linnet Drive and Jon Simmons explained that it had been the PV² ratio. County Councillor Deakin indicated that although she had asked for details of the calculations used for Linnet Drive in 2009 and in 2012, in addition to the weighting of the scores, these had not been supplied. Jon Simmons undertook for them to be provided.

The Chairman asked about progress with the Pinch Point funding for the Parkway widening scheme and Hannah Neve confirmed that the Parkway scheme had been unsuccessful in Tranche 1 but it had been included in Tranche 2 for which the results would be available in May 2013.

4. **Feedback on Broomfield Road Trial**

Hannah Neve thanked the Panel for their prompt responses to the consultation on the parking provision in Broomfield Road and confirmed that County Councillor Louis, as Essex County Council Cabinet Member, had agreed that the reinstatement of some of the parking at a cost of £2,000 could be progressed. In answer to a question from the Chairman, she advised that the West End Traders had been notified of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel's decision and would now be advised of the Cabinet Member's authorisation of the change to the parking arrangements

5. **County Council Review of Speed Policy – Update and Implications**

Vicky Duff reported on the Essex County Council's review of its speed policy which had been begun before Christmas 2012. There had been an extensive review of the criteria and benchmarking with other local authorities had taken place. Following the review, the current document was considered to be still fit for purpose. The matters considered had included 20 mph speed limits and zones. It was noted that the DfT guidance was that, for a 20 mph limit to be imposed in a road, a mean speed limit of 24 mph should already be in existence. The County Council's document allowed for the implementation of 20 mph limits in roads that were part of the local network if they had the support firstly of the local County Councillor and then had been agreed by the Cabinet Member. She confirmed that it was possible for a 20 mph speed limit order to be made even if the police had objected on the grounds of enforceability. On 20 mph zones, she explained that traffic calming measures were falling out of favour because residents were highlighting increased noise and vibration. Overall, she confirmed that 20 mph limits should be considered against a balance of various issues including economic viability, vehicular traffic flows and pedestrian and cyclists' movements.

The Chairman asked whether the document included the need for the support of the Local Highways Panel and Vicky Duff confirmed that it was envisaged that the request pro forma would also be supported by the Local Highways Panel as part of the local support for the scheme. County Councillor Howard explained that the format in the current document would be changed to reflect the introduction of Local Highways Panels.

The Chairman then asked about the possibility of having variable speeds in front of schools. Vicky Duff advised the Panel that the DfT had a new advisory sign for 20 mph speeds outside a school, which could be incorporated into 'wig-wag' signs, which were viewed to be more effective than the previous '20s plenty' signage. Although they were only advisory, they would achieve some reduction in speeds. Variable speed limits could be imposed in Priority Route (PR)1 and PR2 routes such as in Margaretting and Cressing but they would cost some £100,000 for the equipment and management. There was a current investigation of 20 mph variable speed limits for some High Streets. The Chairman suggested that the implementation of advisory schemes would cause problems if they were not complied with.

Councillor Rycroft highlighted an instance coming out of Great Baddow where the speed limit on Maldon Road had changed. Vicky Duff explained that they were unable to install repeaters where there was street lighting but she would look at installing a 'New Speed Limit' sign.

County Councillor Madden understood that the Association of Chief Police Officers was changing their stance on 20 mph limits but Vicky Duff confirmed that Essex Police were currently adhering to the 85% percentile criterion. She highlighted that, whilst the DfT had indicated general support for lower local speed limits, no criteria were specified. Councillor Grundy believed that whilst Parish Councils were aware of the general policy they were unaware of the details and the Chairman whilst he felt it would be beneficial for Parish Councils to know the criteria, he felt that it was important not to raise expectations.

County Councillor Howard wondered if there was any opportunity for the South Essex Parking Partnership to be given powers to enforce speed limits in a designated area but Vicky Duff confirmed that it would require a change in the legislation for this to be possible, County Councillor Hume explained that lower speeds limits were not easy to implement despite the public perceptions of their need unless there were accidents. Vicky Duff provided information on the costs of various speed limitation initiatives outside schools and it was noted that terminal signs and repeaters would cost about £3,500 and a variable speed limit scheme at school start and finish times were likely to be over £100,000.

Councillor Rycroft expressed her disquiet about having to await a child death before speed limits could be considered but it was noted that very few child fatalities or accidents actually occur.

Vicky Duff was asked to supply copies of the policy with costs and criteria so that Councillors could advise Parish Councils and the public of the caveats and the need for a good case to be established before a speed limit could be implemented. She was thanked for her presentation.

6. **Scheme list – Actions to be reported back on from previous meetings**

The Panel received a report on actions agreed at previous meetings and current progress. It was noted that the implementation of a number of schemes was being delayed due to lack of staff in the design teams. The Chairman read a note from Paul Bird, Director of Highways and Transportation of Essex County Council about scheme delivery, which was distributed at the meeting. He also confirmed that at a recent meeting he had asked about the possibility of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel using some of its allocation to fund design work. Hannah Neve confirmed that other Panels had raised this matter but she was unable to report further on the matter. Councillor Whitehead confirmed that he would be raising the matter again and County Councillor Mackrory said he supported this approach as it was frustrating for money to be agreed for design work which was not being carried out and schemes were being delayed. Councillor Grundy asked if outsourcing of the design work might be possible.

The current position on the following schemes were noted –

Pedestrian Refuge, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford. Keith Blackburn confirmed this was in the 2013/2014 programme and Jon Simmons reported that an implementation date would be available by the June meeting of the Panel.

Odeon Roundabout. The scheme would be reported to the next meeting of the Panel

Broomfield Road Trial. The before and after traffic and economic appraisals would be reported to the Panel at a future date.

New London Road/Writtle Road/Elm Road. Following the recommendation of the Safety Team, the casualty reduction scheme would not be implemented as it did not meet the criteria but the site would be monitored

Zebra Crossing, New Nabbotts Way, Springfield Jon Simmons confirmed that the design work was deferred pending the results of PV² calculations.

Army and Navy Roundabout. It was anticipated that a report on the DfT approval process would be available in time to be considered at the next meeting of the Panel.

IT140 – junction of Chignal Road and Roxwell Road. A response will be brought to the next meeting of the Panel.

IT261 – Little Baddow. Once the Section 106 funds in this case have been transferred to Essex County Council, the County Council would discuss the use of the funds for a footway with the Parish Council.

School crossing adjoining Melbourne Park School. County Councillor Deakin suggested that to improve the exit from the roundabout, the bus stop on the left hand side might be moved and Jon Simmons undertook to discuss the matter with the Passenger Transport Team.

Cycling Schemes – CH51/CH43, CH30, CH50, CH54/CH29 and CH13. It was noted that the new cycling strategy would be developed county-wide then Council-wide. Hannah Neve anticipated that the mapping would be carried out by September. The Great Baddow and Great Waltham schemes were being brought forward and there would be discussions with Chelmsford City Council and the other stakeholders. An interim report would be made at the next meeting of the Panel.

West Hanningfield Section 106 schemes. Keith Blackburn confirmed he had been in discussion with the Parish Council and it had been agreed that vehicle activated signs would be appropriate rather than traffic calming.

Galleywood Road in the vicinity of Fowler Court. Councillor Mountain had indicated that a good position for the crossing would be near the Stomps Garage. The investigations were continuing about the possible installation of either an island or a crossing.

Ferrers Road, South Woodham Ferrers. This crossing was now being progressed.

Baddow Road Study Hannah Neve confirmed that this scheme had been superseded and was being packaged with the Army and Navy junction improvements. Regular updates would be provided on progress.

A414 Van Diemens Road Crossing. Jon Simmons confirmed that the Safer Roads Foundation who had requested the scheme originally would now be funding the works.

Jon Simmons reported on the Essex Trafficweb site which was displayed at the meeting which provided accident information on roads in the county, The information was supplied by the police and although it was not always up to date, it remained a good indicator of the safety of particular roads.

Parish, Town, City and County Councillors had been emailed about schemes and three Parish Councils had requested to have the current scheme lists in order that they could see what schemes were in their areas and what progress had been achieved.

AGREED that the scheme list presented to the Panel would be amended for circulation to Parish and Town Councils and it should be highlighted that due to delays in design work, implementation dates could not be guaranteed.

7. **Chelmsford Local Highways Panel Full Reserve Scheme List**

Jon Simmons introduced the revised Reserve Scheme List. To make the documentation clearer for future meetings, lists of schemes which were being validated would be included on a separate list and those schemes which had been approved for funding would be removed from the Full Reserve Scheme list. Those schemes approved for funding at the last meeting were shown as shaded grey on the list.

On Scheme IT 134, Jon Simmons reported that County Councillor Robinson had supplied information about the parking difficulties in the vicinity of the Broomfield Road/ Patching Hall/ Broomfield Parade junction. County Councillor Deakin referred to the confusion at the junction of Broomfield Parade and Pentland Avenue near to the KFC restaurant. Rosa Tanfield and Jon Simmons were asked to liaise about possible solutions to the problems.

Jon Simmons was awaiting information from Great Waltham Parish Council on The Hatchfields Scheme.

It was noted that all the cycling schemes which were coloured amber in the lists would be the subject of reports at a future meeting.

County Councillor Mackrory asked for the background to the school crossing patrol scheme at the Bishops CE/RC Primary School in Beardsley Drive, Springfield and Jon Simmons undertook to supply him with the information.

Hannah Neve indicated that because of the decisions already taken there was now scope to consider new schemes at future meetings for inclusion in a revised Reserve Scheme List. The Chairman noted this but made it clear that the backlog of schemes already approved for delivery needed to be cleared before adding new schemes to create an even longer backlog.

8. **New Schemes**

Jon Simmons reported that West Hanningfield, Stock and Writtle Parish Councils had suggested schemes and that the Passenger Transport Team had proposed bus stop improvements at Bicknacre Road, Bicknacre, New Bowers Way and Barlows Reach, Springfield and by the Black Bull Public House, Margaretting. The Chairman requested that these schemes be presented at the next meeting.

Jon Simmons provided details of three new Casualty Reduction Schemes. The scheme at the B1007, Stock Road junction with Downham Road, Stock involving improved signs and vegetation removal Improvements were at an estimated cost of around £3,000 and it was agreed that it be progressed at a contingency cost of up to £5,000. The scheme at A1060 Maldon Road junction with Brick Kiln Road, Sandon involving replacement signage and road markings was at an estimated cost of around £3,950 and it was agreed that it be progressed at a contingency cost of up to £5,000. The scheme at the A131 Moulsham Hall Lane Roundabout, Great Leighs involving replacement signs and chevrons and the installation of transverse yellow bar markings and two sets of SLOW markings. The yellow bar markings would require DfT approval. It was noted that it was a complicated junction and that the works involved would be at an estimated cost of £16,000 and at that estimate the proposal was agreed.

Hannah Neve and Jon Simmons confirmed that a repopulated scheme list and a new schemes list would be presented at the next meeting based on proposals from Essex County Council Transport Teams and from Parish Councils.

9. **Section 106 Schemes Summary**

The current list of Section 106 Schemes which related to traffic management issues was reviewed. Keith Blackburn introduced this item by reporting that there were some 110 contributions which were currently live and whilst some had been made direct to Essex County Council most had been received by Chelmsford City Council. There were handed over to Essex County Council in tranches. Thirteen or more schemes that had been approved were now in the 2013/14 programme together with some that had slipped from 2012/13.

Keith Blackburn confirmed regarding the three schemes in connection with Broomfield Hospital that discussions had been held already between Essex County Council, Chelmsford City Council and the Hospital and a further one was envisaged. The Rivermead and Army and Navy schemes (CHL-1030-06) would be progressed when funding was available.

County Councillor Deakin asked about progress on the bus stop outside 130 Broomfield Road and Joy Thomas reported that because of issues of sight lines the bus stop could not be implemented but the funding might be used for a cycle route instead. She also reported that the pedestrian island at Stump Lane, Chelmsford was not possible but a pram crossing could be installed.

County Councillor Mackrory emphasised that there was a need for Planning Officers to liaise with Highways Officers over Section 106 arrangements. Derek Stebbing confirmed that there was now closer working between Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council and he anticipated that with CIL to be implemented by December 2013, the possibility of problems occurring of agreements being entered into for schemes that were not viable in highways terms would be reduced further. He confirmed that it was anticipated that Chelmsford City Council would commit to the Great Waltham to Chelmsford Cycleway in the near future, Hannah Neve confirmed that for the Great Waltham and the Great Baddow Cycleway the monies had been drawn down and design work was in progress, Councillor Rycroft asked whether land issues had been resolved with the Great Baddow cycleway and Keith Blackburn advised that it was his understanding that landownership had still to be resolved but the works could commence at the Great Baddow end and then move towards the Army and Navy roundabout.

County Councillor Howard asked whether all the £1.25 million would be used and the Chairman commented that it was intended that the likelihood of any refunds would be minimised. Keith Blackburn confirmed that whilst officers endeavour not to return Section 106 Funding, in some cases it was inevitable as some developers were unwilling to amend the scheme. In addition, five years for a capital scheme was a relatively short period.

10. **Highways Rangers Summary**

Jon Simmons circulated an updated summary of the Chelmsford City Highways Rangers work programme. The Chairman confirmed that he had been given good reports of the work carried out by the Rangers. County Councillor Mackrory agreed that good work had been carried out but raised an instance at New Nabbotts Way and Pump Lane where the inspector had not agreed that the work was worthwhile and it was beginning to have safety implications. Jon Simmons agreed to discuss the case with the technician or ranger.

11. **Work Programme Monitor including Highways Maintenance Initiative and Approved Local Highways Panel Schemes**

The Panel received current information about the programme for 2012/2013 and it was noted that the full programme for 2013/2014 would be available in July, 2013.

Averil Price asked whether it was intended that South Essex Parking Partnership would draft the order for Linnet Drive or whether it would be Essex County Council. Jon Simmons and Hannah Neve confirmed that it would be advertised by South Essex Parking Partnership and that County Councillor Louis had signed off the scheme as an exception on that basis.

12 **Any Other Business**

Unallocated Monies

The Chairman explained that because of schemes from 2012/2013 which had slipped into 2013/2014 there was a large balance of funding due to design delays.

Rosa Tanfield

The Chairman welcomed Rosa Tanfield as the new Parking and Highways Liaison Manager at Chelmsford City Council. Her role which involved managing car parks and work related to Chelmsford Local Highways Panel and South Essex Parking Partnership was explained.

Meeting with Parish and Town Councils

It was agreed that a meeting with Parish and Town Councils similar to that held in 2012 should be held again, possibly in September

13. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Panel be held at the Chelmsford City Council's offices at 12:30 lunch with a start time of 12.45pm on 19 June 2013

The meeting closed at 2:55 p.m.

Chairman

MEETING OF THE CHELMSFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

24th APRIL 2013
TRAINING ROOM, GROUND FLOOR COVAL LANE BUILDING, CIVIC
CENTRE, CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL
COMMENCING AT 12.45PM

There will be a buffet lunch available for Panel Members and officers from
12.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Local Highways Panel meeting held on 6th March 2013
(attached)
3. Matters Arising
4. Update on Broomfield Road trial
5. County Council Review of Speed Policy – update and implications
6. Scheme List – Actions to be reported back on from previous meetings
(attached)
7. Chelmsford LHP Full Reserve Scheme List (attached)
8. New Schemes
9. Section 106 Schemes Summary ECC Section by Parish (attached)
10. Highways Rangers Summary (attached)
11. Work Programme Monitor including Highways Maintenance Initiative and
approved LHP Schemes (attached)
12. Any Other Business
13. Date and time of next meeting