

**HIGHWAYS PANEL held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN at 7pm on 21 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Present: Councillor S Walsh (Chairman – Essex County Council)
Councillors A Mills, R Chambers and G Sell (Uttlesford District Council).
Councillors S Barker, and J Lodge (Essex County Council).
Councillor A Townsend (Uttlesford Association of Local Councils).

Officers in attendance: M Cox (Democratic Services Officer – UDC), and R Long (Highways Liaison Officer – Essex Highways).

Also present: Representatives from the parishes of Littlebury and Wicken Bonhunt.

HP9

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Philip Marris spoke about speeding issues in Littlebury and Catmere End. Recent speed surveys had shown the average speed at the sites to be significantly in excess of 30 mph. Following recent bridge repairs, the road through Littlebury Green had been reopened and the parish council had put forward two sites to be considered as designated quiet lanes. He felt that the characteristics of the area, a large number of ROW, proximity to cycle routes and the Icknield Way, fitted with the requirements for a quiet lane and he asked the Panel to support these plans.

The Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that ECC had signed off the quiet lanes policy and was currently evaluating the proposals. The accepted schemes would be included on the potential scheme list for funding in March.

Fabien Bullen from Wicken Bonhunt parish committee, asked for the Panel's support in solving the nuisance and danger caused by speeding traffic through the village. The village already had a 30mph limit and an active speed watch but as a linear settlement, speeding was still occurring and overtaking was a problem. The road passed through a wholly residential area with many vulnerable road users and the parish felt that some form of physical engineering works was probably required, although it still wished to maintain the rural character of the village.

The Highway Liaison Officer said that for a road to be considered dangerous and eligible for speed measures, the average speed should be over 35mph. The first step would be to arrange for a speed survey, and then agree funding for a feasibility study. She explained it was a requirement to have street lights where physical measures were proposed. The representatives of the parish committee said that residents were likely to be opposed to lighting through the village but it might be acceptable for there to be physical measures and lighting at the gateway to the village. The Highway Liaison Officer said that she would arrange for the speed surveys to be carried in this financial year.

HP10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Freeman (UDC) and Councillor Gooding (ECC) and John Davey (UALC representative).

HP11 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

HP12 **BUSINESS ARISING**

(i) Business Arising - B1256 (off M11)

Alan Townsend spoke about the continuing problem of lorries parking of this road rather in the Birchanger service area. This was very dangerous as it was restricting visibility for both cars and pedestrians. The bollards had been knocked down and ECC had said they were reluctant to replace these. The Highway Liaison Officer said a solution might be to put in a clearway on the entire stretch of road.

Councillor Barker said she would find out whether this was the responsibility of the NEPP and if so request it be included on a future agenda.

(ii) Sign Survey

It was confirmed that the sign survey would be carried out in this financial year in relation to the width restriction at Pound Lane Ugley, as well as for the low bridge in Newport and the narrow lanes at Little Henham.

(iii) Wendens Road Cycle path

Councillor Lodge said he had received a number of representations about the design of the new cycleway from Audley End to Saffron Walden. These related mainly about the danger caused by the absence of markings at the far Wenden end of the path and particularly where turn it turned in from the B1283. He was informed that ECC was aware of the issues and the comments were being collated. However, as with any new scheme it needed time to bed in and a report would be made to a future meeting.

HP13 **UPDATE ON CAPITAL AND REVENUE SCHEMES APPROVED**

The Highways Liaison Officer reported on the following schemes:

(i) High Street, Hempstead – New footway

The scheme was close to completion. The legal aspect had been largely resolved but the start date had still to be confirmed.

(ii) Ashdon Road, Saffron Walden – Visibility for pedestrians

The funds had been allocated for the detailed design. If this was approved the project could be included on the potential schemes list from March 2016.

(iii) A 1060 j/w B183 Hatfield Heath – mini roundabout

The design had now been submitted and it was expected that the mini-roundabout would be installed in this financial year.

(iv) Stortford Road, Hatfield Heath – Drainage improvement scheme

It had been noted that this area had not flooded during the recent wet weather and members wondered whether recent local work had helped with the problems at this site. The Highway Liaison Officer said recent investigations had confirmed that there was an issue with the width of the pipes which did need to be addressed.

(v) Castle Street Saffron Walden – 20mph roundel

Members commented that this was a very straightforward request and hoped that the work could be completed as soon as possible.

HP14

POTENTIAL SCHEME LIST

The Chairman said that as the budget for 2015/16 had been fully allocated, this meeting was unable to consider any new schemes. However for the remainder of the financial year ECC would continue with work on surveys and assessments.

HP15

HIGHWAYS RANGERS AND REVENUE EXPENDITURE

The Panel received the summary of requests for the Ranger Service from April to August 2015.

Members asked how parish councils could establish the status of their requests, as it would be useful to know when works were programmed to start. The Highway Liaison Officer said she would discuss with UDC colleagues whether this could be accommodated on the UDC website. In response to questions by Members, the Highways Liaison Officer reiterated that the Highways Rangers had been set up to undertake work on an ad-hoc basis meaning separate requests had to be made if follow up work was required. Councillor Sell commended the work completed by the Ranger Service in the Stansted Area.

Councillor Chambers said the white lines for the taxi rank in the Market Square required urgent repainting. He was advised that this was outside the Ranger's remit but Councillor Barker said she would make enquiries as to whether this fell within the responsibilities of the NEPP.

HP16

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting would be held on 18th January 2016 at 6pm

The meeting ended at 7.50pm