

BRENTWOOD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
19TH NOVEMBER 2012

PRESENT: Cllrs Parker (BBC – Chairman), Braid, Clarke (BBC), Aspinell (ECC), Kendall (ECC), Dr Naylor (ECC), Roberts (ECC) and Sparling (BBC)

Officers: Adrian Tidbury (BBC), Jean Sharp (BBC), Paul Bird (ECC) and Hannah Neve (ECC).

1. **WELCOME FROM CHAIRMAN:** The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting.
2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:** The ECC Cabinet Member had requested that an ECC Member be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Local Highways Panel. It was MOVED and SECONDED and RESOLVED that Cllr Dr Naylor be appointed as Vice-Chairman.
3. **PROPOSED PEGASUS CROSSING ON THE A128, PILGRIMS HATCH:** In view of the large number of public attendees, the Chairman proposed this item be discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

A written update had been provided for Members regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing on the Ongar Road close to its junction with Ashwells Road which indicated that the proposed scheme did not meet ECC criteria for intervention and was outside of ECC Policy. Following the LHP's approval for funding the crossing, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation had requested additional information and a series of site speed, pedestrian and traffic count surveys were undertaken between 23.10.12 and 29.10.12. Having taken account of the outcomes of these surveys the ECC Traffic Manager did not support the scheme and therefore funding was not authorised by the Cabinet Member although he had agreed to review any additional information or evidence provided before a final decision was taken.

Members expressed concern that historical accident data had not been taken into account and a St Paul's Primary School parent and a representative from Essex Bridleways Association addressed the Panel outlining the problems and near-accidents experienced by pedestrians and horse-riders at the location under consideration.

A Member requested that ECC Officers should contact the headmistress of St Paul's Primary School and also the Church, regarding issues relating to children and parents crossing the Ongar Road, also regarding parking problems in Ashwells Road.

[ECC-Neve]

A Member proposed that a bridge be constructed instead of a pedestrian crossing.

The Chairman MOVED and it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that:

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Within the next 14 days Panel Members should put forward to the Chairman the best case in conjunction with residents, including previous information which had been submitted but had not been represented in the ECC report. All information would then be submitted to ECC.

[Cllr Parker] to co-ordinate information and pass onto ECC Officers

[ECC-Neve] to review / reconsider the information submitted

4. **APPROVED SCHEMES UPDATE:** Updated details were before Members of schemes previously approved by the LHP.

Regarding the cycle storage facilities at Shenfield Station, it was noted that an additional £3k of funding was needed to complete the proposed works.

RESOLVED to approve the additional funding.

[ECC-Neve]

Regarding the proposed additional footway in Billericay Road, Herongate, Members were advised that additional costs might be needed in the future to complete this installation.

Members were unclear on requirements in relation to the minor safety improvements in Weald Road, South Weald, and Ward Members were requested to provide further details to ECC officers outside the meeting.

A County Member requested a time-frame for the BSI schemes detailed on the list of approved schemes.

(Cllr Sparling declared a personal interest under the Council's Code of Conduct by virtue of having a bus stop outside his business premises in Danes Way, Brentwood).

The Chairman had requested that better quality information was provided by ECC officers in future reports for LHP meetings.

[ECC-Neve]

5. **POTENTIAL SCHEME LIST FOR 2012-13:** ECC officers advised that all schemes included on the list before Members had been discussed at the last two LHP meetings and had a RAG rating of green – high priority scheme; amber – a low priority scheme or red – a scheme which was against Essex policy of for which there was no appropriate engineering solution. Schemes estimated to cost less than £200k were labelled 'minor'.

Members noted that the total of monies committed from the available budget to date was £77,000 (indicative cost).

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The list of potential schemes provided for Members' information included four new requests, feasibility of which was being considered. These were as follows:

2 x zebra crossings – Station Road, West Horndon

VAS signs – Hanging Hill Lane, Brentwood

Hall Lane, Shenfield – possible speed reduction measures – a speed survey had been requested and was due to be undertaken shortly.

Regarding item 1 - PROW 38 which had been discussed at the 2.10.12 LHP meeting, ECC officers provided costs of the different elements of the work as requested.

Section A-C – Overlay existing surface was estimated at £1600

Sections D to F – Widening of route and overlay of existing surface – estimated cost £24,500 plus legal costs in relation to consultation with car park owners.

Sections F to G – considered to be the worst part – installation of parking bollards - £18,250 + legal costs.

The land between points D and F was confirmed to be in the ownership of Lord Petre.

The County Member felt the decision regarding the footpath should be made by the Parish Council.

Agreed that ECC Officers bring back a further update to the next meeting to confirm the costs for Sections E – G and to confirm the land ownership

[ECC-Neve]

2. A127 from j/w the M25 to Victoria Station, Southend on Sea. Members were not keen to progress purchasing the suggested sign at this stage. RESOLVED that no further action would be taken at present and that it should be removed from the list.

*[ECC-Neve]

3. Church Road/Burnthouse Lane, Mountnessing - Junction Improvement

The ECC Officer had contacted the Parish Council and the nature of the requested scheme could not be established. The Ward Member believed there was no longer an issue at the site.

RESOLVED that this scheme should be removed from the list.

[ECC-Neve]

4. Station Road/Tilbury Road, Brentwood – Widening. It was felt this scheme was too expensive to progress. RESOLVED that this scheme should be removed from the list.

[ECC-Neve]

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5. and 6. Related to Crossrail and therefore there was no decision to be made at this stage.

7. Cycling improvements – ECC officers advised that the estimated cost of providing a cycle strategy was £25,000. Members agreed to progress with this piece of work, however asked for cost savings where possible. Members also noted that studies / reviews have already been undertaken and that these studies should be taken into account. RESOLVED to approve funding for this strategy

[ECC-Neve]

8. Devil's Head crossroads: ECC officers advised that the effectiveness of the VAS signs would be assessed after being in situ for at least a year (post Jan 2013) a County Member requested details of the assessment. A report was expected in the new year.

[ECC-Neve]

A County Member also requested an update on his request for the red lining in Hartswood Road to be renewed

[ECC-Neve]

The Chairman requested clarification on ECC policy of not allowing mini roundabouts in locations of 4-roads while other Local Authorities allow this. ECC officers agreed to pursue this information.

[ECC-Neve]

9. Pondfield Lane – a detailed report was before Members which proposed road realignment. Members believed the camber of the road was wrong and suggested VAS signs might be more effective. It was agreed to defer consideration of the matter and instead to commission the speed surveys and then group the VAS signs and road realignment scheme as one scheme to be presented to the Panel for their consideration as either a phased approach or delivered together. A further report would be brought back to the Panel.

[ECC-Neve]

10. Pegasus crossing at Ashwells Road (considered earlier in the meeting).

11. Toucan crossing on the A1023 in the vicinity of Shenfield School: This crossing was against ECC policy and it was agreed it should be removed from the list.

[ECC-Neve]

12. Roundabout at A128 j/w/Sandpit Lane: as discussed earlier the Chairman requested clarification on ECC policy of not allowing mini roundabouts in locations of 4-roads while other Local Authorities allow this. ECC officers agreed to pursue this information.

[ECC-Neve]

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13. Capacity improvements on A129 Rayleigh Road/Alexander Lane – related to Crossrail therefore consideration to be deferred.

*[ECC-Neve]

14. Mini roundabout at Brentwood Road/Billericay Road, Herongate: against ECC policy – removal from list agreed.

[ECC-Neve]

15. Priests Lane, Shenfield: speed survey to be carried out by Essex Police within the next month in the same location as previously. A Member asked about the maintenance of private tree cutting and was advised to liaise with the new Highways Liaison Officer once they are confirmed.

16. A129 Rayleigh Road/Poplar Drive, Hutton – re-phasing traffic lights to relieve congestion: a cost of £6k had been estimated. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to fund the re-phasing operation.

[ECC-Neve]

As a general point it was agreed that the potential scheme list should be revised so that schemes are grouped as per their functional areas

*[ECC-Neve]

Schemes awaiting validation:

Details of proposed schemes were before Members as follows:

1. Station Road, West Horndon – 2 x Zebra Crossings
2. Station Road, West Horndon – Priority Working
3. Hanging Hill Lane – VAS signs
4. A128 Tilbury Road – pedestrian refuge
5. Hall Lane, Shenfield – speeding concerns
6. Ingrave Road, Brentwood – Safety Railings
7. Orchard Avenue junction with Ingrave Road – pedestrian refuge upgrade

In relation to these proposed schemes, it was proposed that speed surveys be carried out in Station Road, West Horndon, Hanging Hill Lane and Hall Lane

*[ECC-Neve]

The remaining schemes would be validated by ECC before being considered by the LHP.

The Chairman also advised that the Cabinet Member had informed the Leader of the Council that he had agreed in principle to the installation of 20mph signs in a number of places, eg outside schools not on major routes.

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ECC officers advised that a review was to be undertaken of the ECC policy in regard to 20mph signs and that once this was approved officers could present details and the criteria to the Panel for their consideration of possible locations for such schemes..

A County Member requested that the opinion of the Police be sought in regard to installation of the signs since enforcement was within their remit and he believed residents' safety was compromised when enforcement did not take place.

A County Member requested that different types and costs of VAS signs be provided in future.

[ECC-Neve]

6. **RANGERS AND REVENUE MONIES UPDATE:** A report was provided for the Panel on works undertaken by the Highways Rangers , also, a breakdown was given of the revenue expenditure of the Highways Panel.