

BRENTWOOD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
2ND OCTOBER 2012

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr Braid

Officers: Adrian Tidbury (BBC), Jean Sharp (BBC), Rissa Long (ECC), Peter Rose (ECC) and Hannah Neve (ECC).

1. **WELCOME FROM CHAIRMAN AND INTRODUCTIONS:** The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and introduced Essex County Cllr Howard, Deputy to the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation. Cllr Howard was attending all South Essex Highways meetings to observe and report back to Cllr Louis.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Panel should vote on whether or not Local Highways Panel meetings should be webcast and it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the meetings should be webcast.

2. **ONGAR ROAD, PILGRIMS HATCH PEDESTRIAN CROSSING:** Members received a verbal update on the current situation in regard to the requested pedestrian crossing close to the junction of the A128 - Ongar Road with Ashwells Road. ECC officers reminded Members that expenditure on the design of a potential scheme had been approved at the 24.7.12 LHP meeting and it was now being brought to the Panel for their consideration on whether to agree monies to deliver the scheme in its entirety. However, there had been some miscommunication with regard to progression of the scheme and the Chairman advised that he was to meet with the Cabinet Member and Leader of Brentwood Council and ward and divisional Members the following morning when the situation should be clarified.

ECC officers reported that the £250k estimated cost for the crossing which had been provided was an upper estimate however it was subject to change and would be confirmed once scoping / design works had been undertaken. It was confirmed that if approved, the crossing could be installed this financial year using the current ECC contractors.

Members spoke in support of the installation of this crossing to ensure the safety of pedestrians and especially pupils of St Paul's School, Bentley.

Members were advised that the Cabinet Member had already approved the cost of the design of the scheme, also he had given his approval for the exemption report for the design works, which was necessary due to the crossing being on a priority one road.

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Cllr Roberts asked for a deferral on this decision, requesting that the scoping / design works on this scheme be carried out first and its feasibility and a full cost estimate be reported back to the Panel for their consideration, rather than agreeing to the scheme in its entirety at this stage. This was not seconded.

It was MOVED and SECONDED and RESOLVED on a vote by show of hands that the Cabinet Member be advised that the installation of the pedestrian crossing was approved by the LHP.

The Panel's decision would be presented to the Cabinet Member at a weekly operations meeting for his consideration of approval. *[ECC-Long]*

3. **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 £79,000.

A new addition to the list was a request for kerb alignments and removal of highway rights at the Brentwood Road entrance to Thorndon Country Park where there were safety concerns for pedestrians particularly those visiting the burger van positioned at the entrance and also due to parked vehicles blocking the entrance road. Removal of highway rights would enable enforcement at the site to prevent vehicles and the burger van parking there.

County Councillors had received representations on the matter from the Thorndon Guardians Group and both Herongate and Ingrave and West Hordon Parish Councils had indicated support.

The cost of the proposed scheme was £20k including design works.

RESOLVED that this scheme be progressed.

[ECC-Long]

A Member requested confirmation of the balance of funds the Panel had left to spend following committing monies to schemes and an ECC Officer advised this to be circa £140k.

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Members were reminded that work on a cycling scheme was agreed at the 24.7.12 meeting and therefore allocation of funds needed to be borne in mind in this regard if appropriate.

Referring to the scheme list which had been revised at the 24.7.12 LHP meeting, the proposals were discussed in turn.

1. Improvements to Ingatestone PROW No. 38. A detailed report was before Members which indicated that various works needed to be carried out to different sections of the footpath at an estimated total cost of £55k.

The County Councillor said that the pathway was very well used. Parts of it were in very bad condition and she proposed that the works be undertaken in stages according to the need for attention to each section. ECC officers proposed that the cost of the different elements of the work should be estimated individually so that the worst sections could be progressed first. An update would be given at the 19.11.12 LHP meeting.

[ECC-Long]

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.

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.

RESOLVED that the ECC Officers would meet with the County Councillor and relevant Parish Council representative to clarify the nature of the scheme and would report to the next LHP meeting if appropriate.

[ECC-Long]

4. Church Road/Old Church Road, Mountnessing – Junction Improvement.

Members were advised that this scheme was being progressed, however, additional funding of £5k was needed. The County Councillor confirmed that there were many accidents at this junction.

RESOLVED that the additional funding of £5k should be approved.

[ECC-Long]

5. Station Road/Tilbury Road, Brentwood – Widening – more information was to be sought.

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[ECC-Long]

Items 6, 7, 8 and 9 related to Brentwood and Shenfield Stations and Crossrail and an ECC Officer advised that monies for design works would be required, however that this was unlikely to be required until early in the next financial year.

Members of the Panel agreed to bear this in mind for 2013/14.

10. High Street, Ingatestone – Gateway sign.

The Parish Council had advised that they did not consider a sign was needed therefore the scheme was to be removed from the list.

[ECC-Long]

11 to 13 Related to cycle paths in Brentwood. As agreed at a previous Panel meeting the Chairman proposed these three items be replaced by a Cycle Strategy for Brentwood. Costs for such a study were being prepared by ECC officers and would be presented for the Panel's consideration at the 19.11.12 LHP meeting.

[ECC-Neve]

14. A1023 – Brentwood – upgrade to the existing controller to enable improved traffic flow during periods of maintenance on the A12.

RESOLVED that item be removed from the list.

Items 15 and 19 - Small solid roundabouts at Devil's Head and Sandpit Lane. The Chairman proposed that the LHP should lobby ECC to take action in regard to these schemes. ECC officers re-iterated that there are no further monies within ECC - the monies have all been pooled and allocated to each of the Panels. Cllr Roberts supported this statement.

A County Councillor requested that Members be advised of the date when the year's assessment of the effectiveness of the two VAS signs installed at Devil's Head began.

The Member also requested an update on the request to re-paint the red lines on the Hartswood Road approach to the junction. The Chairman advised that this issue would fall within ECC's maintenance remit and requested ECC officers to pursue the matter.

[ECC-Long]

At a Highways Panel meeting in 2010 it had been agreed and budget allocated for a VAS sign to be installed in Hartswood Road but to date this had not taken place. Members noted that to provide this a further budget allocation would need to be made.

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16. Pondfield Lane/Hanging Hill Lane – Safety Schemes

Members were advised that additional proposed schemes (set out under 'Schemes awaiting validation' later in the agenda) needed to be validated by ECC before being considered by the Panel. A County Member suggested that two tone road surfacing could be used to highlight the bend but was advised this was used on approaches to pedestrian crossings.

17. Pegasus Crossing on the A128 Pilgrims Hatch near Ashwells Road – this scheme was considered earlier in the meeting as a separate item.

18. Toucan Crossing on the A1023 Chelmsford Road, Shenfield. Members noted that the location shown in the report before Members was incorrect and therefore further investigation would be carried out and a report made to the next Panel meeting.

19. Sandpit Lane – Small solid roundabout. It had been proposed earlier in the meeting that the Panel should lobby ECC to take action in regard to implementation of this scheme. A Member proposed that the item should be removed from the LHP's list since there was insufficient funding to enable the scheme to be implemented.

An ECC Officer reminded Members that there was no further ECC funding available and suggested that some money be allocated for a design in case further funding should be made available from central government.

A County Councillor proposed that the Sandpit Lane and Devil's Head schemes should remain on the LHP's list and be resurrected if further ECC monies became available in the future.

In response to a Member's question an ECC Officer advised that a detailed scheme design had been produced for Devil's Head in 2009/2010 but in relation to the Sandpit Lane/Ongar Road junction only a broad feasibility design had been produced in order to estimate diversion costs for statutory undertakers' equipment.

20. A129 Rayleigh Road/Alexander Lane – mini RAB capacity improvements. This scheme related to Crossrail so would be considered in the future.

21. Brentwood Road/Billericay Road, Herongate – safety/capacity improvements. This scheme was on a priority route therefore requires approval from ECC. It was agreed that it should be removed from the LHP list.

22. Priests Lane, Shenfield – speed reduction measures. An ECC Officer reported that the police intended to carry out a speed survey and the results would be available

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to report at a future Panel meeting. A County Member requested the police speed survey should be taken in the same location as the previous ECC speed survey.

Recapping on the budget committed to schemes, the Chairman requested that ECC officers report back on the feasibility and cost of repairing in stages PROW 38 in Ingatestone (considered earlier in the meeting), the total cost of which had been estimated at £55k. A County Member requested that, as a priority, it should be ascertained how much the required consultation with the owners of the car park might cost.

4. OUTSTANDING TRO'S: A detailed list was provided for Members' information.

Members noted that the scheme at Hernshaw, Herongate, had been withdrawn.

The ECC Officer reported that all schemes where there had been no objections and those which had been slightly amended (coloured green and amber on the list) were anticipated to have been concluded by the end of November 2012.

In relation to the proposals for Birchwood Close, Ashbeam Close and Canterbury Way, Warley, Members were advised that since revisions had been requested this would need to be considered as a new scheme and therefore there would be no further action at this time.

A revised scheme also needed to be designed for Wilmot Green (Brentwood West and not Warley as shown) following objections from residents and a County Member requested that proposals should be discussed with the Ward Members and the relevant County Member before being passed to SEPP for consideration.

The Chairman reminded Members that for any proposed scheme where objections had been received, a new request needed to be forwarded to ECC so that it could be reported on and considered by the LHP and progressed as appropriate, either by ECC if a safety issue or otherwise by SEPP.

In relation to outstanding proposals for Worrin Road and Brockley Grove an ECC Officer advised that a formal consultation needed to be carried out before implementation of parking restrictions in these locations.

In response to Members' expressions of concern regarding the current situation relating to these schemes, the Chairman agreed to establish the position and advise Members as soon as possible.

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RESOLVED to note the list and timescales for outstanding TRO's.
[ECC-Long]

5. **SCHEMES AWAITING VALIDATION**: Members were advised that the following possible schemes had been submitted by Members and would need to be progressed via the LHP following consideration under ECC validation processes. Further reports and costings would be brought back to the next LHP meeting for consideration.

1. Station Road, West Horndon – two zebra crossings.

Members were advised that the Parish Council with the support of Cllr Roberts had reported an issue with pedestrians, particularly children, being unable to safely cross the road due to heavy traffic relating primarily to the industrial estate and also speeding vehicles.

The proposal was for zebra crossings to be installed in two strategic places in West Horndon, at either end of the village - one in the vicinity of the doctor's surgery and the other in closer proximity to the station.

An ECC Officer had arranged for speed surveys to take place at the two proposed sites which would determine if the sites met the criteria for this type of measure since the mean speed must not exceed 35mph for a zebra crossing facility to be valid. A social crossing survey would also help to identify the pattern of where pedestrians were crossing the road.

A County Member reported that West Horndon's VAS sign had not worked for nine months and the ECC Officer advised that engineers would be on site the following day to effect repairs.

2. Station Road, West Horndon – Priority working

The Parish Council had requested that consideration be given to the installation of a priority working system at the entrance to the parish coming from the A128 direction.

3. Hanging Hill Lane - VAS signs

Members were aware that various safety measures had been implemented on the sharp Hanging Hill Lane / Pondfield Lane bend including additional reflector posts to delineate the bend and the road had recently been surface dressed.

As a way of further highlighting the sharpness of the bend VAS signs had been requested for both approaches. A speed survey would need to be undertaken to confirm that the criteria was met.

4. Hall Lane – Shenfield – speeding concerns

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A site meeting with a County Member and several residents had identified some concerns over the speed of traffic in Hall Lane, which was exacerbated by the absence of a footway.

Members were advised that there was an existing 30mph limit through Hall Lane but the presence of the primary school could make this a valid site for a 20mph limit.

A speed survey was proposed and also a request made that seven houses in Hall Lane which were currently outside the speed restriction area should be included within it to enable safer access and egress to those properties.

Funds had previously been allocated in respect of speed surveys.

On the bend outside the school there was also a recurring problem of the verge being eroded by larger vehicles overrunning which was causing the edge of carriageway to break away. One option for remedying this could be kerbing the verge.

5. A129 Rayleigh Road / Poplar Drive - Traffic Lights

A congestion issue had been raised at the above location where traffic was backing up in Poplar Drive and not able to exit onto the A129 in a timely manner. It was requested that the traffic lights be rephased between 3 and 4.00pm since there was additional traffic at that time related to the two schools located in the immediate vicinity.

An ECC Officer confirmed that the software in the traffic lights could be updated to accommodate this request.

ECC Officers noted a County Member's suggestion that rephasing the traffic lights at Tabors Corner, Shenfield, to enable traffic to continue towards Chelmsford from Brentwood when the green light allowed traffic to progress from the Chelmsford direction towards Brentwood or turn left into Hutton Road would alleviate queueing vehicles.

6. A128 Tilbury Road – pedestrian refuge

There was a safety issue for children disembarking their school bus and having to cross the A128. The speed of the road meant that it was not viable for a zebra crossing to be installed but the possibility of pedestrian refuge to enable the children to have a safe point that they can cross was requested to be explored.

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