

Epping Forest District LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES

Monday 27 September 2021

17:00hrs – 18:25hrs

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Chairman:	Councillor C Whitbread (ECC)
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor S Kane (ECC)
Panel Members:	Councillor C Pond (ECC) Councillor M Vance (ECC) Councillor H Whitbread (ECC) Councillor I Hadley (EFDC) Councillor H Kane (EFDC) Councillor A Lion (EFDC) Councillor D Wixley (EFDC)
Other Councillors:	Councillor B Scruton (Epping Town Council)
Officers:	S Alcock – Highways Liaison Officer (Essex Highways) S Church – Highways Liaison Manager (Essex Highways) M Thompson – Service Manager – Technical (EFDC)
Secretariat:	J Leither – Democratic Services Officer (EFDC)

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Members, Officers and Guests present.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that he needed to appoint a Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year and proposed Councillor S Kane, this was seconded by Councillor A Lion.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Councillor S Kane be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Epping Forest Local Highways Panel for the remainder of the municipal year.</p>	

2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Councillor N Avey, Councillor J McIvor and M Adamson.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021, were agreed by the Panel as a true record.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021.</p>	SA
5.	<p>VAS Presentation</p> <p>The HLM, Sonia Church gave a presentation on the policy for the provision of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and Speed Indicator Devices (SID), which had recently been refreshed.</p> <p>Under the revised policy, town and parish councils could buy and install their own signs if they applied for a licence to do so and certain criteria was met. In areas that were non-Parished, the district council could apply for the licence and provide them. Requests for signs could continue to be submitted through the Local Highways Panel where instances of significant breaches of speed limits were confirmed by surveys (10mph or more above the posted speed limit), but the new policy provided the flexibility for local areas to install signs where a need for them had been identified. The policy also allowed for a licence to cover multiple poles to be installed to which the sign could be moved around the parish or town.</p> <p>The new policy allowed for town, parishes or district councils to repair or replace signs that were in disrepair and due for removal if they wished. The HLM went on to explain the application process and said that, in Essex, there were currently 412 signs on the network in 160 parishes, with 40 signs in the Epping Forest district. Mobile signs were becoming increasingly popular and offered the flexibility to be located quickly to areas where speeding had been identified as a problem.</p> <p>The HLM advised from mid-October 2021 the website giving information and details on the criteria and how to apply would be live.</p> <p>In response to questions from the Panel, the HLM said that:</p> <p>(a) Whilst the policy was designed to give parishes greater say and</p>	SC

	<p>flexibility in the provision of VAS or SID signs, it would also help reduce the financial burden on LHP's revenue budget.</p> <p>(b) The mobile signs were easy to move and a list of approved contractors, was available for the supply and installation of fixed and mobile signs.</p> <p>(c) Essex Highways had regard to national guidance when considering whether the criteria for the provision of speed warning signs were met. Whilst the County Council was responsible for the safety of roads, individual cases of breach of speed limits were a criminal matter for the police.</p> <p>(d) Under the new policy town, parish and district councils would be responsible for all matters relating to the installation of their own signs, including utility searches.</p> <p>(e) When applying for a licence for a mobile sign that could be moved to several locations, one application listing all the intended locations would be sufficient. If additional locations were proposed at a later date, a further application and licence would be required.</p> <p>(f) The cost of a sign would depend on what sign you wanted, some signs have the ability to download certain data for example, every day at 10pm a car passed the sign speeding at 80mph on a 30mph speed restriction, this information could then be passed on to the authorities. The cost of this service was approximately £350 per year. Signs cost in the range of £3.5k - £5k.</p> <p>(g) The application process so far had been received by the Parish/Town Clerk, but the legal agreement sits within the Parish/Town Council.</p> <p>(h) The new signs would also sit on the asset register of Essex Highways but will state belonging to Parish/Town Council. Essex Highways will electronically test and check the signs annually and as they were responsible for the Highways they would need to know where the poles and signs were situated. The District or Parish/Town Councils would not have to pay for the signs being annually checked by Essex Highways. It was possible for the annual check in rural areas to get missed, especially if the signs were moved around, as rural roads were not inspected as frequently as the A and B roads.</p> <p>(i) The Parish could apply for the pole licence and the District could buy the signs then they could be moved around the district. The District would own the asset.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes 2021/22</p> <p>The HLO advised that the budget for 2021/22 had been allocated. She stated that all of the agreed schemes may not be delivered this year due to resources, but at this point it was not known which schemes would be affected. Members would be updated when known.</p> <p>Pages 7 to 9 of the report show the funded schemes list agreed for 2021/22.</p>	<p>SA</p>

	<p>The schemes highlighted in green have been completed.</p> <p>Councillor D Wixley asked what the actual cost was for Item 6 on page 7 of the agenda as he was concerned with the high cost of the validation. The HLO advised that the final cost was not yet known as the scheme had only been completed in August 2021. The validation cost allowed for night work but the scheme was able to be worked on during the day, she would report the final scheme cost at the next meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Panel noted the Funded Schemes report.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The HLO advised that the following Schemes Awaiting Funding list identified all scheme requests which had been received and validated as being feasible with estimated costs provided, for the consideration of the Epping Forest Local Highways Panel. She also advised that where bus shelter requests had been made that these were on hold until Essex County Council announced who had been awarded the County wide contract.</p> <p>Councillor A Lion asked when funds were available could LEPP202023 – Lambourne Road, Chigwell. Request for measures to prevent vehicles parking on the pavement restricting access for pedestrians, installation of 2 horse warning signs be considered as priority.</p> <p>It was suggested by Councillor Kane that the parking restrictions should be delivered by NEPP and that it may a location to install a red route instead of NWAAT (double yellow lines) as this would be easier to enforce and prevent the parking. This should be investigated with NEPP as they are responsible for parking enforcement and installation of parking restrictions.</p> <p>Councillor Wixley asked how LEPP202036 – Goldingham Avenue, jw Mannock Drive, Loughton to install a salt bin came to be on the schemes waiting funding list. The HLO advised that Councillor C Pond had requested this scheme. When the validation was completed, she would send to Councillor Pond and copy in Councillor Wixley.</p> <p>Members were asked to review the schemes in red and remove them for the list as they didn't meet the criteria.</p> <p>LEPP202004 – High Street Ongar – 20mph zone. The Town Council and the County Member no longer support this scheme therefore members agreed it could be removed.</p> <p>LEPP202049 – Epping High Street – 20mph speed limit. The Panel decided at the June 2021 meeting not to fund this scheme so the temporary 20mph will be removed when the current Temporary Traffic Regulation Order comes to end and would revert back to the original 30mph speed limit.</p> <p>LEPP192027 – Church Road, Moreton – Traffic management improvement measures. The speed survey did not evidence a speeding issue within the</p>	<p>SA</p>

	<p>posted 30mph limit. The average daily speeds were Eastbound 26.0mph and Westbound 25.9mph. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.</p> <p>LEPP192052 – Middle Street, Nazeing Road, North Street and St Leonards, North Weald and Nazeing. Request for VAS. This scheme did not meet the criteria on any of the four roads to install a VAS. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.</p> <p>LEPP202005 – High Street, Ongar, Weight Restriction Order requested. Environmental Weight Limits were not permitted on PR1 routes. Priority 1 County Routes may be interurban or connecting routes, radial feeder or town centre access routes. What was important was the need to maintain free flowing traffic movement on them due to the function they perform within the network. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.</p> <p>LEPP202007 – The Gables, Shelley, Ongar. Request for the two existing signs at the entrance to The Gables were amended to show that this was not the school entrance. These existing signs were not Highway signs so could not be amended. There were also no permissible signs in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions guidance that could be used. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.</p> <p>LEPP202010 – Nine Ashes Road, High Ongar. Request for traffic calming and VAS. Does not meet the criteria to install a VAS. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.</p> <p>LEPP202021 – Rookery Road, High Ongar. Request for speed limit reduction to 40mph. Does not meet the Essex Speed Management Strategy to implement a 40mph limit along this stretch of Rookery Road. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.</p> <p>LEPP202022 – Joyce Court, Waltham Abbey. Request for bollards or parking restrictions to prevent vehicles blocking access. The validation completed, bollards will not prevent parking across this access and would restrict the residents use of it too. Resident advised to contact NEPP to apply for H-Bar markings or parking restrictions. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.</p> <p>LEPP202039 – Lower Forest Roads (B1393 and B181), Epping. Request for 40mph speed limit through the Lower Forest Roads. Awaiting speed and volume survey data to be included in CMA for Cabinet Member approval to progress as this request was against the Essex Speed Management Strategy. The Panel agreed this scheme should remain on the list.</p> <p>LEPP202040 – Coopersale Street, Epping. Request for traffic calming to reduce speeds. Speed survey did not evidence a speeding issue with average speeds within a posted 40mph speed limit of Southeast bound 36.1mph and Northwest bound 35.1mph. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.</p> <p>LEPP133015 – Hemnall Street, Epping. Installation of a footway and dropped crossing as there was currently no footway. This scheme cannot progress until the land issues have been resolved with the City of London who own the land required to install a footway.</p>	
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Councillor H Whitbread asked if this scheme could remain on the list of schemes due the high number of complaints regarding children having to cross the road to get to the school and suggested that the City of London were contacted again. The Panel agreed that this scheme should remain on the list.

LEPP193017 – Oakwood Hill, Loughton. Request for a zebra crossing on the A1168 between Newmans Lane and Westall Road. This scheme did not meet the criteria as the PV2 survey was 0.122 which was below the 0.2 threshold and therefore a crossing point was not justified. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.

LEPP203003 – B184, Ongar Road, Fyfield. Request for a pedestrian crossing. Although the speed survey showed there was speeding along this stretch of road there was no suitable location to site a Zebra crossing due to lack of footway and visibility issues. The Panel therefore agreed to remove this scheme.

LEPP203004 – B181 High Road Epping. Request for a pedestrian crossing near to the junction of the High Road/Hemnall Street close to the turning for Lower Bury Lane. This scheme was unable to be progressed as Hemnall Street side of the Epping High Road was not highway land and belonged to the City of London. The Panel agreed to remove this scheme.

LEPP208001 - Curtis Mill Road, Stapleford Abbots. Request for road to be resurfaced. This was a private road so unable to be progressed.

RESOLVED:

That the schemes as listed below have been agreed to be removed from the Schemes Awaiting Funding list as they were no longer supported or fitted the criteria:

- LEPP202004 – High Street Ongar – 20mph zone;
- LEPP202049 – Epping Town – 20mph speed limit;
- LEPP192027 – Church Road, Moreton – Traffic management improvement measures;
- LEPP192052 – Middle Street, Nazeing Road, North Street and St Leonards, North Weald and Nazeing. Request for VAS;
- LEPP202005 - High Street, Ongar, Weight Restriction Order requested;
- LEPP202007 - The Gables, Shelley, Ongar. Request for the two existing signs at the entrance to The Gables were amended to show that this was not the school entrance;
- LEPP202010 - Nine Ashes Road, High Ongar. Request for traffic calming and VAS;
- LEPP202021 - Rookery Road, High Ongar. Request for speed limit reduction to 40mph;
- LEPP202022 – Joyce Court, Waltham Abbey. Request for bollards or parking restrictions to prevent vehicles blocking access;
- LEPP202040 – Coopersale Street, Epping. Request for traffic calming to reduce speeds;
- LEPP193017 – Oakwood Hill, Loughton. Request for a zebra crossing on the A1168 between Newmans Lane and Westall Road;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEPP203003 – B184, Ongar Road, Fyfield. Request for a pedestrian crossing; • LEPP203004 – B181 High Road Epping. Request for a pedestrian crossing near to the junction of the High Road/Hemnall Street close to the turning for Lower Bury Lane; and • LEPP208001 - Curtis Mill Road, Stapleford Abbots. Request for road to be resurfaced. 	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business for consideration.</p>	
9.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Epping Forest District Local Highways Panel would be on 17 January 2022 at 5pm on Zoom.</p>	