

ROCHFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES

28 MARCH 2022 AT 10.00AM

REMOTE MEETING

Chairman:	Cllr Mrs June Lumley (ECC)
Vice-Chairman:	Cllr Mike Steptoe (ECC)
Panel Members:	Cllr Michael Hoy (RDC), Cllr Angelina Marriott (EALC Representative) Cllr James Newport (ECC) Cllr Mrs Cheryl Roe (RDC), Cllr Mrs Laureen Shaw (ECC), Cllr Phil Shaw (RDC), Cllr Ian Ward (RDC), Cllr Mrs Carole Weston (RDC)
Officers:	Jon Simmons – Senior Highways Liaison Officer Justin Styles – ECH Design Manager James Drabwell – Highways Liaison Officer
Secretariat:	Weronika Szyszka – RDC Democratic Services Officer

Item		Owner
1.	The Chairman welcomed the meeting of the LHP. The Chairman welcomed Cllr James Newport who was a newly elected Member at ECC.	
2.	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Ian Henderson.</p> <p>Cllrs Mrs June Lumley, Michael Hoy, James Newport, Mike Steptoe, Mrs Cheryl Roe, Mrs Laureen Shaw, Phil Shaw, Ian Ward and Mrs Carole Weston declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of membership of Rochford District Council.</p> <p>Cllrs Mrs June Lumley, Mrs Cheryl Roe and Cllr Ian Ward declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of membership of Rayleigh Town Council.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Steptoe declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of membership of Barling Magna Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Phil Shaw declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of membership of Stambridge Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Angelina Marriott declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of membership of Hullbridge Parish Council.</p>	
3.	The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022 were not agreed as a correct record due to inaccuracies. Therefore, item 4 was not taken as the next item of business.	

4.	The Minutes were not accepted; therefore this item of the agenda was not considered by the Panel.	
5.	<p>Rochford Local Highway Panel Report 1 – Funded Schemes List</p> <p>James Drabwell presented this report.</p> <p>(1) Rochford Town Centre, Market Square Improvements This scheme will be recommissioned in 2022/23.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed disappointment that this item was on the scheme list since 2017.</p> <p>(2) Star Lane, Great Wakering – Traffic Calming This was completed.</p> <p>(3) Rochford Garden Way, Rochford – Grasscrete This was completed.</p> <p>(4) Twyford Avenue, Great Wakering – Grasscrete Implementation started on 14 March 2022 with works ongoing.</p> <p>(5) Nelsons Gardens, Rayleigh – Footway This was completed; however, despite new tarmac being placed on the footway, it had shown signs of breaking up under the pressure of the nearby tree roots. Option suggested was to appoint an independent specialist to suggest alternative solutions. The footway was showing signs of deterioration which would come up as an issue, thus the need of a specialist.</p> <p>This would be reviewed by the design team.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Cheryl Roe highlighted that this was a highly utilised footpath as it led to one of the parks.</p> <p>The Panel unanimously agreed for a specialist to be employed to deal with the issue of the tarmac breaking up. James Drabwell advised that the costs would be nominal; however, an update would be given to Members regarding costs and further necessary information once clarified.</p> <p>James Drabwell further advised that the scheme had been completed as per the design; however, more appropriate measures that would prevent further tarmac deterioration would be considered with specialist advice. James Drabwell would liaise with the design team to obtain further detail on this matter.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Cheryl Roe confirmed that this scheme had been completed; however, it deteriorated rapidly and to avoid further costs and deterioration, action should be taken imminently.</p>	

James Drabwell advised that this would be shifted into 2022/23.

(6) Ashingdon Road, Rochford – Bollards

Cllr Mike Steptoe advised that the bollards had been done; however, there was a continuation of people parking on the grass-verge particularly during school hours. Cllr Mike Steptoe requested for the Design Team to consider this issue and propose what further action could be taken.

Cllr Mike Steptoe suggested that a site visit should take place to consider further action to resolve the issue.

(7) Main Road, Hockley – Bollards

This was completed.

(8) New Road / Shoebury Road, Great Wakering – Signing

This was completed.

(9) High Street / Eastwood Road / Crown Hill, Rayleigh, Mini RAB improvements

This was recommissioned to 2022/23.

James Drabwell advised that he would liaise with the design team to obtain firm timescales. This was supported by Jon Simmons who advised that this should be a priority for the design team as this matter was unresolved since 2018.

(10) A127/A129 Rayleigh Weir Roundabout – Lane Signage and Markings

This was recommissioned to 2022/23.

(12) Ashingdon Road, Rochford – Zebra Crossing Upgrade

This was completed.

Cllr Mike Steptoe advised that during original discussions regarding this zebra crossing, a number of overgrowing trees was identified. It would be beneficial to cut back some of the overgrown trees and hedges that overgrow the footpath to allow for more light into that crossing.

(13) Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh – 20 When Lights Flash

This scheme would conflict with the zebra crossing scheme on this road. CMA had instructed officers to proceed with the crossing. As a result, this scheme was cancelled.

(14) Wakering Road, Great Wakering – 40mph Speed Limit

This was completed.

	<p>Cllr Mike Steptoe advised that following an inspection of the site, this was completed; however, the speed limit roundel should be on either side of the road, and one sign was missing. Cllr Mike Steptoe further advised that the post had been erected, but the sign was missing.</p> <p>(15) PROW 71, Rayleigh – Street Lighting This would be reinstated.</p> <p>A meeting was set up between James Drabwell, the Portfolio Holder and another officer to meet onsite. Cllr James Newport requested to be invited to this meeting as County Council Member.</p> <p>James Drabwell advised that an email would be circulated to finalise the date for the site visit.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs June Lumley advised that the Parish was committed to contributing to the final costs towards this project.</p> <p>(16) Anchor Lane, Canewdon – Village Gateway Repositioning Construction started on 10 March 2022.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Laureen Shaw advised that she visited the site on 19 March 2022 and the construction was completed. Residents had also expressed their satisfaction with the works.</p> <p>(17) Little Wakering Road, Barling – Wig-Wag This was moved to Integrated Traffic System Department (ITS) and ECC were awaiting updates from ITS with dates when the programme would be rolled out.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed disappointment at the fact this had been on the agenda since 2019.</p> <p>James Drabwell advised Members that he would obtain a firmer timeframe on completion date for this scheme.</p> <p>(18) Coronation Close, Great Wakering – Grasscrete Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed that it was not accurate to declare this item as ‘complete’. It was initially agreed to have the grasscrete put down along the whole length of Coronation Close by the gate of the park. However, following a site-visit, half of the road had been missed and only the top section was completed. No explanation was offered to Members as to why this was the case.</p> <p>Cllr Michael Hoy queried whether the £26k budget was to cover the whole length of Coronation Close. James Drabwell clarified that the budget was intended for the whole of Coronation Close; however, it had to be changed from grasscrete due to a technical problem with what was underneath the grasscrete. As a result, concrete had to</p>	
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be used. The lower section of Coronation Close was not done and this was discovered once the works had concluded.

James Drabwell further advised Members that a site visit would be arranged.

(19) Cheapside West, Rayleigh – Grasscrete

This would slip into 2022/23.

The Panel was made aware that the agreed site visit did not take place; however, another side visit would be scheduled.

(20) Hall Road, Rochford – Lane Layout

This scheme was awaiting a verbal update.

Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed that it was confusing to determine which scheme this related to, due to there being two schemes scheduled for Hall Road. Cllr Mike Steptoe requested that this be identified as a matter of urgency to avoid future confusion.

(21) Upway, Rayleigh – Grasscrete

Officers advised that this site had been visited by the design team which considered replacing the footway and converting the verge areas only. An official note would be shared with Members from the Footways team following this meeting.

(22) Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh – Pedestrian Crossing

Cllr Mrs June Lumley queried what was meant by the stage process particularly when it was with the design team, in relation to its timeframes. James Drabwell clarified that this was dependent on the priority list for the design team which would be chased by James to obtain more definitive answers.

(23) Fountain Lane, Hockley – Unsuitable for HGVs sign

This would be completed in 2022/23.

(24) Church Road, Hockley – Narrow Road Signage

This would be completed in 2022/23.

(25) Brinkworth Close, Hockley – Staggered Barrier

This would be completed in 2022/23.

Cllr Mrs Carole Weston raised the point that Items 23, 24 and 25 had been on the agenda for quite some time and queried why this was the case. James Drabwell advised that a specific answer could not be given at the time; however, the delay would significantly be due to the impacts of Covid-19. An investigation would be carried out to provide Members with a definitive answer to action these items.

Justin Styles also advised that the design team would investigate these matters, particularly in light of the fact that their priority list was increasing.

Cllr Michael Hoy requested that updates be sent to himself and Cllr Mrs Carole Weston ahead of the next Panel meeting.

(26) Anchor Lane, Canewdon – 20's Plenty

This item was cancelled and to be removed for next agenda.

(27) Main Road, Hawkwell – Zebra Crossing Visibility

This would slip into 2022/23.

(28) Hall Road / West Street / Ashingdon Road, Rochford – Casualty Reduction Scheme

Cllr Mike Steptoe advised that he was still awaiting to liaise with Ian Henderson on this item. The CCTV survey had been completed which concluded that 98% of people that used the roundabout ignored it. Currently, the matter was awaiting suggestion of a scheme.

Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed that funding would need to be confirmed.

(29) A1245 / Chelmsford Road, Battlesbridge – Casualty Reduction Scheme

Cllr Mike Steptoe to liaise with Ian Henderson with regard to this item, similarly to Item 28.

(30) Poynters Lane / Great Wakering Road – Casualty Reduction Scheme

Cllr Mike Steptoe advised that the scheme had been completed; however, was unable to understand the budget of £20k and queried why the amount equated to this. James Drabwell confirmed that he would investigate the specific costs and provide Members with a clarification.

Cllr Mrs June Lumley queried funding with regard to the Casualty Reduction Schemes and the expectations of the Panel. Jon Simmons advised that there had been a minor change in the way Casualty Reduction Schemes were funded in the next financial year. In the past, Panels were required to contribute finances to specific Casualty Reduction Schemes. Going forward, the original budget of £4m to cover works universally would be deducted by £125k. This sum would be utilised to fund Casualty Reduction Schemes across the county with the remainder of the budget being split between Panels. Jon Simmons also clarified that Panels would never be requested to provide additional funding for schemes that may require a financial top-up.

	<p>(31) Post Construction Safety Audits This was completed.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report 2 Schemes Awaiting Funding List – Traffic Management</p> <p>James Drabwell presented this report.</p> <p>Cllr Michael Hoy declared a pecuniary interest in Items 1 and 2 of this Report.</p> <p>(1) Thorpe Road, Hockley – Vehicular Access Restriction Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed that this Item should not be on the LHP agenda as it was the resident’s intention to change the category of the road which was not an issue that could be dealt with by the Panel.</p> <p>Cllr Lauren Shaw agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda and further highlighted that an incorrect sign was installed which said “no HGVs”; however, instead it should state “no-through road”.</p> <p>James Drabwell approached the department that dealt with Sat-Navs and found that re-routing of the Sat Nav had already been carried out.</p> <p>RAG rating – Red</p> <p>(2) Thorpe Road, Hockley / Main Road, Hawkwell – HGV Restriction No restrictions to the end of the road available. Look towards placing HGV signage at the road entrance.</p> <p>In validation.</p> <p>(3) Paglesham Road, Paglesham – Ducks in Road Signs The validation had recommended to proceed with the design and implementation of signage to warn road users that they may encounter ducks in the road.</p> <p>RAG rating – Green</p> <p>(4) High Road / Brook Road – Signing The validation had recommended that it would be possible to replace the existing faded signage to highlight the presence of the no right turn.</p> <p>RAG rating – Green</p>	

	<p>(5) High Road / Brook Road, Rayleigh Weir – Junction Improvements The validation had recommended that a feasibility study was commissioned to consider potential junction improvements, including a topographical survey.</p> <p>RAG rating – Green</p> <p>Cllr Mrs June Lumley commented that Items 4 and 5 be looked at as matters of urgency.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed concern regarding Items 4 and 5, due to the fact they had been on the agenda since 2020 and were still due to undergo feasibility studies.</p> <p>(6) Daws Heath Road, Rayleigh – Horse Warning Signs This was in validation.</p> <p>James Drabwell advised Members of the Panel that once more information became available, Members would receive an update.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Steptoe commented that ‘validation’ was an encompassing phrase and would instead prefer a more concrete explanation that offered more explanation and detail. Cllr Steptoe further expressed that it was difficult to provide residents with concrete information if the information was not fed back to Members.</p> <p>Officers advised that ‘validation’ will be altered to encompass more information and provide Members with further detail to avoid ambiguity.</p> <p>(7) London Road, Rayleigh – VAS This item was changed from Red which would become Green again. The item would be fixed as per the programme. Currently, ECC was waiting for the programme which should be finalised by middle of April 2022. Members would be updated on the detail once available, prior to the next LHP Meeting.</p> <p>RAG rating – Red but will change to Green</p> <p>(8) Watery Lane & Beaches Road, Rawreth – Signage Improvements Cllr Michael Hoy commented that this was removed from the list in the past; however, was brought back on the agenda in the recent years. The design for this scheme had been done; therefore, we were not waiting for a second design this time around. Cllr Hoy further clarified that the scheme was initially cancelled was due to new development being built which would had been four years to complete at the time. Having liaised with the developers, Cllr Hoy</p>	
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advised that they would be willing to contribute financially towards signage improvements and was hoping that the LHP could discuss this matter further with the developers.

Cllr James Newport supported Cllr Michael Hoy regarding liaising with developers to fund this scheme.

RAG rating – Green

(9) Sutton Road, Rochford – VAS Removal

Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed that there were no issues in principle; however, questioned why this scheme cost a total of £6.5k. Jon Simmons advised that the costs predominantly were spent on traffic management requirements, i.e., mobile traffic lights.

RAG rating – Green

(10) Lesney Gardens, Ashingdon – Bollards

This was in validation.

Cllr Laureen Shaw queried what the validation process was for this particular item. James Drabwell advised that the validation process was filling out the validation form to be passed on to the design team to check feasibility. The process would fundamentally allow for the design team and engineers to consider and put forward feasible engineering solutions.

(11) Shoebury Road, Great Wakering

This was in validation.

(12) Crown Hill / Castle Terrace, Rayleigh – Visibility

Cllr Mrs June Lumley advised that whilst the hedges had been cut back to aid visibility, a selective amount of residents remained unhappy.

James Drabwell advised that it could be possible to commission to have the hedges cut back further. This would be revisited, but at the moment it was unclear how the residents would comply.

(13) Barrow Hall Road, Little Wakering – Traffic Management Improvements

This was in validation.

(14) Sutton Road, Rochford – RAB Improvements

Cllr Mike Steptoe clarified that this could slip into 2022/23; however, this was awaiting a CCTV survey. Currently awaiting for cameras to be installed to undertake the survey.

<p>(15) Great Wheatley Road, Rayleigh – Speeding Speed survey returned average speeds of 26.3mph that demonstrated good compliance with the posted 30mph limit.</p> <p>(16) Old London Road, Rawreth This was in validation.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs June Lumley highlighted that this fell under the Rayleigh North Division. Cllr Mrs Lumley further queried the timescales on this scheme. James Drabwell advised that certain elements were down to maintenance which were the centre of a number of issues. However, he assured that this would be addressed in due course.</p> <p>Cllr James Newport commented that he had not received correspondence with regard to this item, as Cllr Mrs June Lumley had already been dealing with the matter; however, he was willing to attend a site visit with Cllr Mrs Lumley. Cllr Mrs Lumley advised that details will be forwarded to Cllr James Newport.</p> <p>(17) Malting Villas Road / Weir Pond Road This was in validation.</p> <p>James Drabwell advised that he would look into this item after Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed his concerns regarding this scheme and the lengthy timescale to commence works.</p> <p>(18) High Street, Great Wakering This was in validation.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Steptoe commented that there seemed to be confusion regarding responsibility of the wig-wag lights in Barling. Cllr Steptoe expressed that he hoped to avoid years' waiting to get this work completed.</p> <p>Jon Simmons advised that this will be looked at and possibly forwarded for colleagues at ITS to consider.</p> <p>(19) Southend Road, Great Wakering This was in validation.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed his concerns regarding the 60mph speed limit in light of the fact that there had been a fatal accident on this particular road. He further expressed that this should fall under a Casualty Reduction Scheme.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs June Lumley agreed with Cllr Mike Steptoe with regard to making this item a Casualty Reduction Scheme.</p> <p>Jon Simmons advised that the team would investigate all fatal accidents on the highway network and push for remedial solutions.</p>	
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	<p>(20) Ashingdon Road This was in validation.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Steptoe requested for more information to be shared on this scheme.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Schemes Awaiting Funding List – Walking</p> <p>(1) Pedestrian Crossing – London Road, Rayleigh The Developer work on the pedestrian refuge had been completed. The LHP could now consider upgrading to a pedestrian crossing. HLO to arrange a PV2 survey.</p> <p>A site visit to be arranged to identify the location.</p> <p>Justin Styles confirmed that a design engineer would attend with HLO, Cllr Mrs June Lumley and Cllr James Newport.</p> <p>(2) Brays Lane, Rochford – Zebra Crossing Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed that this scheme covers two boundaries, Rochford North and Rochford South; however, there was an allocation of S106 monies towards this scheme which derived from the Ashingdon Road Development.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Lauren Shaw expressed support for this scheme and confirmed that Ashingdon Road Developers allocated £50k for this scheme.</p> <p>(3) Southend Road, Rochford – Crossing Point Cllr Mike Steptoe expressed concern about this being a signalised crossing and requested more information as to why officers recommended this option.</p> <p>Jon Simmons responded that pedestrian crossing improvement schemes were done through surveys that collect data of pedestrian crossing and level of vehicular movement. Regarding this scheme, surveys had been carried out, concluding that this particular crossing should be signalised.</p> <p>(4) Hall Road, Hawkwell – Zebra Crossing Cllr Mike Steptoe highlighted that this scheme was in-between two borders: Rochford North and Rochford South. Cllr Steptoe requested further detail on this scheme to be provided.</p> <p>(5) High Road, Rayleigh – Signalised Crossing This was in validation – currently underwent considerations to upgrade this to a signalised crossing.</p>	
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Cllr James Newport queried the threshold for the PV Score. Officers clarified that a value of 3-6 was fairly high and would recommend a signalised crossing instead.

Cllr Mrs June Lumley clarified that there had been a vacancy for a crossing person at this site for approximately 2 years. It was recognised that this was an extremely busy crossing from Castle Road Car Park area and residents from Britton Court sheltered housing scheme to the library and primary school in Love Lane and accessing the high street shopping area.

(6) Castle Road, Rayleigh – Zebra Crossing Upgrade

This was in validation.

Cllr Mrs June Lumley questioned why this was in validation for a significant period of time. James Drabwell advised that he would investigate this scheme and feedback to Members.

Cllr Ian Ward added that he recalled residents from Gordon Roughley Court using the alleyway to the town using this zebra crossing. This did not just affect schools but also residents that could potentially be hazardous for traffic.

Cllr Mrs June Lumley referred to recent incidents/accidents on or near the crossing with high-sided/large vehicles held up in the congested road, making it difficult to see pedestrians on the crossing and for pedestrians on the crossing to see oncoming vehicles.

(7) Anchor Lane, Canewdon – Pedestrian Crossing

The RAG rating for this scheme was Red; therefore, this scheme was to be removed as the score was very low and did not meet the necessary criteria.

(8) Canewdon Road / Lark Hill Road, Canewdon

This was in validation.

(9) Castle Terrace

This was in validation.

A request was made by the Panel for a salt bin.

Schemes Awaiting Funding – Passenger Transport

(1) Anchor Lane, Canewdon – Bus Shelter

This item was still on the national audit for bus shelters. Officers were unable to provide an update on this item.

Cllr Mrs Laureen Shaw advised that Helen Morris indicated that the PSEG meeting should be finalized in autumn this year. Canewdon

	<p>Parish Council were willing to put a bus shelter in; however, as long as the audit was not concluded, no further action could be taken.</p> <p>(2) Poynters Lane, Great Wakering – PT Improvements This was in validation.</p> <p>(3) Down Hall Road This was in validation and awaited Passenger Transport response.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs June Lumley brought to attention the fact that the bus top had been moved from its original location; however, it had been outside of no. 136 for a number of years James Drabwell confirmed that it had been outside of no. 136 for approximately 10 years. The resident had been affected by damage to his wall from people waiting for buses sitting on the wall.</p> <p>It was also brought to Members' attention that the bus stop attracted anti-social behaviour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Schemes Awaiting Funding - Public Rights of Way</p> <p>(1) PROW 71, Rayleigh – Footway Improvements Rochford District Council had been informed that this location was not part of the public highway. This currently awaited update following site visit.</p> <p>James Drabwell advised Members that at the moment, stakeholders were a necessity to consider this, otherwise it would be amalgamated to the next scheme.</p> <p>Cllr James Newport requested that he be involved in the site-visit.</p>	
7.	The date of the next LHP Panel Meeting is TBC.	