

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: Local Highways Panel **Date:** Thursday, 24 March 2011

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 7.00 - 9.10 pm

Members Present: Councillors Ms S Stavrou (Chairman), R Bassett (Vice-Chairman), R Barrett, W Breare-Hall, C Finn, D Jacobs, L Leonard, Mrs M Sartin, P Spencer, Mrs P Smith, Ms S Watson and D Wixley

Parish Reps: Councillors C Buttlng, K Angold-Stephens, A Buckley and A Purkiss

Other Councillors: Councillors K Chana, Mrs R Gadsby and Mrs L Wagland

Apologies: Ms C Edwards, Mrs S Jones, B Judd, A Lion, Mrs J Sutcliffe and Mrs E Webster

Officers Present: C Stoneham (Senior Customer Liaison Officer (ECC)), Mrs R Tanfield (Highways Liaison Officer (ECC)), K Durrani (Assistant Director (Technical)), S G Hill (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and P Sewell (Democratic Services Assistant)

Also in attendance: -

86. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that Councillor Mrs Sartin had substituted for Councillor Ms Edwards, Councillor Mrs Smith for Councillor Mrs Jones, and Councillor Spencer for Councillor Mrs Sutcliffe.

87. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2011 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

88. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Epping Parking Review

The Assistant Director (Technical) Environment and Street Scene, Kim Durrani, informed Members that 120 responses from the consultation concerning the draft orders of the Epping phase of the Parking Review had been received, and County Officers had collated these with comments from previous schemes. These would be reviewed by County Councillor Hume before the order process could begin. Members noted that the review was on time and within budget.

(b) Proposed Pedestrian Crossing, High Road; Ongar

County Officer Chris Stoneham advised the Panel that the proposal to install a zebra crossing at this site was still being delayed by issues regarding ownership of the land

required to widen the footpath. County Officers were liaising with the Town Council to discuss options, including an alternative site suggested by Councillor Jacobs.

(c) Proposed Pedestrian Crossing, Manor Road, Chigwell

Members were concerned as this site was a popular informal crossing site for schoolchildren. The recent safety audit had deemed traffic speeds too high for a zebra crossing, and physical traffic calming measures could not be placed on such a main road. The Chairman informed the Panel that a meeting had taken place between herself, Councillor Wagland and Councillor Knapman in order to discuss this proposal in detail. Options were currently being investigated by County Officers, but it was noted that this site could not be dealt with by the Local Highways Panel and was being recommended to County for further progress.

Councillor Wagland expressed her continuing concern regarding this site.

RESOLVED:

That an update report be given at the next Local Highways Panel meeting.

(d) Parking Restrictions, Meadow Rd, Loughton

At the meeting of the Local Highways Panel on 3 February 2011 it was noted that the implementation of parking restrictions was dependent on residents being willing to provide the funding. Members noted that discussions between County Councillor V Metcalfe and local residents concerning the parking problems were ongoing.

89. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL REPORT

(a) Programme of Works 2010/11

Highways Liaison Officer Rosa Tanfield presented a report outlining progress on the current programme of works. Members noted that virtually all of the maintenance schemes had been completed, or were due to be completed by the end of the financial year.

Councillor Wixley queried the status of two bus shelter bases outlined in Jessel Drive and Borders Lane, Loughton. County Officers agreed to email details of this scheme to the Councillor.

Local Councillor Buckley requested the full route study for the A113 be forwarded to him.

Local Councillor Purkiss enquired about a maintenance scheme for B172 Abridge Road, Theydon Bois. County Officers agreed to email him a report concerning this scheme.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That County Officers would email details regarding bus shelter bases in Jessel Drive and Borders Lane, Loughton to Councillor Wixley;
- (2) That County Officers send Councillor Buckley details the A113 route study; and

- (3) That County Officers email Members a report concerning a scheme for Abridge Road that had been previously agreed.

(b) Traffic Improvements

Mrs Tanfield informed Members that the list of traffic improvement schemes to be delivered within the District by Capital funding in the new financial year would be distributed to Members once she had received confirmation of the details.

(c) Localism budget 2011/12

Members noted that early indications suggested that the level of funding available to the Local Highways Panel for next 2011/12 would be similar to that received in 2010/11 (approximately £130,000).

This budget was for traffic schemes, signing and lining, and the Highways Rangers Service. Members praised the Rangers Service but, as a twelve month service would require the entire budget, an 8 month service was preferred. This would leave a sum of approximately £43,000 available to the Panel for additional schemes. It was agreed that the 8 months should be spread across the year, rather than leaving 4 months with no service at all.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Highways Rangers Service be provided for 8 months throughout the year; and
- (2) That the service would run on a flexible basis, working approximately 3 weeks out of 4.

(d) Traffic Schemes for 2011/12

At the Local Highways Panel meeting on 3 February 2011, it was agreed that Members would submit three traffic scheme sites of high priority to the Highway Liaison Officer by the 28 February 2011 to be considered for funding (minute 82(b) refers). A list had been compiled from these suggestions consisting of 26 potential sites for traffic improvement schemes to be considered for funding.

It was noted that submissions had been received after the deadline set, and the Panel decided that these should not be considered.

Members felt an upper limit on cost should be set on proposals being considered. Any scheme costing over this threshold would be discussed at Panel meetings, with the potential to recommend them to County for Capital Funding. The list of viable schemes would replace the 2010/11 Reserve List.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That any submissions received after the deadline of 28 February 2011 not be considered; and
- (2) That an upper limit of £15,000 be set for schemes being considered; and
- (3) That schemes in excess of £15,000 be discussed by the Panel, with the option of recommendation to County;

- (4) That the following recommendations for 2011/12 traffic schemes to be made:

Schemes agreed for 2011/12	Highway ref	Parish/Ward	Location	Description	Indicative Cost
	86	Abridge	Abridge Road	Priority working over bridge.	£4,500
	23	Lambourne	Ongar Road	Speed survey to be carried out (possibility of Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)).	£9,000
	74-78	Loughton	Various locations	Dropped kerbs.	£5,000
	4	Loughton	Oakwood Hill junction with Chigwell Lane	Additional lining bollards and additional parking.	£12,000*
	66	Loughton	Alderton Hill	Survey of area to be carried out (possibility of pedestrian refuge).	Cost of survey.
	17	Nazeing	St Leonard's Road	Speed survey to be carried out (possibility of village gateway and repositioning of VAS).	Cost of speed survey
	New	Ongar	Fyfield Road	Speed survey to be carried out (possibility of a Vehicle Activated Sign).	£350 cost of survey
	118	Roydon	Church Mead junction with High St	Junction protection.	£5000**
	New	Waltham Abbey	Fountain Place	Car parking/obstruction issues.	£5,000

*Provisional upon not being in Debden Parking Scheme.

**Provisional upon not being in ECC existing Traffic Regulation Order list.

Schemes recommended to County	Highway ref	Parish/Ward	Location	Description	Indicative Cost
	117	Buckhurst Hill	Farm way/ Forest Edge/ Station Way	Traffic calming on Station Way/Farm Way, junction warning signs or VASs.	£30-40,000
	99	Buckhurst Hill	Brook Road	Pedestrian facilities at signal junction.	£15,000 + £120,000
	8	Buckhurst Hill	Brook Road	Creation of footpath.	£25-50,000
	32	Chigwell	Manor Road junction with Vicarage Lane	Junction improvement.	£40,000
	60	Loughton	Church Hill (near the Uplands)	Signal controlled crossing.	£5,000 + £150,000/ £40,000
	3	Loughton	Chester Road	Chicanes and pedestrian crossings.	£60,000 + £40,000

	5	Loughton	Loughton High Road junction with The Drive	Removal of traffic lights and redirection of traffic.	£60,000
	104	North Weald	Wellington Road and Hampden Close	Traffic calming and parking restrictions.	£40,000

Schemes not being considered	Highway ref	Parish/Ward	Location	Description	Indicative Cost
	33	Abridge	Market Place	Junction improvements.	£20,000
	62	Buckhurst Hill	Roding Lane	Pedestrian facilities at signal junction.	£15,000 + £120,000
	55	Chigwell	B173 Road E of Tomswood Road	Signal controlled crossing.	
	53	Chigwell	B173 Manor Road junction with Stanwyck Road	Junction improvement/pedestrian refuge.	
	New	High Ongar	A414 junction with Rookery Road	A dedicated right turn lane at the junction.	
	New	High Ongar		Parish gateway signs.	£15,000
	New	Lambourne	Manor Road	Slow signs.	
	106	North Weald	Woodside junction High Road	An island at the junction of Woodside and NM High Road.	
	108	North Weald	Woodside - Thornwood	Weight restriction.	

90. FUTURE OF THE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

Councillor Bassett informed the Panel about a recent meeting between himself, Councillor Mrs Stavrou and Local Councillor Purkiss to discuss the future format of the Local Highways Panel. It was agreed that there was too much uncertainty regarding the status of County Highways which would need to be addressed before an effective plan could be created for the future of the Panel. It was noted that an agenda of issues and queries had been drawn up in order to address this lack of information, and it was agreed that Councillor Stavrou would formally invite County Councillor Hume to discuss these at a meeting.

The Panel felt that any future Local Highways Panel should include Local Council Members and needed better communication, particularly with County Councillors.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Councillor Stavrou arrange a meeting with County Councillor Hume in order to discuss these issues; and
- (2) That the agenda of issues and queries be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

91. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Crooked Mile

Councillor Bassett advised the Panel about the Crooked Mile, a notorious stretch of road in Waltham Abbey where numerous accidents and fatalities had taken place.

Two fatalities had recently occurred, and as a police investigation was ongoing, County Officers were unable to comment. It was noted that the Essex County Council Road Safety Team were currently working with the police about the accidents along this road, and information would be reported to the Panel as soon as the investigation had been closed.

92. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 16 June 2011 at 7.00 p.m. in Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Epping.

CHAIRMAN

Suggested Agenda for LHP Meeting with Norman Hume

At the last EFDC Local Highways Panel there was lots of discussion over the future of the LHP. With all the changes at Essex and the pressures on budgets there was concern as to if the LHP had a meaningful future in its existing format. It was agreed that a subgroup would meet to discuss options and as part of that it became very clear that we need to understand the structure of ECC Highways and the strategic direction and constraints that now exist because of the financial situation that now exists.

As such the Subgroup, which consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chair of the LHP and another committee member, ask to formally meet with the Portfolio Holder Councillor Hume and perhaps officer Paul Bird plus any other person you feel would be suitable to discuss and document the following.

1. The new ECC Highways Structure and goals
2. ECC Personnel and responsibilities
3. Budgets and Funding of Highways
4. Concept and role of a LHP in the new structure
 - a. Subgroups to match ECC Structure
 - b. Priority setting avoiding contention on projects
 - c. Influence on budget spend
 - d. Safety issues (issues brought to LHP from public)
 - e. Value for Money/Scrutiny
5. Communication
 - a. Failure of Call centre methodology (No reply to messages)
 - b. Escalations
6. Highways Rangers
7. Maintenance
 - a. Priorities
 - b. Joint Funding
 - c. Pothole Funding
8. New On-Street Parking Partnership relationship with Highways and Enforcement
9. Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 agreements
10. Community Infrastructure Funding Projects (CIF) funding in FY11

Once we have this information we can review with the LHP members how we should change the structure and role of the panel to meet the new challenges

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