

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 16 December 2008

Subject: Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Richard Bassett

Item: 6(c)

Recommendation:

That the report of the Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder be noted.

I am pleased to report that the Council has now responded to Traffic Regulation Order (Amendment No. 14) with our comments. One area we had most difficulties with the area of Upper Park in Loughton and following a meeting with Highways it has been agreed to work on a revised plan for this area.

We have also discussed with Highways the current state of the parking reviews and they believe that they should have completed their amendments following the reviews with members in the next few weeks. Copies will be made available to members as well as notification to residents. Individual road changes will be notified on a road by road letter drop to which residents will have 28 days to respond. After which final decisions will be confirmed and the necessary orders raised. Highways will be providing us with a timeline shortly which I will publish in the Bulletin.

I also attended a meeting with Essex and Hertfordshire Highways and Councillor Norman Hume on 26 November to discuss the Nazeing and Roydon area and especially the Dobbs Weir Rd and surrounding area. Trading Standards have informed us that since March 2008 they have spent 28 hours monitoring Dobbs Weir Rd and in that time have reported 149 lorries who contravened the 7.5 tonnes weight limit. They will be continuing their monitoring work and possibly extending it to Nazeing New Road and possibly to start checking in the evenings. Highways have informed us that they are planning to reduce speed limits on Dobbs Weir Road from 40 to 30 mph and in the derestricted part of the road will become 40mph and this will include Sedge Green.

We were informed that Essex Traffic Management and Freight Management Strategies were still not available but were being actively progressed. We stressed that any strategy should take into account the neighboring areas and similarly any strategy they have should be agreed with ourselves. I have asked for a provisional date for delivery of the strategies but none is available at this time.

The safety investigation work is progressing on the B194, Crooked Mile. Several safety improvements have been suggested and any works suggested will receive an urgent priority. There also are some scheduled maintenance and safety work already in plan and it is envisaged this work will be completed by April 2009.

With regards to ECC plans on localism I can report that we now have a meeting on 18 December with Councillor Norman Hume where we will start the process for EFDC. As previously stated I am doing some work on how this should be structured but I am always open to member suggestions.