

**DISTRICT OF EPPING FOREST
LOCAL HIGHWAY PANEL – 23 MARCH 2010
REPORT BY
AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER – ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

PROGRAMME OF WORKS 2009/2010

1. Purpose of report

- To provide Members with a report on Highway issues within Epping Forest District.
 - To provide sufficient information on schemes so that decisions on local priorities can be made.
 - Members are invited to offer suggestions and requests for future works.
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2. Background

Essex County Council is currently nearing the end of the financial year. The majority of the capital highway maintenance schemes have been completed and progress is being made on finishing the traffic management improvement schemes.

A number of maintenance and traffic management improvement schemes have been approved by the Panel for the 2010/11 programme of works and progress is currently being made by Officers in ensuring viability and accurate cost estimates.

At the time of writing, budgets for the 2010/11 financial year have not been confirmed however it is hoped that this information will be available at the meeting.

1. Maintenance

The current programme of Highway Maintenance Initiative schemes is shown in **Appendix A**.

The schemes to Earls Path, Loughton and Hastingwood Road, North Weald shall be postponed so that minor overspends on higher priority schemes can be supported and so will be considered for inclusion in the 2010/11 programme of works. These schemes are currently ranked a Priority 2 and a Priority 1 respectively.

2. Improvements

2.1. Traffic Management Improvements

Current traffic management improvement schemes are shown in **Appendix B**

Roydon and Nazeing – The Executive Decision from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation has been received and the Traffic Regulation Orders have been formally advertised. The speed limit orders have now been sealed, however the weight restrictions received some objections. Officers will continue to work to progress these further with a view to them being sealed at a future date.

The safety audit for the build-out designs has been completed, an exception report was produced and the details have been finalised. These works have now been completed and are listed as follows:

- Installation of 2 priority give-way build outs
- Installation of 2 new vehicle activated signage
- New speed limits and associated signage
- Resurfacing and new road markings
- Gullies repaired and cleaned
- 2 new lamp columns

Roydon and Nazeing, Positive signage review:

An audit of all HGV signing in Harlow, Nazeing, Roydon and Hoddesdon and existing routing has been completed.

The preferred HGV route to direct HGV through-traffic away from Nazeing and Roydon Village has been agreed. Collaboration and agreement with Hertfordshire Highways on the scheme design has also been achieved.

The designs for the scheme have been completed and are ready to be manufactured.

It is unlikely that the installation of the manufactured signs shall be completed this financial year and will therefore need to be programmed early in the 2010/11 programme.

After completion of the scheme, it shall be monitored and assessed to ensure its effectiveness. Any further design work will be carried out if deemed necessary. Discussions are underway with Essex Police and Trading Standards, with regards to the enforcement of the proposed weight restrictions.

2.2. Uncontrolled Crossing Improvements

The budget allocation has been fully committed and the works are all complete.

2.3. Safer Roads Programme

The majority of these schemes have been completed. Those schemes outstanding should be complete by the time of the meeting.

2.4. Area Identified Schemes

Pudding Lane, Chigwell: The majority of this scheme is complete, with some signage works to be completed. The delay in completing the work has been brought about by a road traffic accident last month, at which a vehicle struck the column to which new signage was to be placed. Another order has been made to replace this column and Officers are liaising with the Contractor to have this installed as quickly as possible. This scheme has used the full allocation of funding.

B175, Stapleford Abbots: The design is complete, but Contractors are unable to complete this within the current financial year and so this will be promoted for inclusion early in the next financial year's programme of works.

2.5. Public Rights of Way Improvements

This budget has now been fully committed and the works are now complete on Byway 21, Fyfield.

At the last meeting of the Panel, Members requested information on the proposed schemes for the 2010/11 programme of works. Officers have put forward schemes for Moreton 1 and Abbess, Beauchamp and Berners Roding 31 as their preferred schemes for the 2010/11 financial year. At the time of writing confirmation of funding has not been received, however details of the schemes are provided below:

Byway 31 Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding (Elm Cottage Lane)

The section of this byway requiring attention is an unhardened green lane, approximately 1km in length. The lane contains approximately 30 veteran trees, of which 25 are pollards, some of which are marker trees for old parish boundaries. Ancient woodland indicators are present in the lane, and the hedgerows bordering it are between six and eight hundred years old, according to Hooper's Rule. The lane is a Local Wildlife Site.

Byway 31 links two minor roads, one of which would otherwise be a 'dead end' and effectively is for motorised vehicles, other than four-wheel drives. It also links with Public Footpaths 37, Willingale and 43, 44 & 49 Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding and is close to other byways which form part of the Essex Way. Local residents have reported that this network is used by motorcycle groups for organised events involving large numbers of juveniles.

Motorised vehicular use has resulted in the un-surfaced section of the lane becoming deeply rutted, rendering it difficult and at times impassable for other users – complaints have been received from horse riders. Therefore, works are necessary to fill in the ruts with hard material and carry out some localised ditch clearance. Also there would appear to be a requirement for a culvert crossing at the point where Byway 31 turns north onto a metalled farm road.

Byway 1, Moreton (North Lane)

This byway is an unhardened green lane, approximately 1km in length, linking the minor roads, Maltings Hill and Harlow Road, Moreton. It also links with Public Footpaths 2, 3 & 4, Moreton. The lane has been in existence for at least 200 years and appears on the 1805 Ordnance Survey map, but is probably ancient and crosses the route of a Roman road running between London and Dunmow.

North Lane is on high ground, above Moreton village and forms a significant feature in the landscape, rising to high mid-point of 80 metres, which affords good views of the surrounding countryside. The lane is a Local Wildlife Site.

The eastern section of the lane has suffered some damage to the surface, due to vehicular use. In particular, a sunken section near the eastern end is poorly drained and shows evidence of some attempted surfacing work with unsuitable material. This section is difficult for walkers and horse riders to negotiate in winter and there is evidence of use on an adjacent farmland conservation strip. Therefore works are necessary to surface this section with suitable hard material and carry out drainage improvement works.

2.6. Passenger Transport Improvements

Officers are able to report that this budget allocation has been fully committed and all works are now complete.

Safer Journeys to School Highway Works

This budget allocation has been fully committed and all works are now complete.

3. Community Initiative Fund

2.7. 2008/09 applications

Nine projects were approved in 2008/09 within the Epping Forest District for delivery within the 2009/10 programme of works and these are detailed within **Appendix C**.

Loughton; signage: Officers have liaised with the Parish Council, Essex County Council Cycling Officers and the Corporation of London in developing the design of the signage required for walkers and cyclists. Agreement has now been received and Officers expect works to be completed by the end of March 10.

Waltham Abbey; signage: A survey on the street columns has been completed and it concludes that the additional signage to the columns can be achieved. The order has been placed and start dates on site are being agreed with the Contractor.

Stapleford Abbotts; village gateways: The order has been placed and Officers expect works to be complete by the end of March 10.

2.8. 2009/10 applications

The bidding process for 2009/10 has now closed. Officers received a total of 21 applications, of which 4 schemes did not meet the criteria. A total of 17 applications, which met the criteria, at an overall value of £435,000 were submitted to the CIF Co-ordinator at County Hall. Schemes ranged from speed reduction schemes, installation of pedestrian crossings, improving footways and installing bollards.

As such a large amount of applications were received from the Epping Forest District, the CIF Co-ordinator shall be contacting applicants who have submitted more than one application, inviting them to pick one of their projects to go forward to the panel, with one in reserve. This, it is hoped, will help to accelerate the judging process, so that the schemes can be progressed as quickly as possible. Members will be updated once successful bids are known, hopefully early in the new financial year.

4. Localism Budget

The Localism Revenue schemes address a number of highway problems and incorporate a wide variety of measures including parking and speed restrictions, improvements to or introduction of, pedestrian crossing facilities and other traffic management improvements.

Current projects are detailed in **Appendix D**.

However the following schemes are incomplete and need to be considered for inclusion in the 2010/11 programme of works.

London Road, Abridge	New speed limit 40mph buffer	Indicative costs: £2,500
<p>The design for this scheme is complete; however final installation cannot be achieved within the financial year owing to the process of the traffic regulation order. Consideration by Members needs to be made for the inclusion of this in the programme of works for 2010/11.</p> <p>The section of London Road southwest of the caravan park is currently subject to a speed limit of 60mph. This section of road is fronted by many residential properties, which gradually change to a more rural frontage along the most south-westerly section.</p> <p>The proposed reduction in speed limit from 60mph to 40mph will not only create a buffer zone for the existing 30mph speed limit through the village, but will also aim to improve road safety for both drivers and pedestrians by reducing vehicle speeds along this residential section of carriageway.</p> <p>A speed assessment has been carried out and established a mean average speed of 36.9mph and the personal injury data states 18 collisions in a 5 year period.</p> <p>Officers have completed all studies, assessments and the design. The traffic regulation order is to be formally advertised by the end of the 2009/10 financial year. But to complete this scheme with the implementation of the traffic regulation order, the removal of some old signage and the installation of new signage, a budget of £2,500 would be required.</p>		



Amendment 5, Batch 1100		District wide disabled bays	Indicative costs: £8,000
Some objections have been received for some of the proposals. Action on these comments and the installation of the bays cannot be achieved in the current financial year due to delays in processing of the traffic regulation order and so consideration by Members will need to be made for the inclusion in the 2010/11 programme of works. This is discussed in more detail later in the report.			
31 Thifts Mead	Theydon Bois	Disabled bay installation	
59 Allnutts Road	Epping	Disabled bay installation	
131 Pyrles Lane	Loughton	Progressing	Objections received
72 Queens Road	North Weald	Disabled bay installation	
93 Valley Hill	Loughton	Progressing	
5 Greenyard	Waltham Abbey	Removal of bay	
40 Cedar Walk	Waltham Abbey	Disabled bay installation	Objections received
63 Rounton Road	Waltham Abbey	Disabled bay installation	
59 Torrington Drive	Loughton	Disabled bay installation	
19 Shrublands Close	Chigwell	Disabled bay installation	
105 High Road	Chigwell	Removal of bay	
67 Madells	Epping	Removal of bay	
82 Madells	Epping	Progressing	
25 Smeaton Road	Chigwell	Progressing	
34 Rowley Mead	Thornwood		
53 Audley Gardens	Loughton	Disabled bay installation	Objections received
9 Takeley Close	Waltham Abbey	Disabled bay installation	
12 Takeley Close	Waltham Abbey	Progressing	
2 Pancroft	Abridge	Progressing	

Traffic Regulations orders update and omissions	District wide	Indicative costs: £15,000
Officers have prepared these works ready to order, however the implementation cannot be achieved in the current timescale. It is advised that Members consider this for inclusion in the 2010/11 programme of works.		

Hastingwood Road, Mill Street and Harlow Common	Speed Limit review	Indicative costs: £12,000
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Speed assessments have been completed, but the designs are still to be finished. It is anticipated that this scheme cannot be achieved in the current financial year and so Officers recommend Members consider this for inclusion in the 2010/11 programme of works.

The speed assessments at these locations have been completed. The results indicate:

From Hastingwood Road to junction with Harlow Common:

Mean average speed of 36.9mph

85 percentile speed of 43.7mph

The recorded personal injury collisions along this stretch shows to be 1 in 3 years

Hastingwood Road, from A414 to Willow Place

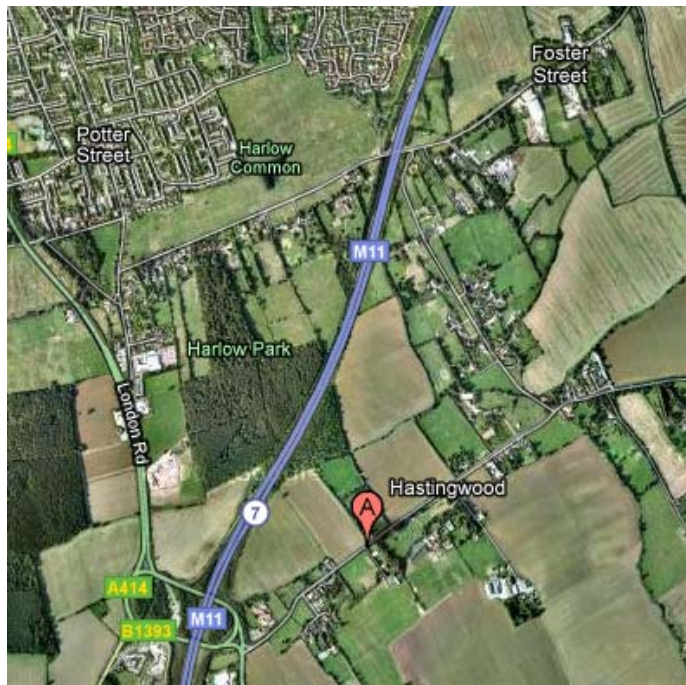
Mean average speed of 41mph

85 percentile speed of 48.7mph

The recorded personal injury collisions along this stretch shows to be 4 in 3 years

Preliminary investigations have been completed for Foster Street and Harlow Common and conclude that they are appropriate for inclusion in this scheme.

The design is still to be completed, but to complete the design, the traffic regulation order and the installation on site, a budget of £12,000 would be required.



5. Area Parking Review

Buckhurst Hill

The draft traffic regulation orders are currently being completed by Officers.

Epping

The draft traffic regulation orders have been completed and are being checked by Officers. These shall then be issued to the Essex County Council Legal and Administration department to formally advertise the orders.

Loughton Broadway

Meetings between both Officers and Members of Essex County Council and Epping Forest District Council have taken place to discuss the outcomes and recommendations of the consultation. It has been identified that further investigation is required on possible alternatives. This pertains to draft proposals recently circulated by the Department for Transport (DfT) on parking permit zones and signs. Currently such schemes require individual authorisation from the DfT and this can often be a very time consuming affair, hence Officers were encouraged to hear that such specific authorisation may not be required if the draft proposals are approved. This will improve the efficiency and progress of this scheme, but if it is rejected it is inevitable that each location will need to be applied individually.

In addition to this investigation, initial site visits have been carried out and design work has commenced.

6. Epping Forest Transport Strategy

The resurfacing works to Pynest Green Lane, High Beach has now been completed. Other localized repairs have also been identified and these works shall be completed by the end of this current financial year, including refurbishment of the speed limit signage.

7. Conclusion

Members are invited to discuss the report and offer comments pertaining to current works and programming.