

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

***PROPOSALS
PROGRAMME OF WORKS 2010/11***

1. Maintenance

The budget allocations for the 2010/11 financial year have not yet been disclosed.

At the last meeting of the Panel it was agreed to progress the Priority 1 and 2 schemes once confirmation of the budgets are released.

Due to recent weather conditions, additional sites have been identified and added to the lists of proposed sites, this will be presented to the Members at the meeting.

2. Traffic Improvements

Capital budget allocations have not yet been declared for traffic management improvements at the time of writing; however Officers have been carrying out further investigation work to those schemes approved by the Panel in preparation of this information.

2.1 High Priority Schemes Approved by the Panel

At the last meeting of the panel it was agreed by Members to promote the scheme for a signal controlled crossing at B173 Manor Road, West of Tomswood Road, Chigwell and changing the priority of the junction at Downhall Road/Little Laver Road/Watery Lane, Matching to a high priority.

The schemes approved by the Panel are listed and detailed below:

- 1. Downhall Road/Little Laver Road/Watery Lane, Matching** – Realignment of priority junction
- 2. St Leonard's Road, Nazeing** – Village gateway and repositioning of VAS
- 3. B184, Fyfield** – 2 x VAS
- 4. Sawbridgeworth Road, junction with Sheering Lower Road, Sheering** – Extension of an existing 30mph speed limit
- 5. Westbury Road, Buckhurst Hill** – Build outs
- 6. Church Road and Brook Road, Buckhurst Hill** – Pedestrian phasing on existing traffic signals
- 7. Manor Road, junction with Vicarage Lane, Chigwell** – Junction improvements
- 8. Hemnall Street, junction with Grove Lane, Epping** – Installation of pedestrian crossing
- 9. A121 High Road, Loughton** – Signal controlled crossing
- 10. Crooked Mile, N of Saxon Way, Waltham Abbey** – Signal controlled crossing
- 11. Crooked Mile, N of Monkwood Avenue, Waltham Abbey** – Signal controlled crossing

- 12. B173 Manor Road, W of Tomswood Road, Chigwell** – Signal controlled crossing
- 13. Church Hill, Loughton** - Signal controlled crossing
- 14. Station Road, Epping** – Signal controlled crossing/pedestrian refuge

1.

Downhall Road/Little Laver Road/Watery Lane Matching	Re-alignment of priority junction	Indicative costs: £5,000-7,500
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The aim of this scheme is to divert traffic to a more suitable road by changing the priority at the junction and enhancing the signage.

The accident data has been received for this location and it has established that there have been no recorded personal injury collisions in the vicinity.

Initially Officers have some concerns that turning of large vehicles such as HGVs and tractors may not be possible or will raise safety concerns. This is a rural area and these types of vehicles frequent these roads, and not only the length but the width of these vehicles must be considered in the design. Officers have carried out an 'Autotrack' assessment; a computerised assessment which models the swept path of all types of steered vehicles. This has shown that HGV's either cross the centre line or cut across the verge.

In addition, centre lines and cat's eyes would also be required to highlight the trajectory of the new alignment of the bend and to delineate the new road layout, after historically Little Laver Road giving way to Watery Lane/Downhall Road.

A meeting with Essex County Council Road Safety Engineers has taken place on site. They have advised that the following measures are necessary to facilitate the scheme operating safely:

- The vegetation on the corner adjacent to 'Corner House' needs to be removed to increase and improve the sight lines. The Highway boundary will need to be investigated to establish those responsible for this.
- Double yellow lines will need to be installed opposite the junction to prevent the current parking at this location.

At the last meeting of the Panel Members queried whether some routes could be removed from satellite navigation systems. The Local Government Association is petitioning the Government requesting that legislation is enacted to deal with the issue of vehicles using inappropriate roads as a result of satellite navigation devices, these proposals also includes the granting of powers to highway authorities to install signage to warn off inappropriate roads that may show up on these types of devices.



2.

St Leonard's Road, Nazeing

Village gateway and repositioning of VAS

Indicative costs: £15,000

As reported at a previous meeting of the Panel, the existing Vehicle Activated Sign has been located at a point which meets with Essex County Council policy and the speed data received at the time, which deems it to be the most suitable.

It is anticipated the location of the new gateways will be adjacent to the current red road surfacing, however owing to the narrow width of the verge on one side of the road, it is anticipated that this gate may need to be manufactured to a bespoke design (an example is shown below).



3.

B184 Dunmow Road, Fyfield

**Installation of 2 x
VAS**

**Indicative costs:
£9,000**

A speed survey is being ordered by Officers and the results shall be presented at a future meeting of the panel. Officers shall also be arranging a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss possible locations for the VAS signs once the conclusions of the speed survey have been received.



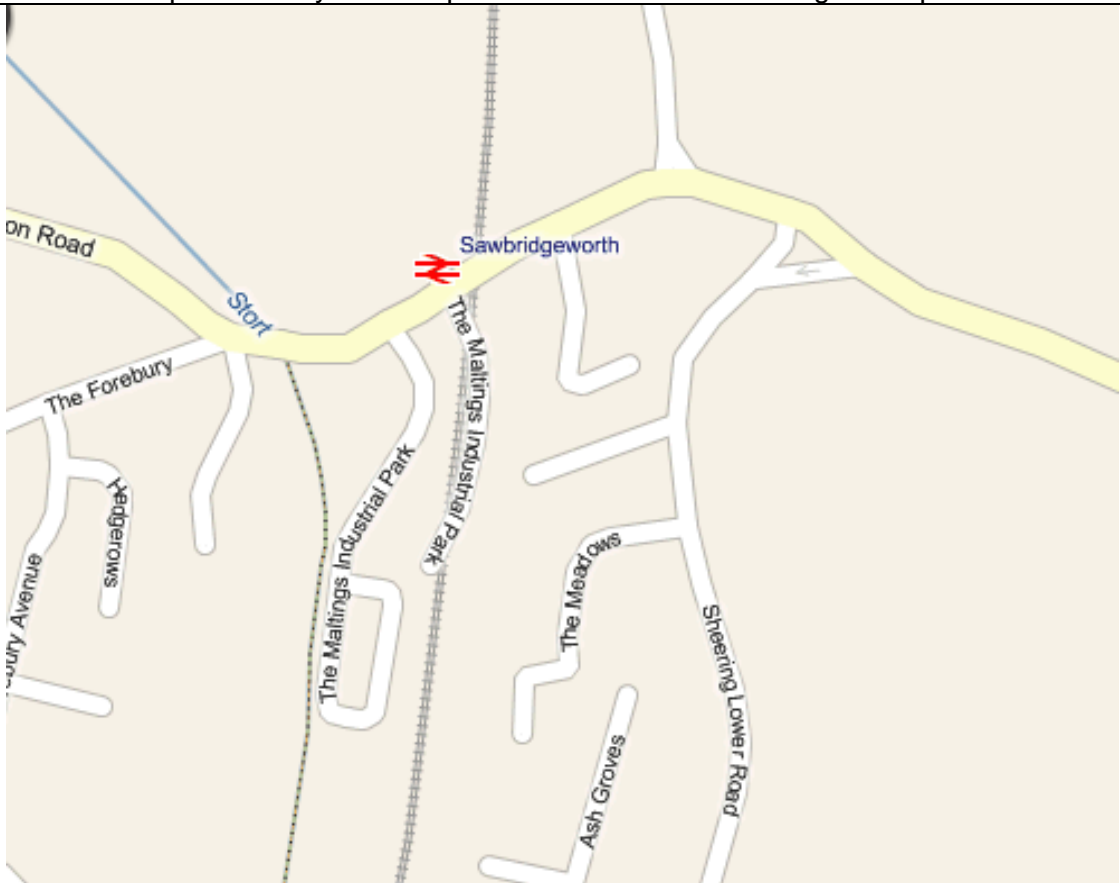
4.

Sawbridgeworth Road, junction with Sheering Lower Road, Sheering	Extension of an existing 30mph speed limit	Indicative costs: £3,000
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An initial speed limit survey is underway for both a 30mph and 40mph speed limit and an initial site investigation has been carried out.

The accident data has been collected and it concludes that there have been no recorded personal injury collisions at this location.

The results of the speed survey shall be presented at a future meeting of the panel.



5.

Westbury Road, Buckhurst Hill	Build-outs	Indicate cost: £30,000
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As a result of the recent Buckhurst Hill parking consultation, the Officers received reports of significant abuse of the one-way section of Westbury Road between Scotland Road and Palmerston Road. The construction of build-outs at the junction with Russell Road and prior to the junction of Scotland Road is designed to aid the conspicuity of the one-way system and hence reduce non-compliance.

Further surveys will be undertaken, including up to date accident data.



6.

Church Road and Brook Road, Buckhurst Hill	Pedestrian Phasing	Indicative Cost: £40,000
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This scheme is to introduce an additional pedestrian phase to the existing traffic signals.

An assessment and feasibility analysis will be required prior to any design work at this location. For this to be progressed an order would need to be placed with a partnership organisation for £5-10,000, this would be deducted from the budget allocation for Localism. It is anticipated that the results of such assessments will not be completed until approximately 6 months into the new financial year and if this were the case, it is anticipated that construction on site may not be achieved until the 2011/12 programme of works. Officers therefore seek Member comments on whether this scheme shall be progressed as a 'design only' scheme for 2010/11.



7.

Manor Road, junction with Vicarage Lane, Chigwell	Junction improvements	Indicative costs: £30,000
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A request was made to improve the junction at this location. Officers are currently forming some preliminary designs to test turning movements to ascertain which design will be the most feasible.

Additionally Officers have also requested plans showing the location of the BT apparatus located in the vicinity. Members are advised that if diversion works are required there may be large costs associated with this that may render the scheme prohibitive. Members will be advised as this information is received.



8.

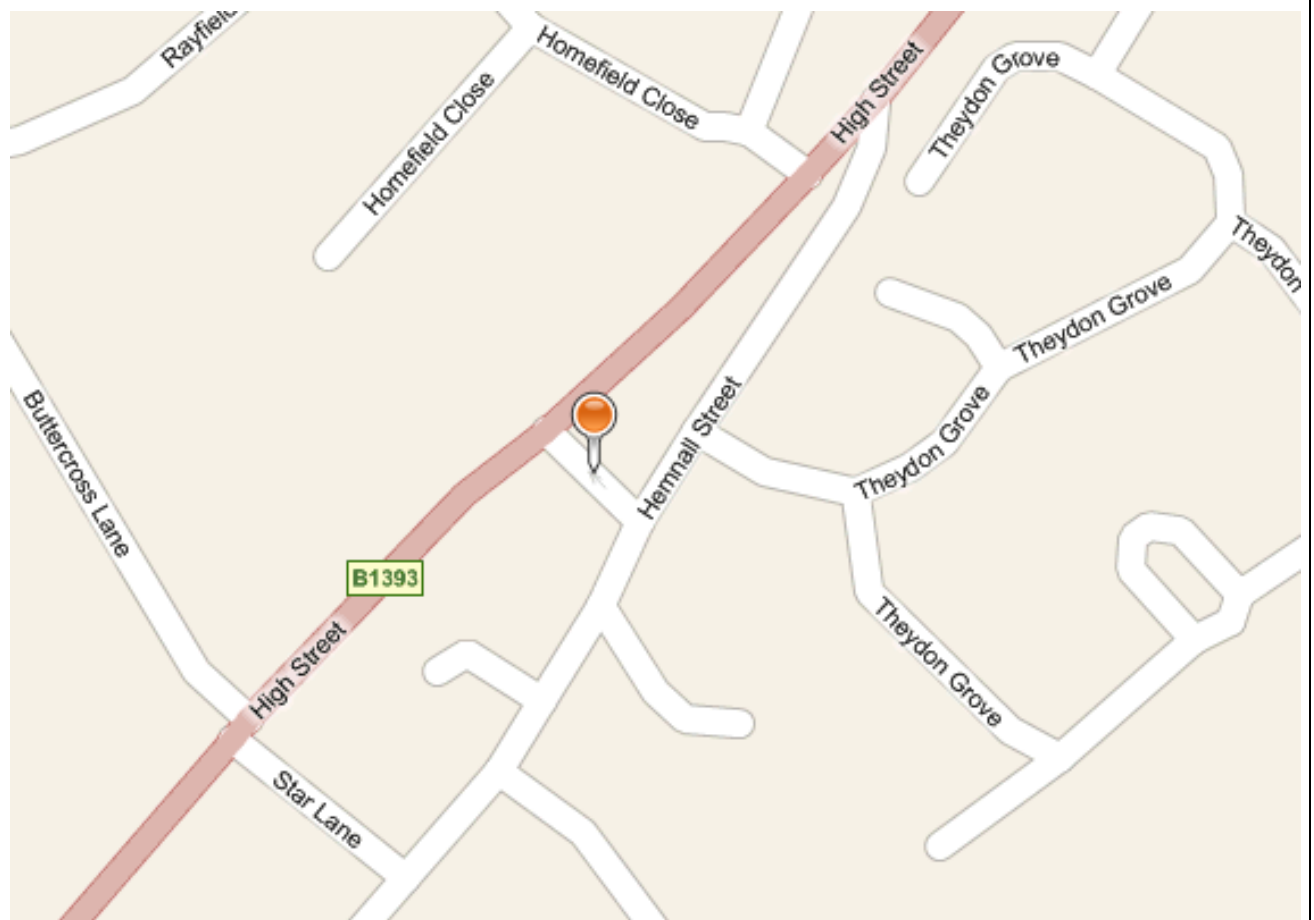
Hemnal Street, junction with Grove Lane, Epping

Installation of pedestrian crossing

**Indicative costs:
£7,500 per pedestrian
refuge or £80,000 for
a controlled
pedestrian crossing**

Officers are currently arranging a small topographical survey. This is required to gain sufficient data to progress the design further.

Officers recommend that before this scheme is progressed to a detailed design stage, a site meeting is undertaken with all interested parties to look at the feasibility of the suggested improvement.



13.

Church Hill, Loughton

Signal controlled crossing

Indicative costs:
£80,000 – zebra crossing

A pedestrian survey has been carried out at this location and a suitable location was identified North East of The Uplands. Further investigation of a suitable location is required to ensure that installation will be possible and that traffic impact on nearby junctions is limited.



1. Conclusion

Members are invited to discuss and comment on the schemes where appropriate.