

COLCHESTER LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022 - 10.00

ONLINE MEETING: MICROSOFT TEAMS

Chairman:	County Councillor Sue Lissimore
Panel Members:	County Councillors: Lewis Barber, Mark Cory, Dave Harris, John Jowers, Lee Scordis Borough Councillors Lesley Scott-Boutell, Jeremy Hagon, Mike Hogg, and Julie Young. Parish Councillor: Cllr John Gilli-Ross
Officers:	Essex Highways: Jon Simmons –Highways Liaison Officer Daniel Maclean – Highway Liaison Team Leader
Secretariat:	Colchester Borough: Owen Howell – Democratic Services Officer.

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: The Chairman welcomed Councillors and officers to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Crow, Robert Johnstone, David King and Julie Young.	
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2022 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>Under minute 4, The Panel requested an update on progress towards the potential formation of a 'super' Local Highways Panel, which could look at larger schemes. Councillor Lissimore informed the Panel that she had emailed the portfolio holder [Cllr Lee Scott, Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport]. Daniel Maclean, Highways Liaison Team Leader, explained that he was working with Cllr Scott on this, and the proposals would be taken to the relevant Scrutiny Committee in the future, based upon the work of the task and finish group.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes 2022/23</p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an update on the current position of all the schemes which the Colchester Local Highway Panel has recommended for inclusion in their 2022/23 programme. The Highways Liaison Officer explained that there was some budget still remaining available for allocation to schemes still awaiting funding. It was confirmed that all schemes approved at the previous Panel meeting had now been added to the list of Funded Schemes</p> <p>In discussion the following update was provided about the funded schemes in 2022/23:</p> <p>26. B1508 Colchester Road, West Bergholt – Speed Indicator Device & pole (x2). This scheme had now been completed.</p> <p>5. Footpath 70, Myland - Surface upgrade. The Panel referred back to comments previously made by Councillor Johnston regarding the public rights of way, questioning what type of surfacing would be used and whether the footpath would be shared use with a cycleway. The Highways Liaison Officer confirmed that it would not be a shared use footway and so would conform with relevant regulations.</p> <p>12. Clifton Terrace, Wivenhoe - Surface/step improvements. Councillor Cory asked to check the costs given for this scheme. The Highways Liaison Officer explained that only the cost of the feasibility costs could be given, as the scheme was still only at the design stage. Projected other costs could however be noted against this item.</p> <p>The Panel queried whether officers had concerns regarding the delivery of the funded schemes, relating to the scheduling of work and potential problems caused by weather. The Highways Liaison Officer gave assurance that there were currently no delivery concerns for quarters three or four and that scheduled progress for all schemes was expected to go ahead as planned.</p>	

	<p>27. London Road nr j/w Millers Lane, Stanway – Zebra crossing upgrade. Councillor Scott-Boutell enquired about whether the feasibility study previously carried out had been located and could be detailed to the Panel. Councillor Scott-Boutell pressed for bus shelters to be taken into consideration with regard to this scheme. The Highways Liaison Officer confirmed that the Road Traffic Safety Team were aware of this feasibility study and would make a fresh examination of it. School crossing patrols would also be factored into considerations made.</p> <p>6. Shrub End Road, Colchester - Pedestrian crossing. Councillor Lissimore requested an update on progress, noting that this scheme had been ongoing for some years.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on schemes awaiting funding 2022/23</p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an update on the current position of all the schemes which the Colchester Local Highway Panel that were awaiting funding in 2022/23. The Panel heard that there was a small amount of budget still remaining available for allocation to schemes awaiting funding.</p> <p>15. The Street j/w A1124, Wakes Colne – Temporary flood warning boards where flooding occurs habitually. The Highways Liaison Officer presented this item, brought forward by Councillor Barber. The estimated cost of providing these boards to the local parish council was £1,500.</p> <p>19 [Wivenhoe - 20mph limits, initially on Broad Fields/Vine Farm estate]. Councillor Cory asked if this item could be divided into two, with scheme 19 specifying Broad Fields/Vine Farm estate, and a new scheme to encompass the request by Councillor Julie Young for a wider 20mph scheme to be imposed across Wivenhoe. The Highways Liaison Officer explained that it was planned for the existing request for 20mph limits to be removed in anticipation of its replacement with a new application.</p> <p>52. High Street, nr Library, Wivenhoe – Measures to improve congestion and parking. Councillor Cory requested information on how much funding would be needed for implementation of the scheme. The Highways Liaison Officer confirmed that the amount of funding required would be added to this item once it was identified.</p> <p>14. Mersea Road j/w Stansted Road, Colchester – Improvements to mini roundabout. Councillor Harris informed the Panel that he and Councillor Lissimore had attended a site visit with Councillor Scott and asked whether it would be a better use of the necessary funding to ‘skim’ the top of the existing mini roundabout, rather than converting it to a T-junction. The Highways Liaison Officer explained</p>	

<p>that the validation exercise had led to a recommendation for a T-junction, as listed. If a request were to be made instead for a lowering of the existing mini roundabout, this would need to be a new request. Councillor Lissimore noted the engineers' recommendation for a T-junction, in opposition to views expressed by residents which favoured a lower roundabout instead. The Highways Liaison Officer committed to sending the relevant emails to both Councillor Harris and Councillor Lissimore, which would show the engineers' views.</p> <p>12. Peace Road, Stanway - Traffic management improvements. Councillor Hagon requested an update on this scheme. The Highways Liaison Officer expressed his hope to be able to bring this to the Panel at its meeting in December 2022. A recommendation could then be made for this to be added to the list for 2023-24.</p> <p>58. Bridge 1413, Newbridge Hill, West Bergholt - TRO Review of bridge 5 Tonne Structural Weight Limit and 7.5 Tonne Environmental Weight Limit. The Senior Highways Liaison Officer explained that new measures may now be needed. Support for this was given by Councillor Gilli-Ross, who noted that frequent repairs had been necessary to the road at this bridge.</p> <p>7. Athelstan Road, Colchester – Signage for access to Colchester Royal Grammar School Sports Ground. Councillor Lissimore highlighted the issues caused by coaches using the road and recommended the installation of a sign to specify its unsuitability for use by coaches. The Highways Liaison Officer noted that no evidence had been found of heavy use by goods vehicles. Councillor Lissimore posited the potential issue with data collection and sporadic times of increased use by heavy vehicles, such as use by coaches around sporting events. The Highways Liaison Officer agreed to discuss this with the school.</p> <p>Councillor Scott-Boutell asked for an update on validation progress towards a scheme relating to a Tollgate cycleway. The Highways Liaison Officer confirmed that there were no concerns that validation would not be completed by December and that it was expected the scheme would be ready for the Local Highways Panel to make a funding decision on it for 2023-24.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer and Highways Liaison Team Leader explained that engineers were working on validations from across each of the local highway panels, with a focus on working to clear the backlog of validations and looking to improve the process, including to give more information on progress to councillors.</p> <p>2. Cambridge Road, Footpath 198 - Surface improvements. Councillor Lissimore disagreed with the recommendation to close the footpath and asked whether signs could instead be put up to</p>	
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	<p>warn of uneven surfacing. The Highways Liaison Officer agreed to consult engineers on this item.</p> <p>36. Dyer's Road, Colchester - 30mph. Councillor Hogg noted that this scheme had been labelled as being in Parsons Heath and East Gates Division, which was not the case.</p> <p>Members of the Panel agreed the following proposals be funded from the Local Highways Panel 2022/23 budget:</p> <p>15. The Street j/w A1124, Wakes Colne – Temporary flood warning boards.</p> <p>58. Bridge 1413, Newbridge Hill, West Bergholt - TRO Review of bridge 5 Tonne Structural Weight Limit and 7.5 Tonne Environmental Weight Limit.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Councillor Hogg raised the seven-day speed review carried out on St John's Road, with results indicating that Police enforcement was necessary, and asked whether officers could link a request for this to the Police. The Highways Liaison Officer suggested that lower speed limits could occur during daylight hours, increasing at night to a higher limit and offered to share data with the police and request additional enforcement be carried out.</p> <p>Councillor Jowers cautioned that the Panel needed to be able to differentiate between schemes which it could reasonably consider, and other larger schemes with higher costs which Essex Highways should take on as major schemes. Councillor Lissimore noted that some local highways panels had difficulty in spending their budgeted funds. This was not the case at Colchester, but it was envisioned that a 'super' local highways panel would help address these issues. Councillor Gilli-Ross argued that officers and parish councillors should work together to identify larger-scale works needed and have these designated as large projects.</p> <p>Following questions relating to requests for major infrastructure projects and the securing of funding, the Highway Liaison Team Leader explained that SELEP [South East Local Enterprise Partnership] funded projects would usually be put forward for major scheme funding. The Panel was promised further information on this.</p> <p>Councillor Hagon stressed the potential benefits from linking schemes up with potential funds from section 106 contributions from developers, working with the Borough Council to see where such funding might be available. The Highways Liaison Officer informed the Panel that officers had regular contact with the Strategic</p>	

	<p>Development Team, including discussions on local highways panel schemes to identify where section 106 contributions could be available as additional streams of funding. Schemes on the Panel's lists which could be appropriately funded via this route were identified. Examples of such schemes were raised and discussed by Panel members, as well as examples of where schemes which could have potentially been funded from section 106 monies had instead been approved and funded from the Panel's budget, after nearby developments had been approved and built. The Highway Liaison Team Leader gave assurance that work was underway to identify more schemes which could be funded at an early stage by developers.</p> <p>Councillor Lissimore ventured that issues were often experienced with the strength of Borough and District Councils' negotiations with developers and questioned the robustness of the negotiations for section 106 contributions, and the subsequent enforcement to ensure their payment. The Highway Liaison Team Leader explained that, regarding section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy matters, colleagues were trialling ways to work more closely with Borough and District Council colleagues to see how better contributions could be negotiated.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Team Leader notified the Panel that the backlog in scheme work had been picked up and was a priority for the Cabinet Member, Councillor Scott, who was addressing this and would take it up with the relevant Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Councillor Gilli-Ross noted that some neighbourhood plans included a traffic plan, highlighting problem points and encouraged local communities to put together their own local traffic plans to identify pinch points, which could then be shared with Essex Highways.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next two meetings of the Local Highway Panel would take place as Teams meetings on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th December 2022 • 21st March 2023. 	