

LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL – MINUTES AND ACTIONS

	PRESENT:
Date: 27th Sep 2016	Panel Members: Cllr Keith Bobbin, Cllr Anthony Hedley, Cllr Malcolm Buckley, Cllr Kerry Smith, Cllr Frank Ferguson, Cllr Mark Ellis
Venue: Committee Room 5, County Hall	
Apologies: Cllr Melissa McGeorge, Cllr Kay Twitchen, Cllr Nigel Le Gresley	Other Attendees: Will Price – Highway Liaison Officer, Sonia Church- Highways Liaison Manager, Cllr Ray Howard – Deputy Cabinet Member, Bernard Foster- Parish Council representative, Jasmine Wiles - Apprentice/Minute taker, Anthony Buston- Senior Transport, Strategy and Engagement Officer, Beverley Gould- Principle Transport , Strategy and Engagement Officer

Item:	Action:	Action Owner:
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>Cllr Bobbin welcomed everyone to the meeting. All present introduced themselves.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>N/A</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of meeting held on 27th June 2016 and matters arising</u></p> <p>Councillor Bobbin led the Panel through the previous meeting's minutes. Actions were discussed as follows:</p> <p><i>Pedestrian Refuge and Signage at A129 Southend Rd/ Bakers Farm Close (LBAS 152029).</i></p> <p>Cllr Buckley sought confirmation that the signs would now be delivered as part of the scheme. This was confirmed by WP.</p> <p><i>LBAS172062- Salcott Crescent, Wickford</i></p> <p>At the previous meeting Cllr Le Gresley had asked for VAS signs to be explored either side of the railway bridge. He hoped that this would reduce speeds to enable the delivery of a crossing. WP confirmed that</p>	

	<p>average speeds were not high enough to meet the criteria for VAS signs.</p> <p><i>LBAS172020- Runwell Road, Wickford</i></p> <p>WP advised that he had asked whether S106 funding was available for this scheme and was awaiting an answer. Cllr Buckley reminded the Panel that he did not necessarily see the benefits in this scheme, and that S106 funding should only be used if it did not detract from more important potential improvements.</p> <p><i>Festival Way Improvements</i></p> <p>Cllr Ellis asked WP for an update as he unfortunately couldn't make the June panel meeting.</p> <p>WP advised that the scheme was being delivered with S106 funding as planned. Cllr Ellis asked for delivery timescales which WP was unable to provide at the time. WP said he would obtain an update from the relevant officers and email Cllr Ellis.</p> <p><i>Lee Chapel School</i></p> <p>Cllr Smith asked for an update on the distances required between beacons. WP confirmed that he had sought guidance in this regard, and that there was no set distance – it was a matter of judgement. The TSM states that lights should not be used near zebra crossings if that might cause distraction. Generally speaking therefore, drivers should not be able to see one set of flashing lights from another set of flashing lights as this would be distracting, confusing and therefore detrimental to driver safety.</p>	<p>WP</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Major Schemes update</u></p> <p>Beverley Gould provided the Panel with an update on all potential Major Schemes in Basildon. This majority of this update focussed on measures to reduce congestion on the A127, particularly on and around the Fairglen interchange. Beverley outlined short term measures (which were already largely funded) and long term measures (which would require further significant funding) for the A127 improvements before providing a list of Potential schemes elsewhere in the County.</p> <p>Members asked for a copy of the Major Schemes List which BG said she would distribute via WP.</p>	<p>BG/WP</p>

5.

Approved Works Programme 2016/17

WP introduced the Approved Scheme List and invited any questions which were raised as follows:

LBAS152027- District Wide 20mph designs

Cllr Smith queried progress on this scheme. SC informed the Panel that the designs had been complicated and delayed by changes to the TSRGD relating to the use of various forms of 20mph restriction. SC advised that ECC Policy was yet to be formally amended to reflect these changes. WP and SC remained hopeful that the designs could be completed this financial year. Cllr Smith asked whether the 20mph restrictions could be delivered in 2017/18 if designs were completed this year. WP and SC said yes, theoretically they could if the LHP approve funding.

Cllr Buckley discussed the fact that the LHP budget for 2017/18 will not be set by Cabinet Members until Feb. He therefore suggested that the Jan meeting should be cancelled or delayed until the budget had been set. WP and SC advised that this would be the prerogative of the Panel, but suggested that the January meeting should be used to set scheme priorities which could subsequently be approved in March once budgets were confirmed. Cllr Buckley disagreed. The chairman and Panel Members advised that the January meeting should go ahead as normal.

LBAS152017- Gardiners Lane North, Wickford

Cllr Buckley mentioned information he had received which suggested that this scheme had been delayed to 17/18 due to other major works in the area. WP queried the source of this information and Cllr Buckley said he had contacted Member Enquiries. WP reminded Cllr Buckley that any LHP related queries should be made directly through him. WP confirmed that the programming of this scheme had not been influenced by any major works, and its lack of presence in the 16/17 programme was influenced only by the fact that it was not seemingly as high a priority for the LHP as those schemes which had been included in the programme.

LBAS152031- A13 Layby Pitsea By-pass

Cllr Ellis voiced his happiness that the layby closure improvements were almost complete.

	<p>Sparrows Herne</p> <p>Cllr Smith re-raised the issue of the rotting fence. WP advised that he was still trying to get to the bottom of when/why the fence was installed so that a decision could be taken as to whether it should be removed.</p>	WP
6.	<p><u>Potential Schemes List</u></p> <p>WP introduced the Potential Scheme List. He told Panel Members that it would be important for them to prioritise the schemes on the list in advance of the January meeting, so that any chosen schemes could be efficiently agreed and approved in March. WP welcomed any questions/comments on specific schemes which were made as follows:</p> <p><i>LBAS172059- Southcote Square, Fryerns</i></p> <p>Cllr Buckley suggested that this scheme be removed since replacing verges with parking spaces in one location would lead to further requests throughout Basildon. This was agreed by the Panel.</p> <p><i>LBAS172062- Salcott Cres, Wickford</i></p> <p>Cllr Buckley asked that this scheme be removed from the Potential Scheme List. This was agreed by the Panel.</p> <p><i>LBAS172008- Cranfield Park Road, Wickford</i></p> <p>There was a discussion surrounding the estimated cost of this scheme. Cllr Hedley suggested that we look at the cost of trees and hedges instead of bollards or a bund. Cllr Buckley and the rest of the Panel agreed with this suggestion. WP to explore before the next meeting and to bring back options.</p> <p><i>LBAS172004-Nightingales</i></p> <p>Cllr Smith confirmed that this scheme should be removed from the Potential Scheme List in light of the PV² survey requirement.</p> <p><i>LBAS172001- Highview Avenue, Basildon</i></p> <p>Cllr Smith said that they desperately need a light to illuminate the crossing sign. WP advised that this scheme was in validation and that broader questions had been raised about the location of the crossing. Update to be provided at next meeting.</p>	<p>WP</p> <p>WP</p> <p>WP</p> <p>WP</p> <p>WP</p> <p>WP</p>

	<p>Safer Road schemes</p> <p>The Panel had strong reservations about all of the schemes on page 19 of the report. Councillor Hedley and Cllr Buckley said that the LHP would not be able to fund the delivery of a pedestrian footbridge and therefore they should not be expected to fund the initial feasibility study. WP said that there was a question mark over whether studies for potential major schemes should be funded by Strategy and Engagement or LHP and he would try to clarify this before the next meeting. Either way, Cllr Hedley felt that the installation of a bridge in one location would lead to requests elsewhere, and this was broadly agreed by the LHP.</p> <p>Cllr Smith pointed out that scheme LBAS 171001 and 171002 were only designs/surveys rather than delivery. He then went on to reference page 14 of Appendix 1 and pointed out that a large proportion of the pedestrians involved in accidents had been under the influence of alcohol. He therefore questioned the usefulness of any study and consequent improvements suggesting that signs etc might serve no purpose.</p> <p>SC mentioned that similar measures had been installed elsewhere on the A127 and had been shown to have an impact on pedestrian casualties. Cllr Hedley said that these measures should be pursued via the Casualty Reduction Board. WP and SC advised that the proposed schemes were being sought on behalf of the CRB and that the LHP were the regular funding source for any CRB recommended schemes. Cllr Hedley did not recall this issue being discussed at the CRB, and remained of the opinion that the LHP was not appropriate funding source.</p>	WP
7.	<p><u>Ranger Report</u></p> <p>The ranger report was introduced and there was a discussion surrounding the kind of works the rangers could carry out. SC reminded the Panel that it was 2 men with a van and hand tools who could only work in 30mph limits or below, and on highway land.</p> <p>SC mentioned that she was meeting with relevant managers to try and improve the level of detail provided within ranger reports. She went on to encourage Members to report ranger requests through the “Report It” tool.</p>	

	<p>SC asked Members for the time being to contact her (via WP) with examples of ranger works they had requested so that she could use them as case studies in her meetings.</p> <p>Cllr Ferguson raised an issue of a tree overgrowing traffic lights at a busy junction, saying it was a safety issue. Cllr Bobbin and other Members suggested that Cllr Ferguson needed to contact BBC to arrange cut backs.</p>	Panel
8.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p>Cllr Bobbin advised Panel Members that he had received a request from Basildon Borough Councillor Jackman to join the Panel. There was some discussion around the subject. Cllr Bobbin advised the Panel that he had been informed that it was the chairman's prerogative to invite Members along as guests of the Panel (at LHP Members request) for specific issues of interest, but that the panel were unable to appoint permanent new Members until the new financial year and in a manner in-keeping with the LHP rules of governance.</p> <p>The Panel discussed BBC's lack of willingness to participate in the LHP's. They also discussed the fact that many of the Members were "dual hatted" and furthermore that County Members were able to represent the views of their Borough counterparts. Members raised concerns about the fairness of inviting one Borough Member over all others who might wish to attend.</p> <p>It was suggested that this be discussed again in March.</p>	
9.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>23rd January 2017, Committee room 5</p>	