



MINUTES
of a meeting held over MS Teams
Tuesday, 11th May 2021 at 2pm - 4.51pm

Present members:

Louise Fuller (LF)	Katherine Evans (KE) -Chair	Jake Richards (JR)
John Victory (JV)	Ray Booty (RB) – Vice Chair	Rowena Macaulay (RM)
Sandra Reynolds (SR)	Ed Dixon – (ED)	Martyn Towns (MT)

LA Officer present: Shirley Anglin (SA)

Apologies: Sue Dobson (SD), Ed Dixon (ED), Jan Arthur (JA), Malcolm Lees (ML)

Members of the Public: Sam Iddison (SI). For A12 item: Councillors - Kevin Atwill, Ross Playle, Bob Wright, James Astley; John Cockell.

Guests: Don Vann (DV) & Andrea Chadwick (AC) Highways England / Jacobs re A12

Minute Taker: Val Cleare

1	Chairman's Welcome: apologies and appointments	Action
	<p>KE welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. KE also welcomed guest, Sam Iddison. KE welcomed Don Vann and Andrea Chadwick who would join the meeting around 3pm.</p> <p>It was noted that this meeting on this occasion would be recorded as the Minute Taker was unable to attend but would type up from the recording. All were made aware of this and all were in agreement with the recording being made.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 February 2021 and matters arising</p> <p>Temporary Closure Orders SA indicated TRO information should be ok. However, road names may not always match up with what Google maps tells us but it is still possible to navigate where the closures are using the map.</p> <p>4th paragraph: It was JR who made the suggestion of using Bing maps which have an OS layer (no advertising) not RM.</p> <p>Action: SA to amend Minutes</p> <p>With the above amendment, the Minutes were proposed by Ray Booty and seconded by Rowena Macaulay.</p>	SA

	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Regional LAF meeting update - Minerals Planning Minutes state that SA was asked to contact Strategic Development about getting ELAF on the contact list for ECC Waste and Minerals Planning applications. SA informed it is ECC Planning, not Strategic Development. Do not know if need formal request. SA to find out if anything formal. Action: SA to follow up</p> <p>PROW User Group meetings - Minutes Only people on Simon Taylor's list who have indicated that they wish to attend the PROW User Group meetings receive the Minutes. Not all ELAF members are on the list.</p> <p>Any Other Business SA to be informed if matters have arisen, then these items should be put on the agenda for the next meeting rather than dealt with as agenda items under AOB.</p> <p>Post- meeting notes in the Minutes Members not sure about having post meeting notes in the minutes. Decision was that whilst they are useful, they need to be removed before the Minutes are placed on the public website. Action: SA.</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>ALL/ SA</p> <p>SA</p>
3	<p>Regional LAF meeting & PROW User Group meetings - upcoming</p>	
	<p><u>Upcoming Regional LAF meeting in July</u> Norfolk and Suffolk LAF's are seeking updates on the England Coast Path e.g. the progress of establishment works. Also of interest to ELAF. SA commented that with Roy's help, she has just made Essex's first grant funding application for establishment works for Essex stretches.</p> <p><u>Upcoming ECC PROW User Group meeting in June.</u> Date advised</p>	
4	<p>ECC Report</p>	
	<p>SA circulated the written report before the meeting including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • web links & information on PROW works and capital schemes. • the new Temporary Closures map based information. • no news on the Network Rail inquiry & the proposed PROW crossing closures. <p>SA reported that Essex Highways interactive map now has a pop out version for use.</p> <p>England Coast Path SA updated on the situation on the Essex stretches. KE circulated a draft letter to express our concerns that there is no clarity as to where funding is coming from after June on establishment works for the England Coast Paths in Essex, those stretches not yet approved. Have people had time to look at the letter or respond by email? Action: All</p>	<p>ALL</p>

	<p>GO Jauntly App</p> <p>SA advised that the ECC Sustainable Transport Team have commissioned some projects from GO Jauntly. Has anyone used the Go Jauntly app?</p> <p>KE asked why ECC decided to back/promote Go Jauntly? SA responded it is not the PROW department but is part of promoting sustainable methods of transport; PROW were contacted towards the end.</p> <p>Go Jauntly is an organisation that is promoting walking. It started in towns and cities (e.g. alleyways, shortcuts through parks) and they are now branching out into the countryside. It is essentially photo trails and they present their information backed up with map based information. They are getting a lot of walks out there which are accessible. It affects what SA puts on the PROW website. SA will provide a link to the Go Jauntly app. MT was surprised that ECC should be giving the ok to use this when all the routes have not been properly checked. SA can only check the ones ECC are asking them to post. SA assured that all the ones she had checked had been corrected. RM said that she has been in contact with Go Jauntly as the Colchester Orbital is one of the routes ECC commissioned to be on the app.</p> <p>Concern was raised about the presence on the app of permissive routes and walked lines, that may not legally be public routes. Go Jauntly are not checking with landowners. Could they be open to prosecution? Concern is around the inclusion of non-PROW or routes without landowner's agreements. There is a need to ask them what they are doing about that - what checks are in place.</p> <p>It was suggested that KE as Chairman of ELAF should write expressing our concern about this and suggest that ECC puts its name to those which it has commissioned. It was agreed to first look at & use the app which is free.</p> <p>Action: ALL to look at App.</p>	ALL
5	<p>Colchester Orbital and Barrier Free Walks</p>	
	<p>Rowena Macaulay gave a presentation, with Q&A, on the Colchester Orbital project [www.colchesterorbital.org], Photo Trails and Barrier Free Walks.</p> <p>RM highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • photo trails • barrier 'optimisation' • the legal framework: British Standard BS5709 – 2018 and the Equality Act 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorising structures (DEFRA 2010) • Colchester cycling campaign <p>Photo Trails do not have to be barrier free but flag / photographically show restrictions. Gives people the information that they need and so gives them confidence. Include arrival information and parking. Record type and changes of terrain (e.g. hoggins can be slippery in wet weather). Sections that have no significant changes do not require many photos. Views are motivational. Always photograph in the forward direction - including backwards views is confusing. There was some discussion about RM's recommendation to include a person (e.g. sitting on a seat) - back view OK or with the person's permission.</p> <p>Barrier Optimisation: surveying ongoing on the Colchester Orbital in order to recommend the removal and/or change in barriers. There are many examples of "bad" barriers that restrict access. Barriers may be put in by developers.</p> <p>SR shared an experience she had recently in Great Notley where part of the national cycle network with lots of barriers runs through the village. SR went to the Parish Council who informed SR that they only own two barriers that</p>	

	<p>were put in place because of the traffic concerns. The other barriers are owned by ECC. A big change is required in attitudes towards barriers & the need for them.</p> <p>KE asked for RM's presentation to be circulated or put on the website. Members suggested that photo trails could be something for the August meeting.</p> <p>Action: All to send ideas to RM for a working group.</p>	ALL
6	<p>A12 Widening & Junction improvement: Boreham - Marks Tey Update from Highways England Workshop and Project. Proposals for the Designated Funds Element.</p>	
	<p>A welcome was given to Don Van and Andrea Chadwick who are working on the walking, cycling & horseriding (WCH) provisions on the A12 widening and Junction improvement scheme. ELAF forum members were joined by Councillors and the Chairman of a Parish Council Traffic Advisory Group.</p> <p>The presentation covered improvements being made along the route from Junction 19 at Boreham to Junction 25 Marks Tey (A120 interchange).</p> <p>Junction 19 - improve walking and cycling routes with a bridge to reconnect two sides – bridle way bridge to provide a link from Boreham to the new Beaulieu rail station. There will be 2 proposed toucan crossings.</p> <p>Question: At the bridle way have you agreed with Network Rail that the bridge will go over the rail line? We have had positive discussions and the design process is in hand and have carried this forward. This is talking about the programme in relation to the station and the interface with the station. Yes, the bridge would connect over both the railway line and the A12.</p> <p>Question: Which bridleway is due to be extinguished by Network Rail? It is the second way bridle way across the railway line that would be closed.</p> <p>Question: Timelines - when is it believed that construction will start? Start in 2023 and completion in 2028.</p> <p>Junction 20A to be removed and decommissioned. 2 bridges to be replaced at Hatfield Peverel.</p> <p>Bury Lane, Hatfield Peverel – there is to be a replacement bridge which will connect with the walking & cycling facilities on the NE side.</p> <p>Station Road, Hatfield Peverel – there will be widening of paths.</p> <p>Junction 20B – this junction will be taken out.</p> <p>New Junction 21 midway between Junction 20B and existing Junction 21, Witham South. There will be a link road back to Hatfield Peverel, linking from The Street - joins up with the developers' scheme with a new roundabout. The link road will provide a walking/cycling link from Hatfield Peverel to Witham south avoiding the new improved A12. Can cross the new A12 using the new dumbbell local road junction.</p> <p>Question – Kevin Atwell (Witham South): Is existing exit off the A12 into Witham South to close? And move a few hundred metres to take traffic onto the new road system? A positive answer was given.</p> <p>SA talked through the South link for cycling and horse riding.</p>	

Question: Will the walking side be a separate 3m section or will it be on the roads. It will be separate 3m section.

Query about access to the boarding Kennels -Latneys and the PROW. The slip road bridge across the A12 at Witham South will be decommissioned. So people will have to walk to cross at the dumbbell junction.

KE: Is there any reason why there could not be a footbridge replacing the slip road bridge? Unlikely as the current proposals are the best compromise arrangement.

Witham bypass: will be dualled on-line to three lanes. Bridges to be widened to allow for 3 lanes.

A WCH bridge is planned across the A12 to access the PROW at Maldon Road/ Oliver's nursery.

Whetmead Nature Reserve: The (concreted) access under the A12 by the river Brain floods. No alterations are planned. If the road is made 3-lanes it will be very noisy. There is / will be sound mitigation on the south side of the A12 at Whetmeads.

There will not be a WCH bridge across from Freebournes Industrial Estate. This PROW will be extinguished.

Junction 22: New junction slightly north of the existing J22 Witham North. Suggestion made to put bridge across the A12 and link Route 16 into walking, cycling and horse riding bridge.

Will be WCH improvements to / at Little Braxted Lane which is also National Cycle Route 16. There will be a WCH bridge across the new A12 to link PROWs on both sides of the A12 without having to cross at the new road Junction.

No access to the new A12 at Rivenhall / Braxted Road. There will be a roundabout onto the current to-be detrunked A12. Then access new A12 at new Junction 22. Current A12 de-trunked to be a local road, WC route retained. Bus stops re-instated.

Junction 23 Kelvedon South removed. There will be a single local carriageway from Rivenhall End to the outskirts of Kelvedon with links on either side of route to PROWs.

WCH bridge across the new A12 by the re-instated bus stops by the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service on the south / Snivellers Lane byway on the north. On the south side of the new A12, the current Kelvedon South on-slip is maintained as an access route to the PROW and to the farm. "John Dowding's bridge" on the PROW will be moved slightly and the bridge steps will be replaced with ramps.

Question: Snivellers Lane is linked with a bridge but the at-grade railway crossing was proposed for closure. SA said a decision is awaited from the Secretary of State relating to the Network Rail Transport and Works Act Order. Any closures to have diversionary routes.

Junction 24: current Feering / Kelvedon North will be moved to be a new junction at Inworth Road – dumbbell roundabout configuration. There was a request to future proof (rather than providing at this stage) the junction to provide walking provision across it.

Feering – Prested Hall: planning to provide new local road bridge to serve Prested Hall & Threshelfords as the new A12 will truncate the existing Prested Hall Drive access. The bridge will be suitable for walking, cycling and horseriding.

	<p>Easthorpe Road: The current A12 will be de-trunked with a new roundabout connection to Domsey Chase on the north and a re-aligned Easthorpe Road, with a road bridge with WCH provision over the new A1, on the south.</p> <p>North of Easthorpe Green there will be a road bridge over the new A12 to link existing farms to the current to-be detrunked A12. Able to be used by WCH.</p> <p>Junction 25, Marks Tey /A120 junction - complex</p> <p>A12 plus roundabout northbound to a new roundabout with toucan crossings and new bridge suitable for walking, cycling and horseriding. There will also be improvements to existing paths for cyclist. On the north side there will be a new toucan crossing to Station Road.</p> <p>The existing footbridge across the A12 to the Marks Tey shops will be taken out & replaced with one suitable for walking and cycling.</p> <p>On the south side, there will be a link road to connect the dwellings that currently access directly onto the A12. There will be a bridge across at Dobbies Lane & Potts Green. This should be a WCH bridge not just a WC bridge.</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <p>Shared footpaths (foot-/cycle-ways) are generally being provided within legal requirements which is a 3m minimum width. It is dependent on speed limit and traffic. In some areas like Hatfield Peverel and Witham, a slightly wider facility is planned to link across to encourage local cycle journeys. The shared path designs needs to be segregated between walking and cycling where it permits. Also, accessibility for wheelchair users for crossing features and facilities designed to be accessible. All crossing points to have tactile paving and to the appropriate standards. Segregation where paths are wider can come later if needed, but the current usage does not suggest that it would be appropriate - but it does not mean that it cannot be added later. The busiest location is Station Road in Hatfield Peverel where there is a high walking flow and cycling.</p> <p>A120 scheme</p> <p>MT asked about the proposal for the new A120. Is this going to merge with the A12? The A120 is a separate scheme, however the A12 and A120 teams have been working closely together.</p> <p>The current proposal is ECC's preferred option: To cross from Braintree and join the A12 near the current Junction 23, Kelvedon South. The A12 scheme has taken this into account. The A120 is not a committed scheme but it is in Highways England plan from 2025-2030 but is being prepared at the moment.</p> <p>KE thanked DV for the presentation.</p> <p>DV informed they are planning in-person events in June and also online events too. Is SA on your mailing list? ELAF is on mailing list for walking, cycling and horseriding.</p>	
7	Byway Working Group Update	
	<p>RB had circulated a report on the Byways Working Group meeting of 10 May. Any questions to email RB.</p> <p>Action: All</p>	ALL

8	Blackwater Rail Trail – Project Update	
	<p>SR said that the Countryside housing development at the south (Maldon) end is still at an early stage. The problem is that the old railway line tunnel at Heybridge Road was filled in - so an alternative route is required.</p> <p>Flitch Way: SR also advised that Great Dunmow Town Council are seeking quotations for the Cherry Garden bridge and that Bishops Stortford college have dedicated a link across their lane as public in perpetuity.</p>	
9	Items for next agenda	
	<p>ELAF and Planning applications. Update on Blackwater Rail Trail/ NCN routes.</p> <p>Please email any other items to KE and SA.</p>	
10	Any Other Business	
	No further items discussed.	
	Date of next meeting	
	Tuesday, 10 August 2021. It was proposed that this could be an onsite Photo Trail meeting. Location to be agreed.	