

LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL – MINUTES AND ACTIONS

	PRESENT:
Date: 14 th Jan 2016	Panel Members: Cllr Keith Bobbin, Cllr Anthony Hedley, Cllr Mark Ellis, Cllr Malcolm Buckley, Cllr Nigel Le Gresley, Cllr Kay Twitchen, Cllr Kerry Smith
Venue: Committee Room 4, County Hall	
Apologies: Cllr Melissa McGeorge, Cllr William Archibald,	Other Attendees: Will Price – Highway Liaison Officer, Sonia Church – Highway Liaison Manager, Bradley Blackwell – Apprentice (Essex Highways) Bernard Foster – Parish Council Representative, Cllr Ray Howard – Deputy Cabinet Member

Item:	Action:	Action Owner:
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Cllr Bobbin welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Twitchen asked how updates on schemes should be obtained. Will Price advised that he did try to proactively update Members on schemes of interest between meetings, but that often validations and feasibility studies/designs etc were completed to tie in with meeting dates, hence meetings were often the first opportunity to provide updates. Nonetheless, WP advised that Members could contact him at any time with scheme related questions and he would provide as full a response as possible.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 29^h Sep 2015 and Matters Arising</p> <p>Councillor Bobbin led the Panel through the previous meeting's minutes.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Twitchen queried the progress on the Cabinet Member Briefing Note which she understood was being drafted to seek sign off for the right hand turn ban on Wash Road, Noak Hill Road. WP advised that the Panel were unable to sign off any new schemes until the new financial year, and therefore that the briefing note had not yet been written. Councillor Twitchen reiterated that she felt this should be treated as a priority.</p> <p>WP reminded Councillor Hedley that he had not yet received any information relating to his request for parking improvements on Western Road. Cllr Hedley said he would provide WP with the required info outside of the meeting.</p>	<p>WP</p> <p>Cllr Hedley</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Approved Scheme List</p> <p>WP sought a £60,000 top up for scheme LBAS002014 (A127 Between A128 and B148 VMS). The Panel questioned the usefulness of VMS signs alongside the location of the sign and refused the top up until at least such a time as they had more information. WP said he would bring further info back to the March meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Twitchen aired her frustration that the new signals at the London Road crossing (scheme LBAS 142001) had been incorrectly installed after such a long wait. Cllr Buckley added that it was issues such as this which gave the highways dept at ECC a bad reputation. Cllr Howard and Sonia Church both said they would escalate the issue, but pointed out that there was a standard process for performance issues such as this which involved competency assessments and compensation events for the relevant supply chain partner.</p> <p>Cllr Le Gresley sought an update on scheme LBAS 142046 (Church Rd JW Southend Rd), which he said had been outstanding for a long time. WP advised Cllr Le Gresley that the scheme was in detailed design following last year's feasibility study.</p> <p>Cllr Le Gresley voiced his concern at the amount of funds that had been spent on studies and designs rather than delivery.</p> <p>Cllr Hedley suggested that the Panel needed to get smarter with regard to the commissioning of Feasibility Studies – they should only</p>	<p>WP</p>

commission studies where it is likely that a deliverable scheme would result.

Cllr Twitchen suggested that more robust information was required at the inception of a potential scheme so time was not wasted on un-feasible schemes.

Sonia advised that she was upskilling her staff so that they could provide more immediate information on the validity of schemes, but that WP was already an experienced member of staff.

Cllr Twitchen suggested an agenda item in which the Panel could go through possible scheme ideas. WP advised that Members could raise any new scheme ideas in the AOB section of the meeting, or by contacting him directly outside of the meeting. He advised though that the validity of potential schemes could only really be assessed through the undertaking of site visits and surveys etc, and therefore that Panel Members should continue to follow the scheme request process.

WP advised that he was endeavouring to tighten up on feasibility study standards so that conclusions were reached first time round, thereby preventing one study from rolling into another as was the case in Noak Hill Rd/Wash Rd. He informed the Panel though that often feasibility studies were an essential part of the scheme delivery process.

WP sought a top up for scheme LBAS 152002, Explaining that UKPN connection costs had come in higher than expected. Cllr Twitchen questioned why we were not aware of the connection cost before the scheme was commissioned. WP advised that costs attributed to any scheme at the time of commissioning were only ever estimates, and that it would be impossible to know connection costs until detailed design had been completed and quotes obtained. The top up was approved by the Panel.

WP sought a top up of £3,500 for scheme LBAS155013 (Lincoln Rd Craylands bus stop). The top up was approved.

WP sought a top up of £6,500 for scheme LBAS155014 (Lincoln Rd Hereford Walk bus stop). The top up was approved.

	<p>Twinstead (LBAS152014) – WP reported the findings and recommendations of the design team back to the Panel in relation to Twinstead, Wickford. The Panel agreed to continue with the scheme they had commissioned based on the designers recommendations. Cllr Buckley made it noted that he was still against the scheme.</p> <p>A129 Southend Rd/Bakers Farm Close (LBAS152029) – WP reported back the findings of the feasibility study which had concluded that the site did not meet the criteria for a crossing. The Panel agreed therefore to go ahead with the widening of the pedestrian refuge. Cllr Buckley asked whether pedestrians crossing warning signs could be placed up either side of the refuge. WP advised that he would liaise with engineers and report back.</p> <p>Cllr Twitchen advised that she felt the feasibility studies were too detailed. WP advised that whilst some of the detail may not be relevant to Members, in many cases it would be to officers. However, he said he would pass this feedback on.</p> <p>Members followed up the A13 layby closure scheme (LBAS152031). WP advised that it was scheduled for completion in June 2016, but that he would press for this to be delivered ASAP.</p> <p>Cllr Smith followed up the Lee Chapel School feasibility study (LBAS152038). WP advised that it was scheduled for completion in May 2016. Sonia Church advised that there was new guidance being developed on 20mph zones/limits/variable limits/advisory limits etc which would have an impact on potential 20 schemes throughout the County.</p>	<p>WP</p> <p>WP</p> <p>WP</p>
7.	<p>Report 3 – Ranger Update</p> <p>Cllr Twitchen reported a positive outcome on a recent ranger request.</p>	
8.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>Cllr Twitchen discussed a request for dropped kerbs on Meadow Rise which she had received from a disabled resident. She sought the</p>	

	<p>Panel's views on whether they would support this scheme. The Panel were supportive.</p> <p>Cllr Le Gresley asked whether there were any alternatives (e.g solar power) where we use lit signs that would prevent us from relying on UKPN. Sonia Church confirmed that we use solar powered signs where possible, but often the lack of access to direct sunlight prohibited this.</p> <p>Cllr Smith described a traffic management issue on Clay Hill Road. WP advised that he should submit a scheme request form to allow us to look into the issue and add it to the Potential Scheme List.</p>	
9.	<p>Date of Next Meetings</p> <p>The next meeting date was confirmed as 29th March with room TBC.</p>	