

MINUTES

of the

CHELMSFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

3 September 2012

Present:

County Councillor Jude Deakin	Essex County Council
Councillor Ian Grundy	Chelmsford City Council
County Councillor Norman Hume	Essex County Council
County Councillor Mike Mackrory	Essex County Council
County Councillor Dick Madden	Essex County Council
Councillor Chris Rycroft	Chelmsford City Council
Councillor Roy Whitehead	Chelmsford City Council (Chairman)
Councillor Ian Wright	Chelmsford City Council

In attendance:

Nick Binder	Chelmsford City Council
County Councillor Ray Howard	Essex County Council
Derek Latimer	Chelmsford City Council
Hannah Neve	Essex County Council
Averil Price	Chelmsford City Council
Jon Simmons	Essex County Council
Derek Stebbing	Chelmsford City Council
Joy Thomas	Chelmsford City Council

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Councillor Whitehead welcomed everyone present to the third meeting of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel.

2. **Apologies and Substitutions**

No apologies had been submitted

3. **Minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel Meeting on 5 July 2012**

The minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel meeting held on 5 July 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising**

County Councillor Mackrory asked to be supplied with a copy of the Members' Toolkit and Jon Simmons confirmed that this would be done.

In response to a question it was confirmed that the agenda, without reports, plus the minutes of the LHP meetings would be posted on the Chelmsford City Council website.

The Chairman confirmed that the LHP meetings would continue to meet in private session for the immediate future but that minutes would be sent direct to Parishes. An evening briefing for Parish Councils on the South Essex Parking Partnership and Local Highways Panel was being organised for November.

5. Army and Navy Roundabout Safety Improvements

Hannah Neve advised that at a consultation meeting with key stakeholders held to consider possible schemes for the Army and Navy Roundabout, the option that had received the most support was for enhancement of the signage. This scheme had been passed to WH Atkins for assessment and this had an anticipated cost of £7,300. The results of that assessment could be brought to the Panel or to the Chairman and she anticipated that this would also include a variety of costed options. In answer to a question from Councillor Grundy, she indicated that the scheme might include removal of some of the signage, amendments to the electrical equipment and other statutory undertakers' apparatus. The approval of the Department for Transport might also be needed.

The Chairman commented that the Panel seemed to be being asked to provide funding for schemes which were strategic routes not local roads, outside the Panel's remit. Whilst he felt that the £7,300 for assessment would be acceptable to the Panel, he would raise the matter of the overall funding with County Councillor Martin at the meeting of Essex Leaders and Chief Executives on 6th September. County Councillor Hume also expressed concern about the process and supported the approach to the Leader of Essex County Council. The Chairman asked County Councillor Howard about the potential involvement of the Panel in matters that were not "local". County Councillor Howard indicated that he fully understood the matters that were being raised with such a major scheme and confirmed that he would discuss the matter with the Essex County Council Highways & Transportation portfolio holder, County Councillor Louis.

Hannah Neve asked whether a joint press release could be issued on the option that had been identified.

ACTION

- Essex County Council issue a press release on behalf of itself and the Panel indicating that the option of enhanced signage was being explored but that the Panel had only agreed to fund the assessment and not the scheme itself.

6. Update on Linnet Drive, Chelmsford

County Councillor Madden stated that whilst he had been pleased by the decision of the last Panel meeting to investigate installing a school crossing patrol in Linnet Drive, the subsequent reports in the Essex Chronicle about the scheme not going ahead had led to confusion locally. It was recognised that the public had believed that a decision about employing a crossing patrol had been taken and County Councillor Deakin confirmed that whilst she had indeed spoken to the petitioners she had merely advised them of the decision to investigate.

- Jon Simmons confirmed that the Design Team had assessed the proposals but the policy was only for permanent school crossing patrols to be established with the necessary infrastructure and parking restrictions. Two options now existed either
 - to review and re-advertise the original proposal, with all the previous consultation responses being taken into account and allowing other members of the public to comment, or
 - to assess the need for a school crossing patrol once the parental routes to school had become established after the beginning of the school year.

In answer to a question from Councillor Rycroft, he confirmed that consideration of parking restrictions formed part of the assessment of the school crossing. County Councillor Madden highlighted the local community's desire for a school crossing patrol and that a year long experimental crossing patrol should be established.

The Chairman considered that an up to date assessment was required to take account of the opposition which the original proposal had generated. County Councillor Deakin indicated that she would support any safe means of crossing. In the light of confirmation from Jon Simmons that the option of the zebra crossing could also be pursued on the basis of the evidence of the assessment, she stated her preference for a zebra crossing as the school patrol could be withdrawn if ongoing funding was unavailable. County Councillor Howard advised the Panel that County Councillor Louis had asked him to become involved in the discussions and he asked for a site visit to be set up.

ACTION

- Essex County Council to carry out an assessment of the traffic situation and then advise the residents that the Panel will make a decision on what should be done at its next meeting in the light of that assessment;
- A site visit to be arranged by Councillors Madden and Deakin to show Councillor Howard the area

7. Chelmsford LHP Full Reserve Scheme list

Jon Simmons introduced the revised Reserve Scheme List. Those schemes approved for funding at the last meeting were shown as shaded grey on the list.

The Panel considered a request for a further Casualty Reduction Scheme to be funded, further information had been provided in a site investigation report. This scheme was for resurfacing the Buttsbury Bend, Ingatestone Road, Stock in view of previous injury collisions and it was agreed that this should proceed.

Public Rights of Way Schemes

The Panel agreed that all the "green" and "amber" schemes (PROW numbers 9, 62, 37, 108, 22, 1 and 57 on page 22 of the List) should be progressed. Further information would be supplied to the next meeting for PROW number 45 Bridge over the Wid at Stock.

Cycling Schemes

Hannah Neve explained that although some cycling schemes could be related to Section 106 funding agreements, there may not be sufficient funding for the whole scheme to be delivered and other funds would be needed to "top them up". It was agreed that in future the Reserve Scheme List would indicate where Section 106 monies might be available against

all schemes. Averil Price asked about the costs of IT632 and Jon Simmons agreed that this would be emailed to her. County Councillor Mackrory asked why the Pump Lane Bridge Scheme was estimated at £200,000 and he was advised that this was due to the need to construct a separate cycleway crossing and involved using Network Rail land. In answer to a suggestion by County Councillor Deakin that certain Section 106 monies be used to fund the Miami Road to Hylands House cycle route, the Chairman doubted that this was possible but offered to investigate alternative schemes that could be funded from that specific Section 106 allocation.

It was agreed that all cycling schemes be reviewed at the next meeting with the aid of mapping.

Essex Intelligent Traffic Schemes

Hannah Neve agreed that scheme IT699 for signs at the Army and Navy roundabout should be tied in with the scheme discussed earlier under Agenda Item 5 It was agreed

- to defer a decision on that scheme
- to allocate funding to progress IT675 and IT678
- to request more information about IT679 at Broomfield Road/Parkway, Chelmsford and IT815 at Gunson Gate and
- not to proceed with IT689.

School Crossing Patrol Sites Schemes

Jon Simmons indicated that the School Crossing Patrol Team had allocated the highest priority to schemes 1, 3, 5 and 6. County Councillor Deakin suggested that if scheme 13 at Elmwood School was being funded via a Section 106, perhaps that funding could also be applied to scheme 12 which also related to Elmwood School. Jon Simmons agreed that scheme 13 should be removed but that scheme 12 might not be suitable for the allocation of Section 106 monies.

It was agreed that if scheme 1 (site number 50158) is under £5,000 it should be progressed, scheme 2 (site number 50131) be deferred for further information as to costs, and schemes 3 to 11 on page 17 of the Reserve Scheme List be progressed.

Minor Schemes

Jon Simmons introduced the schedules relating to minor schemes which were the successors to the earlier Localism reserve lists. He confirmed that any scheme which is requested will be validated first and then presented to the Panel. County Councillor Mackrory reported on discussions he had held with ECC officers about New Nabbotts Way zebra crossing when he had been advised that it was being investigated. The Panel noted that this scheme was being evaluated and County Councillor Howard undertook to advise County Councillor Louis that this scheme was supported by the Panel.

The Panel made the following decisions –

- Scheme IT213, IT132, IT223, IT110, IT192, IT243, IT246, IT265 be removed from the List; and
- Schemes IT121, IT566, IT219, IT211, be deferred for further information at a future meeting

County Councillor Hume suggested that on the remaining schemes not indicated above or already agreed, the Chairman be notified of any "amber" schemes that should be progressed immediately and they could then be submitted to the Panel.

9. **Section 106 Schemes Summary**

The current list of Section 106 Schemes which related to traffic management issues was reviewed. It was noted that there was currently very few schemes that required the Panel's consideration. Joy Thomas stated that she was liaising with Keith Blackburn of Essex County Council about CHL/XXX2/06. County Councillor Deakin asked about progress with the upgrading of the bus shelter (10 Galleywood Road, Great Baddow) as County Councillor Miller understood that it was in abeyance and Jon Simmons agreed to investigate the matter and report further to the two County Councillors. Councillor Wright suggested that all Great Baddow cycleway funding should be consolidated and Hannah Neve agreed that the agreements should be grouped together. Joy Thomas confirmed that all the agreements could be grouped as to parish or Chelmsford City Council ward.

Councillor Rycroft commented that in her experience RTPIs were ineffective and it was noted that some schemes were being delayed because of the investigation of their suitability for these mechanisms. The Chairman suggested that the role of RTPIs be investigated as it seemed that in many cases, all that was needed was a bus shelter. County Councillor Hume advised the Panel that he was aware that a review of RTPIs had been commenced. County Councillor Deakin asked that she be advised of progress with the funding relating to CHL/1302/07 and CHL/0757/07 because they were in her division and there was no appropriate Parish Council.

10. **Highways Rangers Summary**

The Panel received for information a summary of the Chelmsford City Highways Rangers work programme. They had undertaken a range of minor local works such as the clearing of vegetation, maintenance of signs and the repair of kerbs between April and July 2012. Jon Simmons in answer to a question explained that the Rangers dealt with minor highways rather than carriageways.

10. **Programme Monitor**

The Panel received a programme of works 2012/2013 for highways maintenance. County Councillor Madden asked about timescales for filling in potholes in the Chelmsford city centre area and Jon Simmons agreed to advise him of the programme. County Councillor Howard provided information on the possibility of a new machine being used to fill potholes and provide a smoother finish and confirmed that some 10,000 potholes had been filled in this year across Essex.

11 **Any Other Business**

A12 Noise Reduction

In answer to a question from Councillor Wright about the likelihood of the current temporary scheme continuing, Hannah Neve confirmed that she had been advised that works had been carried out in Kelvedon due to surface irregularities and the Highways Agency had been asked to supply a "roll out" programme. As soon as she had further information, she would advise Councillor Wright.

12. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be at 12:30 p.m. on 6 November 2012 at the Chelmsford City Council offices.

The meeting closed at 2:50 p.m.

Chairman