

BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES - 24th June 2021 3.00pm

Virtual Meeting (not held in public)

Chairman:	Councillor C Siddall (Chairman) (ECC)
Panel Members:	<p>Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint (ECC) Councillor G Butland (ECC) Councillor T Cunningham (ECC) Councillor D Louis (ECC) Councillor R Playle (ECC) Councillor P Schwier (ECC) Councillor P Thorogood (ECC)</p> <p>Councillor Mrs M Cunningham (BDC) Councillor P Euesden (BDC) Councillor R van Dulken (BDC) Councillor Mrs S Wilson (BDC)</p> <p>Councillor J Bendall (BALC) Councillor D Gronland (BALC)</p>
Officers:	<p>Sonia Church - Highways Liaison Manager, Essex Highways Rissa Long – Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways Charlotte O’Connell - Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways</p> <p>Also in Attendance:-</p> <p>Corinne Foster – Governance and Members Officer (BDC) Lisa Hinman - Area Manager (North Essex Parking Partnership) Neil Jones – Principal Planner (BDC)</p>
Secretariat:	<p>Alison Webb – Governance and Members Officer (BDC)</p> <p>(ECC - Essex County Council) (BDC - Braintree District Council) (BALC - Braintree Association of Local Councils)</p>

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <p>Councillor C Siddall welcomed everyone to the meeting and he invited everyone present to introduce themselves</p>	

	<p>Councillor Siddall had been appointed as the Chairman of Braintree Local Highways Panel following the Essex County Council Election in May 2021.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Public Questions:</p> <p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Samir Pandya – Operations Strategy and Policy Manager (BDC) and Paul Partridge - Head of Operations (BDC)</p> <p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>There were no interests declared.</p> <p>Public Questions:</p> <p>The meeting was not held in public. There were no questions asked, or statements made.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes:</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel held on 25th March 2021 were approved as a correct record.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>Funded Schemes 2020/21 and 2021/22:</p> <p>Consideration was given to a report on the Panel's Funded Schemes for 2020/21 and 2021/22, which had been recommended for approval. The report provided an update on the current position of all schemes in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 programmes of work.</p> <p>It was reported that funding of £407,789 had originally been allocated to Braintree Local Highways Panel for the year 2021/22. Subsequently, a further £200,000 had been allocated making a total of £607,789 available for expenditure in 2021/22.</p> <p>In discussing this item reference was made to scheme LBRA182002 – Layby extension, Yeldham Road, Sible Hedingham. It was reported that an investigation had identified the presence of drainage crates which would make the scheme</p>	

<p>unviable and it was therefore proposed that it should be cancelled.</p> <p>Reference was also made to scheme LBRA173006 – Zebra crossing, South of Stubbs Lane, Cressing Road, Braintree. It was reported that objections had been submitted following consultation. However, it was proposed that the scheme should proceed as there was an identified need for it. Councillor P Thorogood agreed to liaise with Alec Hunter Academy to discuss the objections that had been received.</p> <p>It was reported that scheme LBRA182025 – Speed-watch gateway improvements, A1017 Rowley Hill, Sturmer had been cancelled as the speed-watch initiative was no longer active in the village.</p> <p>It was also reported that scheme LBRA192013 – Installation of box junction, Lawn Chase, Witham had been cancelled as the work had been carried out by other means.</p> <p>Specific reference was made to scheme LBRA162020 – Provision of layby, Finchingfield Road, Steeple Bumpstead and, in particular, the cost of £26,000. The scheme sought to provide a formal parking area for funeral hearses to the rear of Steeple Bumpstead cemetery. The land required for the layby was owned by Essex County Council and the cemetery was owned by Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council. The scheme was supported by the former County Councillor for the Hedingham Division and the Parish Council. Members of the Panel queried if the Parish Council would be making a financial contribution and whether an alternative, less expensive solution could be implemented. Councillor P Schwier, the newly elected County Councillor for Hedingham Division, agreed to contact the Parish Council to obtain more information about the scheme.</p> <p>Action By: Councillor P Schwier (ECC). To contact Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council to obtain more information about scheme LBRA162020 – Provision of layby, Finchingfield Road, Steeple Bumpstead.</p> <p>With regards to scheme LBRA173005 – Provision of a zebra crossing outside Templars School, Cressing Road, Witham it was reported that objections had been submitted following consultation and statutory undertakers’ equipment may also be present. In the circumstances, it was agreed that the scheme should be amended from ‘implementation’ to ‘design’ to ascertain if it was viable and that the allocated budget should be reduced from £67,000 to £10,000.</p> <p>DECISION: That the report be noted.</p>	<p>Cllr P Schwier</p>
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6.	<p>Schemes Awaiting Funding:</p> <p>Consideration was given to a ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’ report, which included details of requests received for funding from the Panel’s budget for the year 2021/22. Members of the Panel were requested to determine which of these schemes should be recommended for inclusion in the Panel’s programme of work. The total value of unallocated schemes on the potential schemes list was £590,000.</p> <p>It was reported that funding of £407,789 had originally been allocated to Braintree Local Highways Panel for the year 2021/22. Subsequently, a further £200,000 had been allocated making a total of £607,789 available for expenditure in 2021/22. Part of the budget had already been allocated to schemes included in the Panel’s programme of work for 2021/22 and Members of the Panel were asked to recommend other schemes for inclusion in the programme.</p> <p>In discussing this Item, Members were advised that scheme LBRA168001 – Improvements to Byway 3, Pentlow had been completed.</p> <p>Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Panel it had been recommended that funding should be allocated mainly to ‘Traffic Management’ schemes and that at their next meeting the Panel should recommend allocating the additional funding of £200,000 to schemes categorised under ‘Walking’, ‘Public Transport’ and ‘Public Rights of Way’.</p> <p>In considering the schemes, Members recommended that two small ‘Traffic Management’ schemes, a ‘Walking’ scheme and a ‘Public Rights of Way’ scheme should be approved and that the balance of the Panel’s budget should be allocated to ‘Cycling’ initiatives identified by Braintree District Council and Essex County Council working together with voluntary cycling organisations. This could include the allocation of funding for a proposed cycle route / walk way between Kelvedon and Earls Colne and, in particular the first stage of this route between Earls Colne and Coggeshall. It was noted that the concept of this cycle route was detailed and that the proposal was at an early stage. However, a technical briefing note outlining the issues had been prepared. It was agreed that a copy of this note should be forwarded to Mr Neil Jones, Principal Planner at Braintree District Council for information as the District Council was currently undertaking public consultation on a cycling strategy and it had recently determined a planning application</p>	

	<p>which would provide a contribution towards the Kelvedon and Earls Colne cycle route via a Section 106 Agreement.</p> <p>It was reported that that there were no specific cycling schemes currently in the schedule of ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’ and that the Panel could only fund schemes listed in the schedule. Furthermore, Essex Highways Officers did not have capacity to progress initiatives which were not in the schedule. However, in order to investigate the possibilities further it was proposed that Councillor Butland as the mover of the motion to allocate funds to ‘Cycling’ initiatives should contact Councillor K Bentley (Leader of Essex County Council) and Councillor L Scott (Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport) about the proposal and to seek their support. It was also proposed that Officers should attend the next meeting of the Panel to present a report on cycling initiatives.</p> <p>Action By: Charlotte O’Connell, Essex Highways. To forward a copy of the technical briefing note relating to the proposed cycle route / walk way between Kelvedon and Earls Colne to Mr Neil Jones, Principal Planner at Braintree District Council.</p> <p>Action By: Councillor G Butland (ECC). To contact Councillor K Bentley (Leader of Essex County Council) and Councillor L Scott (Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport about the proposal to allocate part of the Panel’s budget to ‘Cycling’ initiatives and to seek their support.</p> <p>Action By: Sonia Church, Essex Highways. To make arrangements for Officers to attend the next meeting of the Panel to present a report on the options available to support cycling initiatives.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the discussion on this item Members of the Panel were requested to start identifying possible schemes for inclusion in the Panel’s programme of work for 2022/23. These should be submitted to Charlotte O’Connell - Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways.</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>(1) That the following schemes be recommended for approval and included in the programme of work for 2021/22:-</p> <p><u>Traffic Management</u></p>	<p>(HLO)</p> <p>(Cllr G Butland)</p> <p>(HLM)</p>
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	<p>LBRA182023 – Post for new vehicle activated sign (VAS), Audley End, Gestingthorpe Estimated Cost:- £3,500</p> <p>LBRA 192013 – Provision of parking to improve access by buses, Manor Street, Braintree Estimated Cost:- £6,500</p> <p><u>Walking</u></p> <p>LBRA 173006 – Zebra crossing, South of Stubbs Lane, Crossing Road, Braintree Estimated Cost:- £91,000</p> <p><u>Public Rights of Way</u></p> <p>LBRA 168003 – Improvements, Byway 43, Steeple Bumpstead Estimated Cost:- £45,500</p> <p>(2) That it be recommended that the balance of the Panel’s budget be allocated to ‘Cycling’ initiatives identified by Braintree District Council and Essex County Council working together with voluntary cycling organisations. This could include the allocation of funding for a proposed cycle route / walk way between Kelvedon and Earls Colne and, in particular the first stage of this route between Earls Colne and Coggeshall.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 30th September 2021. The meeting will start at 4.00pm.</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 3.00pm and closed at 4.55pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councillor C Siddall (Chairman)</p>	

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