

COLCHESTER LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2021 - 10.00

ONLINE MEETING: MICROSOFT TEAMS

Chairman:	County Councillor Sue Lissimore
Panel Members:	County Councillors Lewis Barber, Mark Cory, Dave Harris, John Jowers, David King and Lee Scordis Borough Councillors Jeremy Hagon, Mike Hogg, Dennis Willetts and Julie Young.
Officers:	Parish Councillor: Roger Mannion Essex Highways: Jon Simmons – Senior Highways Liaison Officer
Secretariat:	Colchester Borough: Richard Clifford – Lead Democratic Services Officer, Robert Carmichael – Democratic Services Officer.

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: The Chairman welcomed Councillors and officers to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor John Gili-Ross	
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.	
4.	Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting Jon Simmons, Highways Liaison Officer outlined that Sonia Church had sent the presentation to Members on the 9/11/2021 and that since the previous meeting she had moved onto a new position.	

	<p>The Highways Liaison Officer also confirmed that non-democratic bodies such as resident's associations could not apply for VAS/SID.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the item of Active Travel and School Streets had been added to the meeting and was listed as item number 5.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Active Travel Fund Schemes - Update</p> <p>Julian Sanchez, ECC Active Travel Manager presented the report to the meeting outlining the role of the Essex Walking Strategy 2021-2025 and the vision for walking to be a safe and normal part of everyday lives with it becoming the preferred choice for shorter journeys.</p> <p>The Active Travel Manager outlined the objectives of the strategy which included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased walking for everyday journeys 2. Improvements in road safety 3. The promotion of better design and enhanced accessibility 4. To enable physical activity and walking for health. 5. To enable more walking to schools and educational facilities. 6. To promote walking for leisure. 7. To support economic development. 8. To enhance walking in neighbourhoods and to prioritise walking in new communities. 9. To encourage walking by changing attitudes and behaviour. <p>The presentation continued by outlining that there were 5 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPS) and that these would be part of the overall infrastructure improvements. It was noted that Colchester's plan had been worked on in collaboration with Central Government with the active travel fund but that it needed to be updated for 2022.</p> <p>It was outlined that there was also a further ambition to create Liveable Neighbourhoods and School Streets which would deliver bespoke solutions to make journeys safer, greener and healthier. The programme had completed the preliminary engagement stage and School Street Survey and would be starting the formal engagement soon. However, it was noted that some work could be delayed due to the new Omicron strain of Coronavirus.</p> <p>The implementation of the scheme outlined 4 blueprinted parts as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2021/22 Initial School Street with some interventions and quick wins including the implementation of 20MPH zones. 2. Behaviour Change (Cohorts) further interventions which include segregated cycle lanes and times closures. 	

	<p>3. Behaviour Change (Cohorts) Further interventions which include walking and cycling priority.</p> <p>4. Behaviour Change (Cohorts) further interventions which include transformed streets and changing travel habits.</p> <p>It was anticipated that although the timeframe had been designed for implementation in for the new school term the likelihood was that it would not be implemented in full until the 22/23 school term due to Covid.</p> <p>Whilst members indicated their broad support for Active Travel, some concern was raised regarding the scheme and whether it was disjointed and how it linked into other highways initiatives and priorities, and whether the proposals would not be up to the standards of the Government's expectations. The principles of Active Travel needed to be reflected in Highway's responses to planning consultations. It was suggested that there needed to be a cultural change not just from the public but from officers as well.</p> <p>Members also questioned the East to West links and why they did not continue further into Stanway considering the expected large growth in population in the immediate future.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised about vegetation which was blocking routes and who had the responsibility for maintaining these areas for walking and cycling and that there needed to be a clarification on which routes were cycle paths and which were walking paths as there were sometimes conflicts between users.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the scheme had an urban focus and should take account of the needs of parents, particularly in rural areas, who often had no choice but to drive children to school, as a consequence of school allocation decisions taken by the County Council.</p> <p>Members discussed the importance of the communication of the active travel plans and that a holistic strategy would be needed which included traditional communication not solely relying on social media. Ward Councillors should be utilised for the dissemination of key messages as they had effective local networks.</p> <p>The Active Travel Manager thanked Members for their comments on the proposals and surrounding issues which would be fed back into the programme.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes 2021/22</p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an update on the current position of all the schemes which the Colchester Local Highway Panel has recommended for inclusion in their 2021/22 programme.</p>	

	<p>In discussion the following update was provided about the funded schemes in 2020-21:</p> <p>2- Icen Way build out improvements: It was reported that the design had been finalised and could be implemented in December 2021 if £15,000 was agreed to be funded by the panel.</p> <p>In discussion the following update was provided about the funded Schemes in 2021-2022:</p> <p>1. Rowhedge Village, Traffic Management Improvements: 2 objections had been received which would need to be considered.</p> <p>4. Trinity Street, Signage review: completed November 2021</p> <p>5. A134 Jw Nayland Road, Cycling Improvements: Completed October 2021</p> <p>7. Wood Lane, Fordham Heath, 20s Plenty: Signage had been installed in October 2021.</p> <p>10. Wick Rod, Langham, Traffic Management improvement: completed October 2021</p> <p>15. The Commons Colchester, Zebra Crossing: Completed November 2021</p> <p>16. Straight Road, Dedham Road, J/w Carters Hill. Boxted, Crossing Point Improvements: Now programmed for Q3.</p> <p>18. Avon Way, Nr jw Magnolia Drive, Crossing Point: Road safety audit has raised issues and around the crossing point and a further stakeholder meeting will take place to which Cllr Young would be an invited to.</p> <p>19. Avon Way nr Hamlet Drive, Colchester, Crossing Point: The Scheme was updated to include parking restrictions which are currently being advertised.</p> <p>20. Footway Between 34-36 Queen Mary Avenue and j/w King George Road, Crossing Point – Works will now be included within an asset pavement scheme in Q4.</p> <p>23. Nr Oaks Academy School, School Road, Langham, Kerbs: Design completed in October 2021.</p> <p>24. O/s 86-88 Copford Primary School, School Road, Copford, School crossing Patrol: Currently on hold by School crossing Patrol team as school has advised that there has been a change in the way that pedestrians access the School.</p>	<p>JS</p>
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<p>7.</p>	<p>Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The Panel considered the report on the Schemes awaiting funding as presented by the Highways Liaison Officer who outlined that the list was robust. In order to help decisions on funding at the next meeting he asked that all County Council Members nominate two schemes in priority order and a reserve on the list as a priority and</p>	

	<p>email these to him after the meeting. Borough Members should submit their nominations through the relevant County Council division member.</p> <p>Members discussed the criteria for their choices, the deadline for submission and that the budget for the schemes would be decided by Essex County Council in February.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>An issue was raised by Cllr Mannion regarding Church Road in Tiptree and the possibility of a new zebra crossing to the Asda store. Residents had been asking for a new feasibility survey as this had been on hold for a number of years. Cllr Jowers responded that there were issues surrounding this and that it would be discussed outside the meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting of the Local Highway Panel would take place on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 March 2022, (Venue and format of the meeting to be confirmed.) 	