

CHELMSFORD CITY LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES

15 December 2022

at the Civic Centre, Chelmsford

Chairman:	County Councillor Mike Mackrory
Panel Members:	<p>Chelmsford City Council – City Councillors Jennie Lardge, Stephanie Scott and Chris Shaw</p> <p>Essex County Council – County Councillors Marie Goldman, Ian Grundy, Anthony McQuiggan, Stephen Robinson, Jude Deakin and Mike Steel</p> <p>Representing Parish Councils – None</p>
Officers:	Jon Simmons and Dan McClean - Essex Highways
Secretariat:	Murphie Manning and Jan Decena - Chelmsford City Council

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors John Spence and Bob Massey, from City Councillor Jeremy Lager and Parish Councillor Wendy Daden.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 30th June 2022 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	

4.	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p><i>LCHE226001 – School Lane, Broomfield</i> – In response to a question from Cllr Steel the panel heard that although the signage was in place, this scheme is still ongoing as they are looking to fill posts for crossing patrols. The panel noted that there is often difficulty in sourcing volunteers.</p> <p><i>LCHE202018 – Valley Bridge</i> – Cllr Robinson raised that the keep clear road markings that had been implemented only appear to be on one side of the road, therefore the scheme may be incomplete. Jon Simmons will review this and report back to Cllr Robinson.</p> <p>(Cllr Scott arrived at the meeting at 13:06)</p>	JS
5.	<p>Funded Schemes 2022/23</p> <p>The Panel received an update on the schemes in the Funded Schemes Programme for 2022/23. The panel were reminded that they can view monthly updates, with more up to date details online, using the following link –</p> <p>https://www.essexhighways.org/chelmsford-lhp-schemes-list</p> <p>The update provided an estimated completion date for all schemes, and some were raised in more detail by officers and members:</p> <p><i>LCHE182006 – Savernake Road</i> – The designs on this scheme will be shared with all interested members once the costings have been finalised. Jon Simmons offered to host a MS teams meeting to review these in more detail, when available.</p> <p><i>LCHE172044 – Writtle – Verge Improvements</i> – Objections had been raised in response to an informal consultation on this scheme. The parish council had advised that they could respond to this consultation in February, it was AGREED by the panel that the parish council would be asked to submit any response by 15th January in order for the scheme to progress.</p> <p><i>LCHE182011 – Footpaths off Dorset Avenue</i> – Cllr Shaw identified that this scheme is now complete and asked what arrangements are in place for emergency services use. The panel were reassured that the keys used for the bollards is a standard key that all emergency services are able to open and that any local groups that may need to remove the bollards can request a key.</p> <p><i>LCHE188001 – Footpath 76 Galleywood</i> – In response to an enquiry from Cllr McQuiggan the panel was advised that this scheme is due to be implemented in quarter 4, weather permitting.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JS</p>

	<p><i>LCHE212007 – Breeds Road/Woodhall Hill, Chignal Smealy</i> – It was noted that the parish council were unhappy with the completed design. It is common practise for there to be a gateway on each side, but this was not considered feasible in these circumstances. In response to an enquiry from Cllr Steel the panel were advised that should the parish councils' comments be accepted it would require a redesign.</p> <p><i>LCHE192009 – Gloucester Avenue Zebra Crossing</i> – It was noted that underground apparatus surveys reflect that there was no suitable location for a zebra crossing on this road. Other areas are being explored.</p> <p><i>LCHE202038 – Maltese Road, Traffic Management Improvements</i> – The panel were advised that consultation on this scheme began today (15/12/22).</p> <p><i>LCHE182053 – Milburn Crescent Layby</i> – The panel heard that there have been issues with land acquisition and that this scheme may slip to the next financial year.</p> <p><i>LCHE182054 – Central Chelmsford Signage</i> – It was noted that the funding for this scheme was released to Chelmsford City Council and were reminded that this was the last £50,000 of the £150,000 funding.</p> <p><i>LCHE212034 – Little Waltham Traffic Review</i> – The ANPR survey has been booked and we are awaiting a programme date.</p> <p>AGREED that the Funded Schemes List, as amended by the decisions above, be noted.</p> <p>(13:08 – 13:21)</p>	
6.	<p>Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The panel were advised that although £57,375 was available to be allocated to schemes on the Awaiting Funding list they are unable to make any spending commitments at this time in the financial year. Members expressed their disappointment in the process by which funding is agreed and spent and hoped that the ongoing LHP review would improve support.</p> <p>The latest list of schemes awaiting funding was submitted to the meeting. Members had the opportunity to ask for more information on particular schemes:</p> <p><i>LCHE152057 – Old Moulsham 20mph zone</i> - In response to an enquiry from Cllr Deakin the panel heard that the review of the speed limit in Old Moulsham will be used to explore the similar schemes in other areas, including in Cllr Deakins division.</p>	

	<p><i>LCHE202039 – Maldon Road, Great Baddow Zebra Crossing</i> – In response to an enquiry from Cllr McQuiggan the panel were advised that this scheme was now in validation.</p> <p><i>LCHE192041 – Westway j/w Clock Tower retail park – Right turn lane</i> – Jon Simmons will report back to Cllr Deakin as to why this scheme is not proceeding.</p> <p><i>LCHE203005/LCHE203006 – Salt bins for Hillside Grove and Cherry Garden Lane</i> – Cllr Goldman raised concerns as to why these schemes have been delayed, given the current weather conditions. Jon Simmons reassured the panel that these schemes are being looked into. Cllr Steel also raised a query as to who is responsible for spreading salt. This is done by local volunteers; more information can be found via the salt bag partnership –</p> <p>https://www.essexhighways.org/salt-bag-partnership</p> <p><i>LCHE223001 – Fortinbras Way, No Cycling Sign</i> – Cllr Goldman raised concerns as to the cost of this scheme. The panel were advised that the actual cost would likely be much lower as it could be combined with other projects.</p> <p><i>LCHE154007 – Melbourne Avenue Footway/Cycleway</i> – In response to a query from Cllr Robinson the panel were informed that this scheme, and similar ones, can be designed using LHP funding allowing officers to seek funding from elsewhere e.g., housing developers.</p> <p><i>LCHE155026/LCHE175010/LCHE215001 – Bus Shelters at various locations</i> – In response to queries from Cllr Lardge and Cllr Shaw the panel heard that a new contract should be in place in the new year. Cllr Shaw raised a particular issue in Great Baddow where the parish council would like to fund a bus shelter and are not able to do so and was informed that any standard models may proceed as normal but intelligent bus shelters will have to wait until the audit is completed. Further to a query from Cllr McQuiggan, Dan McClean agreed that he circulate clear guidance as to ownership and maintenance of bus stops to both members and parishes.</p> <p>The panel AGREED that it would be beneficial for a subgroup to meet again in January 2023 to review future schemes in more detail and prioritise schemes for 2023/24 funding which would be reported back at the next panel meeting in March 2023 for the consideration of the whole panel.</p> <p>The panel were reminded that it may not be suitable to proceed with any red schemes at this stage of the year and that officers are not</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>DM</p> <p>DM</p>
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	<p>seeking funding recommendations. It would be best for this to be considered by the subgroup.</p> <p>In response to an enquiry from Cllr Grundy regarding validation delays the panel heard that the officers had suffered some resource and staffing issues, but this is now resolved.</p> <p>The panel heard that the new system for logging schemes is still being developed and should be in place in the next financial year. This will improve the way that councillors can submit a request for a new scheme and track the progress of existing ones.</p> <p>In response to an enquiry from Cllr Steel the panel were advised that should funding be granted by another organisation (e.g., parish council) then new design/implementation could potentially proceed this year. Any such scheme could need to be considered through Essex Highways Solutions.</p> <p>AGREED that the Schemes Awaiting Funding List, as amended by the decisions above, be noted.</p> <p>(13:21-14:01)</p>	
7.	<p>OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>In response to the Chair's query regarding the removal of the highways ranger service the panel heard that any issues should be reported to the highways inspectors at Essex County Council using the online reporting tool, link to online reporting tool -</p> <p>https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us</p> <p>Following a query from Cllr Robinson the panel heard that the highways authority has used their legal powers under the highways act to require owners of private land to clear any foliage etc obstructing a public path.</p> <p>(14:01-14:06)</p>	
8.	<p>Dates of Meetings for 2022/23</p> <p>AGREED as 16 March 2023, with the date of the subgroup to be agreed at a later date.</p>	

The meeting closed at 14:07

Chair