

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
MINUTES – 16 JANUARY 2023, 17:30 HRS
VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

Chairman:	Councillor Ray Gooding (ECC Member)
Panel Members:	Councillors Susan Barker (ECC Member), Martin Foley (ECC Member), Paul Gadd (ECC Member), Geof Driscoll (UDC Member), Rod Jones (UDC Member) and Geoffrey Sell (UDC Member)
Also Present:	Councillor Danielle Frost (Great Dunmow Town Council)
Officers:	Essex Highways – Daniel Maclean, Highway Liaison Team Leader Essex Highways - Sarah Tomlin, Highway Liaison Officer
Secretariat:	UDC – Clare Edwards – Democratic Services Officer

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Panel.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence and Declarations of interest:</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interest.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 24 October 2022 to be agreed as correct record:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2022 were approved as a correct record.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of the previous meeting:</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the previous meeting, the Panel agreed that the last minutes were comprehensive.</p>	
5.	<p>Report on Funded Schemes</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that the remaining funded schemes were all due for completion in Quarter 4.</p>	

	<p>The following comments were made:</p> <p><u>Scheme 3 Byway 75 Debden – surface improvements to byways.</u> Councillor Jones asked for an update on this scheme as he did not think it was necessary for the byway to be resurfaced. The Highways Liaison Officer said that the scheme was shown as ‘completed’ on the paperwork. She agreed to find out what work had been carried out and report back to the Panel.</p> <p><u>Scheme 17 Ongar Road, Gt Dunmow – 40mph buffer speed limit.</u> In response to a query from Councillor Jones, the Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that the design would be completed in Quarter 4.</p> <p><u>Scheme 25 Duton Hill, Great Easton, Water Gauge</u> The Highway Liaison Officer said that a water gauge would require permission from the Department of Transport and a dossier of evidence. Councillor Foley agreed that the proposed warning signs for flooding should go ahead and the water gauge revisited if necessary. He said that the gullies were blocked underneath with mud and debris. The Highway Liaison Officer agreed to contact Highways Maintenance to request that the drains were jetted.</p> <p><u>Scheme 42 Birchanger 20 when lights flash</u> In response to a query from Councillor Driscoll, the Highway Liaison Officer said that there might be some items that had been completed but were not yet shown as the Panel papers had been collated before the Christmas break.</p> <p>Following a query from the Chair, the Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that all schemes were due to be completed in Quarter 4. The Chair asked that the Panel be notified if any slippage occurred.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding:</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that there were a lot of schemes awaiting funding marked as ‘in validation.’ She said she was working with the Design Team and these should be ready for the new financial year.</p> <p><u>Scheme 1 Cambridge Road, Stansted – HGV route VAS and Scheme 6 High Lane, Stansted – Road reclassification</u> Councillor Sell said that scheme 1 should still go ahead as the signage would be needed to stop vehicles heading towards Grove Hill. He asked for an update on both schemes.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that these both related to the Grove Hill feasibility study which would be completed this quarter.</p> <p>The Chair said that there had also been correspondence with Councillor Scott regarding Grove Hill and the legislation involved. He said progress was being made and both the feasibility study and</p>	

the work regarding the legislation would bring everything together.

Scheme 12 High Cross Lane Easter, Little Canfield – weight limit and speed limit.

Councillor Barker said that this was potentially Great Canfield and not Little Canfield; she said it was important to identify the areas correctly in order for residents to identify the schemes.

Scheme 29 Howe Green Road, Little Hallingbury – Traffic calming

Councillor Barker said that this scheme was Great Hallingbury and asked that it be changed.

Scheme 26 Walden Road, Radwinter Road, Ashdon – Speed Indicator Device

Councillor Foley said that this was an existing device that needed replacement, but agreed that the scheme could be removed from the list as it did not meet the speed criteria. He said that the Parish might apply using their own funding. He agreed to discuss this with the Highway Liaison Officer outside the meeting.

Scheme 28 Bartlow Road, Hadstock – Passing places and kerbing.

Councillor Foley had visited the site and said that the side of the road was rutted and he was concerned that it could cause an accident. He asked if there were any temporary measures that could be taken. The Highway Liaison Officer said that she would ask the design team to prioritise the scheme for validation and if Councillor Foley sent details of exact locations she would report to an Inspector so that it could be checked.

Scheme 37 Walson Way/Hampton Road, Stansted – 20s plenty signage.

In response to a question from Councillor Sell, the Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that this scheme would be validated by the March meeting.

Scheme 40 Hoblongs Junction, Gt Dunmow – junction reconstruction

Councillor Jones asked that if the Smith farm development was not built would the improvements to the junction go ahead. He was concerned because there had been another two accidents in the last three weeks and something needed to be done.

He said that there were plans for a gyratory system and a traffic light controlled crossing onto the byway that formed part of the Flich Way.

The Highway Liaison Officer said that this sounded like it might be outside of the Local Highways Panel (LHP) remit but the Panel could fund a feasibility study and ground works. She said she would speak to the Road Safety Engineering Team to investigate further as they should be aware of the accidents that had taken place.

8. Any Other Business

Councillor Driscoll said that Great Easton still had a problem with heavy trucks, through Rands Road, High Roding. He said that it was not possible to stop the trucks using the road but that traffic had no option but to make passing places. He asked if designated passing places could be considered. Councillor Barker said they had looked at this in the past but there was not enough road width.

Councillor Driscoll asked if there was any news on the issue at Birchanger Lane. The Chair said that this related to maintenance but he had chased for more information. They agreed to speak outside of the meeting.

Councillor Jones said that a resident had reported a problem regarding the mini roundabout at the junction of Hibbert Drive, Mercier Road and Algar Close in Dunmow. He said there were no road markings, although there was a 20mph speed limit; delivery drivers were ignoring the junction and going straight across the crossroads. The Highway Liaison Officer said that the Panel could potentially fund some signage and road markings if this was determined to be feasible. Councillor Jones agreed to put forward a scheme.

There was discussion regarding the £98k underspend.

Councillor Gadd said that Uttlesford District Council (UDC) were trying to commission a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan and there was a need for an extra £20k of funding. He asked if the LHP could fund through the underspend.

The Highways Liaison Team Leader said that Essex County Council (ECC) had held back the £200k additional funding which had not been released. He said that because of this there was in fact an overspend of just over £100k as some of the funding had already been allocated to schemes. He said that if ECC decided not to release the money they had confirmed that the schemes already allocated would go ahead, but there was no extra funds available for this year.

Councillor Gadd said that it had been specifically agreed that ECC money would be spent before UDC money. He said therefore all ECC money had been spent and £98k of UDC funding was uncommitted.

The Chair said that this needed clarification outside of the meeting, he said he would be meeting with the UDC Chief Executive, Peter Holt, to confirm next year's funding and this could form part of the discussion.

The Highways Liaison Team Leader said he would also seek more clarity.

	<p>Councillor Gadd found the e-mail, dated 28th March 2022, from Peter Holt to Andrew Cooke setting out the position with the funding and said he would forward it to both the Highways Liaison Team Leader and Highways Liaison Officer.</p> <p>Councillor Sell asked when the Highways Ranger Service had ceased. He said for some of the smaller villages the Rangers were important and asked if there had been any feedback from other Parishes.</p> <p>Councillor Barker said that she had received feedback from Parishes who said that they found it difficult to communicate with the Rangers and did not know the status of schemes within the system.</p> <p>The Chair said that he had received a mixed response as well; some Parishes had never used them because of the limitations on where they could work.</p> <p>Councillor Foley said that his Parishes felt that it was difficult to get the Rangers to carry out work within their set criteria. He said that overall the Parishes did not want to fund this going forward.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Sell regarding flooding on Church Road in Stansted, the Chair said he had spoken to his Highways buddy who was managing the work within the confines of the Highways responsibilities. He said that this had been put forward for a flood alleviation scheme.</p> <p>Councillor Barker asked if the Highways Liaison Officer could meet with each of the County Councillors before the next meeting to establish which schemes within the Parishes were the most important.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that the next meeting on 27th March 2023 would be moved to the later time of 7pm and would be in person. <p><i>The meeting closed at 6:22pm</i></p>	