

BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES – 19th March 2026 at 5.00pm

Meeting held ‘In Person’

Chairman:	Councillor C Siddall (Chairman) (ECC)
Panel Members:	<p>Councillor L Bowers-Flint (ECC) Councillor G Butland (ECC) Councillor T Cunningham (ECC) Councillor P Schwier (ECC) Councillor P Thorogood (ECC)</p> <p>Councillor J Ayten (BDC) Councillor K Bowers (BDC) Councillor G Spray (BDC) Councillor R van Dulken (BDC)</p> <p>Councillor S-C Cornelius (BALC) Councillor T Edwards (BALC) Councillor J Robertson (BALC)</p>
Officers:	<p>Dan Maclean – Highway Liaison Team Leader (EH) Esme McCambridge – Operations Strategy and Business Support Manager (BDC)</p> <p>Also in Attendance:- Lisa Hinman – Area Manager (North Essex Parking Partnership)</p>
Secretariat:	<p>Alison Webb – Governance and Members Officer (BDC)</p> <p>(EH – Essex Highways) (ECC - Essex County Council) (BDC - Braintree District Council) (BALC - Braintree Association of Local Councils)</p>

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome:</p> <p>Councillor C Siddall, Chairman, welcomed all attendees to the meeting and he invited everyone to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Councillor Siddall was pleased to welcome Councillor S-C Cornelius, who had been appointed to the Panel as a representative of BALC.</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 Councillor K Barnes (BALC) and Councillor R Playle (ECC).</p> <p>An apology for absence was also received from Jennifer Boxall - Highway Liaison Officer (EH).</p> <p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>There were no interests declared.</p> <p>Public Questions:</p> <p>There were no questions asked, or statements made by members of the public.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes:</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel held on 25th September 2025 had not been included on the Agenda and they were not presented for approval.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25th September 2025:</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel held on 25th September 2025 had not been included on the Agenda and they were not presented for approval. No matters arising were raised.</p>	
5.	<p>Funded Schemes 2025/26 and 2026/27:</p> <p>Consideration was given to a report on Braintree Local Highways Panel's Funded Schemes for 2025/26 and 2026/27, which had been recommended for approval. The report provided an update on the current position of all schemes in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 programmes of work.</p> <p>Members of the Panel were reminded that at a previous meeting they had been requested to prioritise schemes for inclusion in a two-year rolling programme of work covering the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27. It was noted that the Panel's budget for the two-year programme amounted to £611,400, that schemes having a total value of £530,300 had already been approved for inclusion in the programme and that a sum of £81,100 remained to be allocated.</p>	

	<p>Members of the Panel were advised that higher than normal costs were currently being incurred in respect of approved schemes and that the Panel was not being requested to recommend further schemes for inclusion in the two-year programme of work. The schemes which were awaiting funding would be considered by the Panel at its next meeting to be held on 25th June 2026.</p> <p>However, due to exceptional circumstances and the need to implement road safety measures without delay, it was proposed that scheme LBRA212034 – West Street, Coggeshall, Allocated Budget £12,000 should be recommended for inclusion in the Panel’s programme of work for 2026/27 and funded.</p> <p>In discussing this item, it was agreed that updates regarding the implementation of the following schemes should be circulated to the Members of the Panel - LBRA212019 (Traffic Management) - (Zebra crossing), The Street, Gosfield Estimated Cost:- £16,000; LBRA232089 (Traffic Management) - Signage review, Hulls Mill Lane, Great Maplestead Estimated Cost:- £16,500; and LBRA242009 (Traffic Management) – Parking restriction review, Manor Street, Braintree Estimated Cost:- £6,400.</p> <p>During discussion of this Item, reference was also made to the process for reporting and repairing potholes. It was agreed that a copy of Essex County Council’s ‘Essex Maintenance Strategy’ should be circulated to Members of the Panel for information as this provided guidance on the process.</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>(1) That it be recommended that the following scheme be approved:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Traffic Management</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">LBRA212034 – West Street, Coggeshall Estimated Cost:- £12,000</p> <p>(2) That the report on the Panel’s Funded Schemes for 2025/26 and 2026/27 be noted.</p> <p>Action By: J Boxall, Essex Highways, as indicated.</p>	<p>J Boxall (HLO)</p> <p>J Boxall (HLO)</p> <p>J Boxall (HLO)</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p><u>LBRA242020 – Traffic calming measures, Bulford Mill Lane, Crossing</u> <u>Estimated Cost:- Not applicable (status assessed as ‘red’)</u></p>	

	<p>Councillor P Thorogood, the elected Member for Braintree Eastern Division of Essex County Council referred to this scheme which had been considered at previous meetings of the Panel.</p> <p>Members were reminded that this scheme had been categorised as ‘red’ as it did not meet Essex Highways’ criteria, but that discussions had taken place with Essex County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport and Essex Highways’ Officers regarding a possible solution. The discussions had concluded that the only option was to close one end of the road to prevent traffic from passing through and to provide a turning circle to enable vehicles to manoeuvre and to return via the access. This option was outside the scope of the Panel and Essex Highways did not own land in the area that could be utilised, but local landowners had subsequently offered land for this purpose. In the circumstances, Councillor Thorogood queried whether the scheme could be supported by the Panel.</p> <p>Councillor Thorogood was advised that the Highways Panel would not be able to assist with this matter and it was suggested that he should raise it with Councillor M Platt, Essex County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport.</p> <p><u>B1018, Cressing – Footpath to Galleys Corner</u></p> <p>Councillor P Thorogood, the elected Member for Braintree Eastern Division of Essex County Council expressed concern that there was no longer a connecting footpath between Cressing and Galleys Corner. This was a key route for local people, particularly children attending Alec Hunter Academy, Braintree for whom the provision of school bus transport had recently been withdrawn by Essex County Council. This matter had been raised at the previous meeting of the Panel.</p> <p>It was noted that finance had been provided in the past by a developer to fund the footpath connection, but it had not been provided. In addition, it was noted that the imminent temporary closure of the B1018 in the vicinity would have provided an ideal opportunity for the work to be undertaken.</p> <p>Councillor Thorogood was advised that the Highways Panel would not be able to assist with this matter and it was suggested that he should raise it with Councillor M Platt, Essex County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport.</p>	
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