

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES –
6 APRIL 2021 15:30 HRS
POSTPONED MEETING FROM 29 MARCH 2021
VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

Chairman:	Councillor Simon Walsh (ECC Member)
Panel Members:	Councillors Susan Barker (ECC Member), Ray Gooding (ECC Member), John Moran (ECC Member), Geoffrey Sell (UDC Member).
Also Present:	Councillor Nigel Robley (Hatfield Heath Parish Council), Councillor Martin Foley
Officers:	Essex Highways – Rissa Long, Highway Liaison Officer Essex Highways – Sonia Church, Highway Liaison Manager
Secretariat:	UDC – Clare Edwards

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: The Chair welcomed the Panel.	
2.	Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest: Apologies were received from Councillor Deryk Eke and Councillor Danielle Frost (Great Dunmow Town Council). No declarations of interest were received. Councillor Barker asked for it to be noted that no one from the administration was present at the meeting.	
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes of the meeting held on 11 th January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.	
4.	Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Councillor Barker said that she had looked into the B1256 raised at the last meeting by the speaker, Terry Gibson. The area in question was already hatched and so unfortunately there was nothing more that could be done.	



<p>5.</p>	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Nigel Robley a Councillor at Hatfield Heath, raised concerns about speeding along the A1060. He welcomed the schemes being put forward and asked if the solar powered speeding sign could register the actual speed of vehicles going past as this increased the likelihood of drivers slowing down. He offered the Parish Council's help, if it was required, especially around any local issues with land. The Parish Council was working with the Uttlesford Community Safety Officer and the police to increase the policing of these areas to supplement the proposals.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that all the items were on the awaiting funding scheme list, two items had been through the validation process and could be formally agreed at the meeting. The validation for the VAS and flashing 20 mile an hour sign had been held up by Covid restrictions but would also be progressed in due course.</p> <p>Councillor Foley asked if the weight limit sign on the bridge on Great Easton could be replaced as a priority as large lorries were using the bridge.</p> <p>Following a question from Councillor Foley, the Highway Liaison Officer said that Thaxted Town Council had withdrawn their application for a 20mph speed limit through the Town Centre due to the aesthetics of the signage required. Unfortunately, this meant that the scheme could not be raised again at Thaxted Parish Council for 6 months.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer asked if Councillor Foley could ring Highways direct about a drain cover that had dropped and was dangerous on the B184 corner with Richmonds Green. This would then be dealt with more quickly.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes 2020/2021</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that items 6 and 15 needed to be carried forward to next year and the budget reallocated. All other schemes had been completed.</p> <p>In response to a concern raised by Councillor Barker, the Highway Liaison Officer said she would look into the positioning of new signs in Leaden and High Roding which had been hit by lorries because they were too near the road.</p>	



	<p>Councillor Moran asked about the following schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He had not seen a feasibility report for Item 3 - the Highway Liaison Officer said she would forward on.• He queried item 15, the Highway Liaison Officer said it had been deferred to next year and the funding could be agreed in this meeting.• The Highway Liaison Officer said that item 24 had been formally advertised and no objections had been raised so it could be taken forward. The position of the signage needed to be discussed with the Uttlesford Conservation Officer due to the protected verge at Audley End. She would liaise about the positioning and provide a date for installation as soon as practicable. <p>Councillor Sell asked for an update on item 8. The Highway Liaison Officer said some of the issues had arisen due to the Parish Council asking for items that were not viable, she said she would report back on the specifics. Councillor Gooding said that the Grove Hill scheme could affect the signage at Stansted Mountfitchet, he suggested that this was discussed outside of the meeting.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The budget was discussed and the Highway Liaison Officer said there was £236k from Essex County Council (ECC) and £200k from Uttlesford District Council (UDC). She said she had received an e-mail from the Director of Finance and Corporate Services which suggested that this may not be available.</p> <p>Councillor Foley said he would try and clarify the matter for the meeting.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said there was extra funding from ECC of £200k which had been agreed but how it would be spent had not been finalised.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that all green items on the list would be considered, but she recommended that the funding for the Public Right of Way at Debden was put on hold and the money set aside for the completion of the Quendon traffic calming scheme and the footway / cycleway on Thaxted Road in Saffron Walden, (partly funded by s106).</p> <p>Following a question from Councillor Sell, the Highway Liaison Officer clarified that the £200k from UDC would not be considered at this meeting.</p>	



All the following schemes were agreed by the Panel for funding:-

Safer Roads

- Item 1 A1060, casualty reduction scheme
- Item 2 post construction safety audits

The funding for the remaining two items from 2020/21, Saffron Walden Market amendments and Chelmsford Road widening.

Traffic Management

Items 1 to 5 had previously been discussed and Members agreed to fund these schemes formally.

Items 8 and 12 were schemes that had been on the list for a couple of years. Further to a question from Councillor Gooding about signage on the alternative route due to North Hall Road in Ugley being closed. The Highway Liaison Officer asked for Councillor Gooding to send details of the specific location. If the signage was permanent it could be added to one of these schemes, otherwise it would need to go through maintenance.

Item 17, B183, signage improvement.

Item 26, Quendon village traffic calming. In response to a question from Councillor Sell, the Highway Liaison Officer said that other calming measures had been put forward by the Parish Council and items that fit the criteria and safety concerns would be progressed. She would share the design when it was complete.

Item 31, Stortford Road/Chelmsford Road mini roundabout design

Item 38, the speed reduction scheme at Wimbish was agreed although Councillor Barker had concerns that this was not a natural 30mph zone and therefore the speed limit would not be adhered to.

Item 46, Audley End speed limit amendments.

Item 52, A1060 Mini roundabout was approved for funding, the Highway Liaison Officer said it needed to have formal approval from the Secretary of State for the common land issues. This would be revisited but would take some time.

Item 53, Saffron Walden Town Centre permanent 20mph limit. Councillor Barker raised the issue of where the signs would be sited. The Highway Liaison Officer said there would be repeater signs every 200 metres.



In response to a question from Councillor Moran, the Highway Liaison Officer said that item 53 could not be funded from a Covid contingency fund as this fund had been for temporary measures during the pandemic. The Highway Liaison Manager confirmed that this would be funded by the Local Highway Panel.

Walking

Item 1 Highfields Debden, pedestrian drop kerb, this had been previously agreed as a priority 2 scheme.

It was decided that Item 3, the widening of the footway at Stansted Road Elsenham would be removed from the list and dealt with as a maintenance issue by the Highway Rangers. Councillor Gooding said that it would need to be properly maintained.

Councillor Barker said that although this was a maintenance issue she had similar footpaths in Margaret Roding and the problem was the Highway Rangers said it was too dangerous to work on but people were expected to walk on the footpath. She suggested that the Rangers needed to be able to have access to suitable traffic management so that they could work safely.

Item 4, High Street, Saffron Walden, tree investigation. It was initially decided that this was maintenance, however, Councillor Moran explained that the heritage paving was not suitable, and therefore the investigation would look into other alternative surfaces. It was decided to keep this on the list and fund the investigation.

Cycling

Item 1, Great Chesterford to Saffron Walden Cycleway. In response to a question from Councillor Barker, the Highways Liaison Officer said other applications for cycling grants had not been made.

The Chair said that this scheme should be funded and that it fitted well with carbon reduction measures.

Public Rights of Way

There were three schemes that could be funded, the Highway Liaison Officer said she recommended items 1 byway at Lubberhedges Lane and Long Green Lane and footpath 50 in Thaxted be agreed, but the byway 75 in Debden be postponed and revisited in the June meeting. This was agreed.

Following a question from Councillor Barker the Highways Liaison Officer clarified that the winter closure for the byway at Lubberhedges Lane and Long Green Lane would not necessarily be part of this scheme as it took time to put in place. It would need to be resolved in the future.



	<p>The Highways Liaison Officer explained the reason to defer the byway 75 in Debden was to keep funding back to complete the Quendon and footpath in Saffron Walden schemes. Members agreed to hold money back and for the Debden byway to be prioritised for the June meeting if the funding was available.</p> <p>In response to concerns raised by Councillor Gooding regarding on going maintenance costs of the byways, the Highways Liaison Officer said that byways were not maintained at the same level as roads.</p> <p>Councillor Barker asked for further clarification with regards to the funding and asked that if all extra funding was agreed, (£200k from ECC and the £200k from UDC) could this money then be rolled over into the following year to finish schemes that had feasibility studies completed.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Moran about items 13 and 15 the Highways Liaison Officer said these were in validation and could be considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Sell, the Highways Liaison Officer said that more Highways Rangers could not be considered from the capital budget as they were a revenue function. She thought that there was not enough on going work for another team of Rangers. Councillor Gooding asked if the Highways Rangers could have more support and the use of traffic control so that some works on more dangerous roads could be carried out safely.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Foley regarding a 'Beware Horses' sign in Gallows Green. The Chair said he would check and come back to him directly.</p> <p>Councillor Gooding asked if Parish Councils could be notified if the schemes they put forward were agreed or not.</p>	
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The meeting dates for the year were noted:-</p> <p>Monday 14th June 2021 at 2pm Monday 27th September 2021 at 2pm Monday 17th January 2022 at 2pm Monday 28th March 2022 at 2pm</p>	

Meeting closed at 4.52pm