

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

MINUTES – 28 SEPTEMBER 2020 14:00 HRS

VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

Chairman:	Councillor Simon Walsh (ECC Member)
Panel Members:	Councillors Susan Barker (ECC Member), John Moran (ECC Member), Ray Gooding (ECC Member), Geof Driscoll (UDC Member), Rod Jones (UDC Member), Geoffrey Sell (UDC Member).
Also Present:	Maureen Caton, Ruth Clifford, Michael O'Reilly
Officers:	Essex Highways – Rissa Long, Highway Liaison Officer Essex Highways – Sonia Church, Highway Liaison Manager
Secretariat:	UDC - Ben Ferguson, Democratic Services Manager UDC – Clare Edwards, Democratic Services Officer

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: The Chair welcomed the Panel.	
2.	Apologies for Absence and Declarations of interest: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Eke (UDC Member)	
3.	Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes of meeting held on 8 th June 2020 were agreed as a correct record.	
4.	Matters Arising from Minutes of the previous meeting: Two minor amendments were requested as follows: To correct the time and venue of the meeting. Last paragraph of item 5, road name is B1256.	
5.	Public Questions Maureen Caton, Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, spoke regarding five applications that had been submitted but had received no acknowledgement.	

	<p>The Highway Liaison Officer stated that the two applications relating to parking issues in Lower Street needed to be passed onto the North Essex Parking Partnership as they fell under their remit. The Zebra Crossing lighting, parking on verges and B3183 junction traffic light applications had other issues that needed to be resolved. Councillor Gooding and the Highways Liaison Officer agreed to discuss the matter outside of the meeting.</p> <p>Michael O'Reilly, a resident of Great Dunmow, was concerned about speeding and road side safety at Church End. He said that one side of the pathway was very narrow and, to leave space for other pedestrians, people were stepping into the road. This combined with speeding cars and motor bikes made this part of Church End very dangerous.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer understood the issues but said that signage did not always work; it was largely ignored and enforcement was a police issue.</p> <p>Councillor Barker asked if rumble strips would be a viable option. Both the Highway Liaison Officer and Highway Liaison Manager said these caused a noise nuisance and could not be installed within 300 metres of residential properties, unless property owners gave written permission. This was not considered a workable solution as the road was heavily residential.</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll asked why Essex County Council (ECC) were adverse to speed cameras as they reduced the speed of traffic and were a source of income.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager stated that static cameras were run by SERP and these were targeted in places where there were real concerns for road safety. Average speed cameras could be installed but a contribution of at least 50% was required from the parish to cover cost. Such measures were expensive with two cameras costing approximately £150k.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that any similar problems in other areas would need to be sent through in the usual way on an LHP request form. She said she would follow up the issue raised by Mr O'Reilly in Great Dunmow.</p>	
5.	<p>Report on Funded Schemes 2020/21</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said the two new schemes agreed at the last meeting had been costed at circa £18k. Definitive costs would be confirmed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Sell asked for an update on items 7 and 8. The Highway Liaison Officer stated that item 7 was ready to be progressed and should be completed in the next 2 months. Item 8 has been held up</p>	

	<p>due to Covid restrictions but could now proceed and had been allocated to an Engineer.</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll stated that there were funds available at Uttlesford District Council (UDC) of £100k but ECC had not match funded these amounts. He requested that this be looked into.</p> <p>There was further discussion regarding money allocated to UDC that had not been used in the previous financial year. The Chair agreed to raise the issue of match funding with Councillor Bentley and to report back to the Panel.</p> <p>Councillor Jones agreed that ECC needed to speak to UDC about this extra funding. He asked if the remaining budget of £8.5k would be put towards the extra two schemes that had been added to the programme at the June Panel meeting. The Highway Liaison Officer agreed and said the intention was to use the extra funding to progress the extra schemes.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Moran regarding the gateway signage at Windmill Hill, Saffron Walden, the Highway Liaison Officer said the scheme was currently awaiting a date for installation and that an update would be provided in the near future.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Gooding, the Highway Liaison Officer said the traffic calming scheme at Wicken Bonhunt had not yet received funding but she would discuss the request with him outside of the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Barker thanked the Highway Liaison Officer for keeping her updated on the railings outside St Mary's and the roundabout at Rosemary Lane.</p> <p>Councillor Jones was concerned about item 1 with vegetation obscuring the reflective posts and signage. The Highways Liaison Officer advised that vegetation clearance would be picked up as part of the scheme. She reiterated that the works did not include an extension to the speed limit.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer drew the attention of the Panel to items 7, 12, 13, 14 and 19 which had all been completed.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that the budget for 2020/21 had been fully allocated but the priorities for the following year would be discussed at the next meeting in January.</p> <p>Councillor Gooding raised items 22 and 23 both relating to 40mph buffer zones. The Highway Liaison Officer said that there were legal objections which needed to be resolved before the scheme was progressed.</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll commented that on leaving Stansted there was a 40mph sign on the road side and a roundel in the road for 50 which</p>	
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	needed to be taken out.	
6.	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll asked for an update on item number 9 and asked if wig wags would be a viable option.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager apologised and said the site visit had not been carried out yet but she would arrange a time to go and meet with any Parish representatives.</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll said he would liaise with the Parish and confirmed that the relevant form had already been submitted. He added that the Parish were willing to discuss issues surrounding the ongoing maintenance budget.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Sell regarding Items 18 and 24, the Highway Liaison Officer said that this was a major piece of work and, for the declassification of the road to be approved, there had to be a suitable alternative route. She said the issue of Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) using the road could be improved with signage.</p> <p>She added that if the road's status was changed from B' to a 'C' the level of road maintenance could potentially drop as a result. She said the installation of VAS signage was a potential cost effective solution to deter oversized vehicles from using Grove Hill, although there were concerns regarding enforcement of such weight restrictions.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Driscoll relating to item 16, the Highway Liaison Officer said the scheme was awaiting funding. She said there was still an opportunity to submit new schemes for the next financial year, with potential schemes to the value of £162,000 currently on the 'awaiting funding list. Members were asked to submit any further schemes that they had in mind. She added that there was scope for schemes to be funded from the Section 106 pot, as per the signage on Windmill Hill and a Zebra crossing at Ashdon Road.</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Barker, the Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that the Highway Rangers had resumed full service.</p> <p>Councillor Sell asked why Highway Liaison Officer's surgeries had been discontinued.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager said that the capacity of Uttlesford's Highway Liaison Officer had been reduced as she had taken on an additional area following a staff member's departure.</p>	

	<p>Councillor Barker said this should be communicated to the Parishes.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager said a lot of work had been carried out on the website to make it more interactive and to provide better 'self-service'. She said she would communicate such changes with local councils.</p>	
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>11th January 2021</p>	

Meeting closed at 3.15