

Minutes

Braintree District Local Highways Panel

19th January 2017

(Comprising representatives of:-

Essex County Council
Braintree District Council
Braintree Association of Local Councils)

Present:-

Councillor R Walters (Chairman)
Councillor J Abbott
Councillor J Bendall
Councillor D Gronland
Councillor P Horner
Councillor R Mitchell
Councillor Lady Newton
Councillor D Smith
Councillor Mrs S Wilson
Vacancy

Essex County Council
Braintree District Council
Braintree Association of Local Councils
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Essex County Council
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Essex County Council

Councillor P Barlow (Braintree District Council) (until 7.05pm), T Cunningham (Braintree District Council) (until 6.45pm) and H Johnson (Braintree District Council) (until 7.10pm) were also in attendance.

Officers

Sonia Church - Essex Highways
Matt Valentine - Essex Highways
Jasmine Wiles - Essex Highways (Apprentice)
Samir Pandya - Braintree District Council
Alison Webb – Braintree District Council

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Partridge (Braintree District Council) and Councillor Mrs M Cunningham (Braintree District Council)

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no interests declared.

2 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel held on 22nd September 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

INFORMATION:

Minute 3 - Matters Arising and Minute 6 – Schemes for Consideration by the Panel

(Scheme to extend the footway from Rolphs Farmhouse to Bretton, Boars Tye Road, Silver End)

Councillor Abbott clarified that a landowner had offered the land required to enable section 2 of the footway to proceed, not section 1. It was reported that although this scheme would include the gift of land, it would not be possible for the scheme to proceed until the acquisition of that land had been completed. Furthermore, it was noted that the proposed destination point of sections 2 and 3 of the footway did not link to another footpath.

This matter was discussed further under Item 6 - Schemes for Consideration by the Panel (Minute 5 refers).

Minute 5 – Braintree Cycleway Schemes

(Scheme IT753 – cycleway at John Ray Park, Braintree)

Councillor Lady Newton stated that it had been brought to her attention that 'Jacobs' was working on a design for a cycleway scheme at John Ray Park, Braintree. However, the Panel had previously recommended that no funding should be allocated to this scheme, subject to it being reconsidered once the Panel's budget allocation for 2017/18 was known.

It was reported that Jacobs, not Ringway Jacobs, was producing designs for possible local cycleways as part of the overall cycle strategy for Essex. Officers agreed to obtain information on designs being prepared for the Braintree District.

Action By: Sonia Church, Essex Highways. To obtain information on cycleway designs being prepared for the Braintree District by Jacobs and, if appropriate, to invite representatives of Jacobs to attend the next meeting of the Panel to report on their work

Minute 9 - Scheme LBRA142006 - B1018 Braintree Road, Cressing
(Scheme to widen the carriageway and install a footpath and new kerbing at the B1018 Braintree Road, Cressing)

It was reported that a planning application for the development of an adjoining area of land had yet to be determined. It was anticipated that the application would be considered by Braintree District Council's Planning Committee on 14th February 2017. Whilst the decision of the Committee was not known, it was understood that if the application was granted a Section 106 Agreement would enable the required road improvement work to be undertaken. It was proposed that this matter should be reviewed at the Panel's meeting scheduled for 30th March 2017 when the 2017/18 budget allocation would be confirmed.

This matter was discussed further under Item 6 - Schemes for Consideration by the Panel (Minute 5 refers).

4 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were three statements made. Details of the people who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

5 **SCHEMES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PANEL**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report containing a schedule of possible schemes.

It was reported that the anticipated capital budget for Braintree District Local Highways Panel for 2017/18 would be £407,789. Members were asked to review the schedule of possible schemes and to recommend those which they considered should be given priority for funding in 2017/18. It was proposed that a rolling programme of highway improvement works amounting to £550,000 should be determined. Members were reminded that schemes with a total value of £222,500 had already been approved for funding in 2017/18 and that £30,000 had also been allocated to a cycleway scheme at Vernon Way to Blackwater Way, Braintree. This meant that £297,500 was available within the 2017/18 rolling programme to allocate to possible schemes. The cost of casualty reduction schemes would also have to be met from the 2017/18 budget and it was anticipated that this could amount to £50,000.

In considering this Item, reference was made to scheme LBRA142006 – carriageway widening, installation of a footpath and new kerbing, B1018 Braintree Road, Cressing. Members were reminded that this scheme had been discussed at previous meetings of the Panel when it had been agreed that the scheme should be held in abeyance pending the determination and outcome of negotiations relating to a development proposal for the area and that the scheme should be brought forward for implementation if this became

feasible. The scheme also involved the acquisition of land. Design work was currently being undertaken on the scheme.

Councillor Lady Newton had met with County Councillor Bass in 2016 when he was Cabinet Member for Infrastructure to discuss the maintenance of the existing footway. Councillor Bass had indicated that the County Council could contribute £100,000 from its 2017/18 programme of work if this would assist the Panel in taking the proposed scheme forward, leaving the Panel to contribute £125,000. At the last meeting of the Panel it had been agreed that the scheme should be reconsidered by the Panel once the Panel's budget allocation for 2017/18 was known. It was noted that the planning application for the related development proposal had yet to be determined.

Whilst Members continued to express concern about the dangerous condition of the footway at the 'Cressing bends' and the need to complete this scheme as soon as possible, it was acknowledged that it would utilise a considerable part of the Panel's budget and it was suggested that the scheme should instead be centrally funded by Essex Highways. It was reported that following amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Local Highways Panels and the associated Members' Guide it was now possible to request the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and the Cabinet Member for Highways to consider the funding requirements of schemes costing between £200,000 and £500,000. It was agreed that this scheme should be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Panel when it was hoped that the design work would have been completed and the anticipated cost known.

Action By: Sonia Church and Matt Valentine, Essex Highways. To include Scheme LBRA142006 – carriageway widening, installation of a footpath and new kerbing, B1018 Braintree Road, Cressing on the Panel's next Agenda for consideration.

In discussing this Item, reference was made to a scheme to extend the current 40mph speed limit by 300m at B1024 Coggeshall Road, South of America Road, Earls Colne. This had been categorised as red and had not been recommended to the Panel for approval. The Cabinet Member for Highways had not supported the scheme as it contravened the Essex Speed Management Strategy and he did not want to set a precedent for exception. In addition, the evidence provided demonstrated that current average speeds were already low and it was unclear what benefit the scheme would have. Councillor Bendall, Chairman of Earls Colne Parish Council, wished to record his dissatisfaction with the outcome of this matter and that he had not been able to present a case in favour of the scheme when he had met with the Cabinet Member to discuss it.

Specific reference was made to scheme LBRA162044 – provision of a pedestrian crossing at Church Hill, Earls Colne. It was reported that the results of the latest PV2 survey had been received on 19th January 2017 and did not recommend the provision of a crossing. However, Members of the Panel queried when the survey had been carried out as the road was significantly busier when children were going to and from Earls Colne Primary

School nearby. It was agreed that Officers should meet on site with Councillor Bendall, Chairman of Earls Colne Parish Council, at a time stipulated by him to observe traffic movements.

Action By: Matt Valentine, Essex Highways. To arrange a meeting with Councillor Bendall to Church Hill, Earls Colne.

In considering the schemes put forward for 'Quiet Lane' status, it was agreed that information should be sent to Silver End Parish Council on how the costs of such schemes are calculated.

Action By: Matt Valentine, Essex Highways. To forward information to Silver End Parish Council on the calculation of costs for the designation of a 'Quiet Lane'.

During the discussion of this Item reference was also made to the Highway Rangers. It was noted that a report on the work of the Rangers could be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel if required.

DECISION:

- (1) That the following schemes be recommended for approval, subject to the specific comments denoted:-

Passenger Transport

LBRA165008 – Installation of a cantilever wooden bus shelter, Broadway, Silver End
Estimated Cost:- £8,500

LBRA165009 – Installation of a cantilever wooden bus shelter, War Memorial, Black Notley
Estimated Cost:- £8,500

Public Rights of Way

LBRA168002 – Improvements to Footpath 19 Hatfield Peverel
Estimated Cost:- £25,000

(It was queried why this path required a black top).

Action By: Matt Valentine, Essex Highways. Matt Valentine agreed to report back to the Panel on why this path required a black top.

Traffic Management

LBRA162002 – Traffic management improvement - the island (Green) to be reduced in size at the junction to allow space for vehicles to make the turn easier, High Street, Great Bardfield
Estimated Cost:- £21,000

LBRA162004 – Detailed design for the removal of two courses of bricks from the bridge to lower the parapet; relocating the existing

street light column and replacing; re-aligning the existing pedestrian barrier; lowering or removing the top timber rail of the return fencing to the parapet; replacing the footbridge timber rails, Chipping Hill Bridge, Chipping Hill j/w Powers Hall End, Witham

Estimated Cost:- £10,000

(In discussing the above scheme it was agreed that further investigations were required into possible solutions, including altering the position of the stopping point in advance of the bridge).

LBRA162007 – Detailed design to upgrade the current zebra crossing to a signalised crossing, Swan Street, Sible Hedingham

Estimated Cost:- £25,000

LBRA162010 – Traffic management improvements to signing, lining and mini-roundabouts, Mill Lane/Guithavon Valley, Witham

Estimated Cost:- £36,500

LBRA162045 – Design for official passing place, Otten Road, Belchamp Otten

Estimated Cost:- £3,000

LBRA152141 – Topographical survey and feasibility study to investigate the potential of raising the kerb outside No. 3 Bridge Street, Bridge Street, Bures

Estimated Cost:- £5,000

LBRA162046 – Traffic management improvement - Removal of centre lining and installation of edge of carriageway markings on both sides, The Street, Cressing

Estimated Cost:- £6,000

LBRA162036 – Traffic management improvement. Clare Road – Installation of bend warning signage with 30mph sub plates; Belchamp Road – upgrade chevron signs adjacent to the public footpath and remove centre lines where the carriageway is not 5.5 metres in width; Tilbury Road - remove centre lines where the carriageway is not 5.5 metres in width, Clare Road, Belchamp Road and Tilbury Road, Tilbury Juxta Clare

Estimated Cost:- £12,000

LBRA162042 – Installation of 'pedestrians in the road' signs, Doghouse Road j/w Church Lane, Pattiswick

Estimated Cost:- £4,000

LBRA162048 – Installation of two new 'weak bridge ahead' signs with directional arrows, Ridgewell Road and The Street, Ashen

Estimated Cost:- £3,000

LBRA162050 – Extension of double yellow lines North of Mallows Field to the j/w Harvey Street, Mallows Field, Halstead
Estimated Cost:- £3,000

LBRA162052 – Traffic management improvement. Installation of a 40mph Speed Indicator Device and additional repeater signs, A1017 Yeldham Road, North of Nunnery Street, Castle Hedingham
Estimated Cost:- £10,000

LBRA162051 – Feasibility study - widening of footway, Burrows Road, Earls Colne
Estimated Cost:- £4,000

LBRA162057 – Installation of verge marker posts on the outside bend of Wethersfield Road, East of the junction for the RSPCA centre on the Southern verge, Wethersfield Road, Sible Hedingham
Estimated Cost:- £4,000

Walking

LBRA152123 – Installation of new granite kerbs to footway, B1389 Bridge Street, Witham
Estimated Cost:- £15,000

LBRA152064 – Feasibility study into the installation of a pedestrian crossing facility, Panners roundabout, adjacent to the Hungry Horse Public House, A131, Great Notley
Estimated Cost:- £25,000

Quiet Lanes

LBRA162027 – Implementation of three Quiet Lanes at Lamb Lane, Innham Hill and Southey Green, Sible Hedingham
Estimated Cost:- £10,000

LBRA162033 – Implementation of a Quiet Lane at Woolpits Road, Great Saling
Estimated Cost:- £6,000

- (2) That consideration of the following scheme be deferred to the Panel's meeting on 30th March 2017 pending the receipt of legal advice on land ownership and an investigation into the extent of a new footpath to be provided on the opposite side of the road as part of a housing development.

Walking

Completion of sections 2 and 3 of the footway (Rolph's Farm to Brettons 400m), Boars Tye Road, Silver End
Estimated Cost - £75,000

6 **PROGRAMME OF SCHEMES - ALREADY RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL/PROGRAMMED FOR DELIVERY**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report setting out a programme of schemes which the Panel had recommended for approval. The programme included those schemes for which work had subsequently been agreed, cancelled, or recently completed. The report included a table which showed the number of schemes per category which had been completed, or for which funding had been recommended and were either being progressed within the 2016/17 financial year, or scheduled for work in the 2017/18 financial year.

Members were advised that a programme had been set for the expenditure of the Panel's 2016/17 capital budget of £407,789, plus an additional number of schemes to account for some 'roll over' from the 2015/16 financial year and to develop a rolling programme of works. Some schemes within the rolling programme had been identified for implementation in the 2017/18 financial year. Information regarding anticipated completion dates for schemes would be reported in terms of 'quarters' until such time as the road space had been booked and a start date confirmed.

It was anticipated that the schemes scheduled for work during the 2016/17 financial year would be completed and that the Panel's budget would be spent in full. An update would be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

In considering this Item, it was reported that queries raised by Councillor D Smith of the Braintree Association of Local Councils in a recent E-Mail would be answered in writing by Matt Valentine, Essex Highways.

DECISION: That the programme of schemes recommended for approval at previous meetings of the Panel be noted.

7 **SECTION 106 AGREEMENT – PROGRESS UPDATE**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on the progress of three schemes which were being funded via Agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The schemes were HB13017 (BTE171) – extension of layby at A1017, Sturmer; HB14003 (BTE1229) – junction improvements at Rose Hill/Station Approach/South Street, Braintree; and HB16022 – infrastructure improvement works in vicinity of site, Maltings Lane (Bentons Park), Witham.

Details of the amount of funding available for schemes would be included in future reports.

DECISION: The progress report was noted.

8 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE PANEL**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to the date for the next meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel. The Chairman indicated that he would not be able to attend the meeting and it was therefore agreed that Councillor Mitchell, the Vice-Chairman of the Panel, should take the chair on this occasion.

DECISION: It was noted that the next meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel would take place on 30th March 2017.

Councillor Walters stated that as he was neither able to attend the next meeting, nor standing for re-election at the forthcoming Essex County Council election this would be the last meeting that he would attend. Councillor Walters indicated that Braintree District Local Highways Panel was a very good Local Highways Panel and had a reputation across the County for achievements and getting things done. The Members of the Panel thanked Councillor Walters for his Chairmanship.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.57pm.

Councillor R Walters
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

19TH JANUARY 2017

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

- 1 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 6 – Schemes for Consideration by the Panel
Traffic Management Scheme Ref 17 – Installation of SID, North End Road, Little
Yeldham

Statement by Councillor Mike Graham, for Little Yeldham, Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington Parish Council, c/o Mr Adrian Corder-Birch, Clerk to the Parish Council, Rustlings, Howe Drive, Halstead

- 2 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 6 – Schemes for Consideration by the Panel -
Passenger Transport Scheme Ref 2 – Installation of wooden bus shelter, Black
Notley Memorial

Statement by Councillor Tom Cunningham, Braintree District Ward Councillor for Great Notley and Black Notley, 35 Malyon Close, Braintree

- 3 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 6 – Schemes for Consideration by the Panel
Traffic Management Scheme Ref 2, LBRA162004 – Design work, Chipping Hill
Bridge, Chipping Hill j/w Powers Hall End, Witham

Traffic Management Scheme Ref 4, LBRA162010 – Traffic management
improvements to signing, lining and mini-roundabouts, Mill Lane/Guithavon Valley,
Witham

Statement by Councillor Michael Lager, for Witham Town Council, 45 Chipping Hill, Witham