

BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES - 23rd January 2020 7.15pm

Committee Room 1, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree

Chairman:	Councillor R van Dulken (Vice-Chairman in the Chair) (BDC)
Panel Members:	<p> Councillor J Abbott (ECC) Councillor Mrs J Beavis (ECC) Councillor R Mitchell (ECC) Councillor Mrs W Schmitt (ECC) </p> <p> Councillor Mrs M Cunningham (BDC) Councillor P Horner (BDC) Councillor Mrs S Wilson (BDC) </p> <p> Councillor J Bendall (BALC) Councillor D Gronland (BALC) Councillor D Smith (BALC) </p> <p>Councillor T Cunningham (BDC) was also in attendance.</p>
Officers:	<p> Sonia Church – Highway Liaison Manager, Essex Highways Jasmine Wiles – Asst. Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways </p> <p> Emma Day and Lisa Hinman representing North Essex Parking Partnership were also in attendance (until 7.35pm). Ian Henderson representing Essex Highways, Casualty Reduction Team was also in attendance (until 8.03pm). </p>
Secretariat:	<p>Alison Webb – Governance and Members Officer (BDC)</p> <p> (ECC - Essex County Council) (BDC - Braintree District Council) (BALC - Braintree Association of Local Councils) </p>

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: Councillor R van Dulken welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor R van Dulken reported that Councillor D Louis, Chairman of Braintree Local Highways Panel, was unable to attend the meeting and that as the Vice-Chairman of the Panel he would be Chairing this meeting.	
2.	Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Public Questions:	

	<p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Butland (ECC) and Councillor D Louis (ECC).</p> <p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>There were no interests declared.</p> <p>Public Questions:</p> <p>There were no questions.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes:</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel held on 25th September 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:</p> <p>It was reported that all action points which had been recorded at the meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel held on 25th September 2019 had been dealt with, and updates were provided.</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>‘3 PR Scheme’ - North Essex Parking Partnership:</p> <p>Consideration was given to a short presentation by Emma Day on North Essex Parking Partnership’s ‘3 PR Scheme. This scheme sought to reduce traffic congestion and the parking of vehicles near to primary schools by encouraging people to walk and cycle to school.</p> <p>It was explained that the scheme incorporated three levels, which participating schools could work towards. These levels were ‘bronze’, ‘silver’ and ‘gold’. The ‘bronze’ level encouraged pupils to produce a leaflet to highlight issues relating to parking near their school and possible solutions. The ‘silver’ level sought to introduce an unenforceable no-parking zone outside the school with pupils collecting tokens each time that parking in the area was avoided. The ‘gold’ level sought the introduction of a ‘walking bus’ system. Five to ten minutes was considered to be an appropriate duration for people to walk to school.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that local schools had reacted positively to the scheme and that by March 2020 a total of 17 schools in North Essex would be participating.</p> <p>In discussing this matter, Members of the Panel supported the scheme and agreed that children must be encouraged to walk to school. However, concern was expressed that NEPP was not consulted about planning applications for new, large scale housing developments. It was reported that Essex Highways' procedure for responding to consultation about such applications was currently subject to an internal discussion.</p> <p>It was agreed that Emma Day's contact details should be made available to Members of the Panel should they require more information about the scheme. Emma Day was also encouraged to contact Sonia Church, or Jasmine Wiles, Essex Highways should she experience problems with any schemes which the Highways Panel might be able to resolve.</p> <p>Action By: Jasmine Wiles, Essex Highways – To forward Emma Day, North Essex Parking Partnership contact details to Members of the Panel.</p>	(HLO)
6.	<p>Casualty Reduction Schemes – Essex Highways:</p> <p>Consideration was given to a short presentation by Ian Henderson, Essex Highways on proposed Casualty Reduction 'safer roads' Schemes.</p> <p>It was explained that four schemes were being pursued. These included improvements to and re-alignment of the B1018 Witham Road, at the junction with Temple Lane adjacent to Cressing Barns; and the provision of a separate right turn filter at the junction of Millennium Way with Charter Drive, Braintree. It was proposed that design work should be carried out on these schemes in the current financial year and that the schemes should be implemented in the next financial year. Consideration was also being given to the provision of a right turn filter for traffic travelling north-bound at the junction of London Road with St Michael's Road and Clare Road, Braintree. This junction was currently being monitored, with design work possibly being undertaken in the next financial year. The fourth scheme was of a smaller scale and proposed improvements to signage and chevrons in the vicinity of 'Feering bends', Frame Farm, Coggeshall Road, Feering. It was proposed that this scheme should be designed and implemented in the next financial year.</p> <p>It was noted that statistics provided by the Department of Transport, including the consequential costs associated with fatal, serious and slight accidents, were used to determine Casualty Reduction Schemes. In addition, modelling work was undertaken to determine</p>	

	if a proposed scheme would provide effective mitigation and to gauge its impact on the local road network.	
7.	<p>Funded Schemes 2019/20:</p> <p>Consideration was given to a report on the Panel's Funded Schemes for 2019/20, which had been recommended for approval.</p> <p>The report provided an update on the current position of all schemes in the 2019/20 programme of work and it included information about two schemes in the 2018/19 programme of work which had now been completed.</p> <p>The budget summary for 2019/20 showed a total capital budget of £407,789. From this, £87,500 had been allocated to 'safer roads' schemes and £348,000 to other schemes.</p> <p>In discussing this Item, Members of the Panel expressed concern that highway related issues that could possibly be mitigated via Section 106 Agreement contributions, or by other means, were often not being identified when planning applications for development were determined.</p> <p>DECISION: That the report be noted.</p>	
8.	<p>Schemes Awaiting Funding:</p> <p>Consideration was given to a 'Schemes Awaiting Funding' report, which included details of requests received for funding from the Panel's budget.</p> <p>Members of the Panel were advised that, as the cost of proposed 'safer roads' schemes was not available, they should defer recommending schemes for inclusion in the Panel's forthcoming programme of work until the next meeting. However, Members were requested to highlight any schemes which could be removed from the list.</p> <p>The total value of unallocated schemes on the potential schemes list was £732,000, excluding 'safer roads' schemes.</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>(1) It was agreed that the following schemes, the status of which has been assessed as 'green' as they meet the criteria, should not be recommended for approval at this time but remain on the list of Schemes Awaiting Funding, subject to the specific comments denoted:-</p>	

	<p><u>Traffic Management</u></p> <p>LBRA182002 – Parking (installation of parking places/amendment to road layout/vehicle accesses), Yeldham Road, Sible Hedingham Estimated Cost:- £6,500 (The Panel agreed that this scheme should remain on the list of Schemes Awaiting Funding, but did not agree that the provision of vehicular accesses was the solution. Members of the Panel noted that other options were available).</p> <p>LBRA182007 – Parking (extension of layby/vehicle accesses) Syers Field, Blackmore End, Wethersfield Estimated Cost:- £6,500 (The Panel agreed that this scheme should remain on the list of Schemes Awaiting Funding, but did not agree that the provision of vehicular accesses was the solution. Members of the Panel noted that other options were available).</p> <p>LBRA152140 – Upgrade of existing pedestrian refuge to a signal controlled crossing, B1389 Hatfield Road, Witham Estimated Cost:- £6,500 (The Panel agreed that, should this scheme be recommended for approval, it should be funded entirely from the Panel's budget and not from Section 106 Agreement contributions).</p>	
(2)	<p>That it be recommended that the following schemes be removed from the list of Schemes Awaiting Funding:-</p> <p><u>Traffic Management</u></p> <p>LBRA182036 – Request for bollards, Panfield Lane, Bocking Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA182037 – Provision of 'give way' signage, Deanery Gardens, Bocking Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192025 – Request for bollards, High Street, Halstead Estimated Cost:- Not known (The Panel agreed that North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) should be requested to take enforcement action in respect of vehicles parked at this location on double yellow lines)</p> <p>LBRA192027 – Request for priority working system and installation of parking bays outside the school, Church End, Shalford Estimated Cost:- Not known</p>	

	<p>LBRA192028 – Request for priority working system, Victoria Hill, Pods Brook, Shalford Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192029 – Request for a mini-roundabout, B1053 j/w Barryfields, Shalford Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192030 – Request for double yellow lines, Clifffield, Shalford Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192031 – Request for ‘community speed watch area’ signage, B1053 Braintree Road, Shalford Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192032 – Reduction in speed limit from 40mph to 30 mph, entrance to Shalford from Wethersfield direction. Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192035 – Reduction in speed limit from unrestricted 60mph to 30 mph, Water Lane, Shalford Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192036 – Reduction in speed limit from 40mph to 30 mph, Church End to Shalford Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192037 – Request for ‘community speed watch area’ signage, Church End, Wethersfield Road, Shalford Green, Shalford Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192041 – Traffic management improvements, Constance Close, Witham Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p>LBRA192043 – Traffic calming measures, Polecat Road, Cressing Estimated Cost:- Not known</p> <p><u>Walking</u></p> <p>LBRA193008 – Request for a zebra crossing, Colchester Road, Halstead Estimated Cost:- Not known</p>	
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<p>9.</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Funded Schemes 2018/19 and 2019/20:</p> <p>Councillor D Smith referred to a discussion by the Panel at its meeting on 20th June 2019 regarding an update on Funded Schemes for 2018/19 and 2019/20, which had recommended for approval.</p> <p>Information regarding the budget allocation and the final cost of completed Funded Schemes had been circulated at the meeting. Councillor Smith stated that following an analysis of this information, he had identified a potential underspend and he queried whether surplus funding was available for re-allocation.</p> <p>Councillor Smith was requested to submit his request to Jasmine Wiles, Assistant Highways Liaison Officer in writing.</p>	<p>Cllr D Smith</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel would take place on Thursday, 26th March 2020 starting at 7.15pm.</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 9.08pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councillor R van Dulken (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)</p>	

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