

# Minutes

## Braintree District Local Highways Panel

11th July 2016

(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 Mrs M Cunningham  
Councillor R Mitchell  
Councillor Lady Newton  
Councillor D Smith  
Councillor Mrs S Wilson

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

Councillor C Bailey (Braintree District Council) (until 6.15pm) and Councillor P Schwier (Braintree District Council) were also in attendance.

### Officers

Sonia Church - Essex Highways  
Matt Valentine - Essex Highways  
Samir Pandya - Braintree District Council  
Alison Webb – Braintree District Council

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Gronland (Braintree Association of Local Councils), Mr P Partridge (Braintree District Council) and Councillor J Pike (Essex County Council).

### 1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2016/17**

#### **DECISION:**

- (1) That Councillor R Walters be appointed Chairman of Braintree District Local Highways Panel for the 2016/17 financial year.
- (2) That Councillor R Mitchell be appointed Vice-Chairman of Braintree District Local Highways Panel for the 2016/17 financial year.

**Action By: Sonia Church, Essex Highways, stated that the Terms of Reference of the Local Highways Panels were currently under review and she agreed to circulate the revised Terms of Reference to the Members of the Panel.**

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor J Bendall declared a non-pecuniary interest generally in matters relating to Earls Colne as he was an elected Member of Earls Colne Parish Council.

Councillor R Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest generally in matters relating to Inworth Road, Feering as he was a resident of Inworth Road.

Councillor Mrs S Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest generally in matters relating to Witham in her capacity as an elected Member of Braintree District Council - Witham Central Ward.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors Bendall, Mitchell and Mrs Wilson remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion when the matters were considered.

3 **MINUTES**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel held on 24th March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

**INFORMATION:**

Minute 3 – Matters Arising (Braintree District Local Highways Panel Budget)

Sonia Church, Essex Highways, reported that she had received figures today regarding Braintree District Local Highways Panel's actual expenditure for the financial year 2015/16. Members of the Panel were advised that it was not possible to report actual expenditure until the end of the financial year, although budget allocation figures could be reported during the year.

**Action By: Sonia Church, Essex Highways, agreed to circulate the actual expenditure figures for Braintree District Local Highways Panel for the financial year 2015/16 to Members of the Panel.**

Minute 4 – Question Time (Statement by Mr Konig regarding scheme LBRA142037 – Speed limit extended to 30mph to Thistley Green Road, Broad Road, Braintree)

Matt Valentine, Essex Highways, reported that a response had been sent to Mr Konig acknowledging that there is little more information that we can provide as to why we have failed to deliver this scheme in a timely manner. We would like to apologise and will be internally reviewing our procedures to learn how this can be avoided in the future. However, this matter was now proceeding and it was anticipated that delivery would be within Quarter 3.

Minute 6 – Scheme Update – B1018 Braintree Road, Cressing (Scheme LBRA142006 – Carriageway widening, installation of a footpath and new kerbing, B1018 Braintree Road, Cressing)

At the last meeting it had been agreed that this scheme be held in abeyance pending the outcome of negotiations and the determination of the development proposal currently being considered for the area, subject to the scheme being brought forward for implementation should this be feasible.

However, Members expressed concern about the condition of the footway running along the B1018 at 'Cressing bends' which was deeply rutted, with dislodged kerb stones and was in a dangerous state.

Councillor Abbott and Councillor Lady Newton indicated that they had reported the problem to Essex County Council Highways and had been advised that the footway would be inspected. However, it was considered that this matter should be given attention as soon as possible.

**Action By: It was agreed that Councillor Abbott and Councillor Lady Newton should forward details of their report references to Matt Valentine to enable him to check the current situation.**

NOTE:- Minute 4 – Question Time (Statement by Councillor Lager regarding Scheme LBRA152014 – Cut Throat Lane, Witham)

Councillor Lager had queried whether this scheme had been approved. The past Minutes of the Panel have been checked and it has been clarified that this scheme was recommended by the Panel for approval on 22nd January 2015 under the reference LBRA142095.

5 **QUESTION TIME**

**INFORMATION:** There were four statements made. Details of the people who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes. The comments made are summarised below.

Councillor Bailey left the room at this point as he was feeling unwell. However, Members were advised that Councillor Bailey had requested to speak about scheme (LBRA162010 - Various works, including domed mini-

roundabout at Mill Lane/Guithavon Valley, Witham.  
Members of the Panel supported the retention of a domed mini-roundabout.

Councillor Mrs Gillian Jefferson, Vice-Chairman of Sible Hedingham Parish Council

Scheme LBRA162007 – Detailed design to upgrade zebra crossing to signal crossing, Swan Street, Sible Hedingham.

Sible Hedingham Parish Council considered that the upgrading of the zebra crossing to a signalised crossing was an urgent safety issue and requested that it be implemented in the first quarter of 2017/18.

Scheme LBRA162034 – Installation of parking bays at Oxford Meadow, Sible Hedingham

Sible Hedingham Parish Council suggested that this scheme should be reconsidered as the location was actually on Yeldham Road, where residents did not have driveways, not Oxford Meadow. It was suggested that consideration should be given to extending the layby, or providing dropped kerbs with grasscrete.

Scheme LBRA161004 – Relocation of 'give way' sign and reconfiguration of junction, Halstead Road j/w Queen Street (Braintree Corner), Sible Hedingham

Sible Hedingham Parish Council welcomed the decision to move the sign, but was unsure about the reconfiguration of the junction. It was considered that the slip road was essential for larger vehicles and that its removal would not improve sight lines.

Scheme LBRA162009 – Installation of VAS/SID, Swan Street, Sible Hedingham

Sible Hedingham Parish Council welcomed the proposed VAS/SID and requested that it be implemented in the first quarter of 2017/18, following consultation with residents and businesses, perhaps with further speed management measures along the main road through the village.

Mrs Moore spoke about scheme LBRA142037 – Extension of 30mph speed limit, Broad Road, Braintree and the proposed reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. Mrs Moore spoke on behalf of elderly people and people with learning disabilities who lived at Fern Lodge, Larchwood and Cypress Gardens, Broad Road and who had to cross the road to use the bus. Mrs Moore stated that the speed of cars, together with the narrowness of the pavements, were a real danger for any pedestrian on Broad Road, and she expressed concern about the delay in implementing this scheme. Mrs Moore asked the Panel to treat this scheme with the utmost urgency and to ensure that the speed limit was reduced.

Mr Konig referred to scheme LBRA168004 – Surfacing of Footpath 52, Convent Lane, Braintree. Mr Konig expressed concern about the cost of this scheme and how it was to be funded and about the dumping of rubble/damage to the footpath.

## 6 **SCHEMES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PANEL**

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

In discussing this report, Members were reminded that expenditure of the Panel's capital budget for 2016/17 had been recommended to and approved by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. If the Panel wished to support any of the schemes contained within the schedule, these would be recommended for approval to be funded in the 2017/18 financial year.

In the circumstances, Members were requested to determine whether the schemes with a 'red' designation ie. being against Essex County Council criteria should be deleted from the schedule.

In discussing this Item, it was noted that a proposal to extend the current 40mph speed limit at B1024 Coggeshall Road, South of America Road, Earls Colne (page 10 of the Agenda, reference 8) had been categorised as a 'red' scheme. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport had not supported the scheme as it was in direct contravention of the Essex Speed Management Strategy. Councillor Bendall, representing Earls Colne Parish Council, expressed dissatisfaction with this decision and he was advised to raise the matter with the Cabinet Member via Councillor J Pike, the County Councillor representing Earls Colne.

In considering the proposed scheme to extend the footway from Rolphs Farmhouse to Bretton, Boars Tye Road, Silver End (page 21 of the Agenda reference 1) Councillor Abbott reported that a landowner had offered land to enable section 1 of the scheme to proceed. Councillor Abbott agreed to provide Matt Valentine with the details in writing.

### **DECISION:**

- (1) That the following schemes designated as 'red' and against Essex County Council criteria be deleted from the schedule of possible schemes.

#### Traffic Management

LBRA152108 – Improvements to make the school entrance more visible, Powers Hall End, Witham  
Estimated Cost - £0

LBRA152129 – Installation of 'no left turn', Panfield Lane j/w Rayne Road, Braintree  
Estimated Cost - £0

LBRA152133 – Provision of a footway from the end of Glebe Gardens towards the property known as Greenhayn, Coggeshall Road, Feering  
Estimated Cost - £0

LBRA162034 – Installation of parking bays, Oxford Meadow, Sible Hedingham  
Estimated Cost - £0

**Action By: Matt Valentine, Essex Highways. It was noted that this scheme should be referred to as Yeldham Road, Sible Hedingham. Matt Valentine agreed to investigate what provision could be implemented on site.**

LBRA162037 – Measures to stop cars parking along both sides of the junction at entrance to the car park, Spa Road j/w entry to car park, Witham  
Estimated Cost - £0

Reference 22 - Traffic calming measures through the village, B1057 Cornish Hall End  
Estimated Cost - £0

Reference 23 - Pole to be erected for the SID device to be rotated, Silver Street, Wethersfield  
Estimated Cost - £0

Reference 24 - 2x poles to be erected at either end of the village for the SID device to be rotated, Blackmore End  
Estimated Cost - £0

Reference 25 - Pole to be erected for the SID device to be rotated, Braintree Road, Wethersfield  
Estimated Cost - £0

LBRA162041 – Implementation of traffic calming measures and better signage, B1053, Airbase Corner, Wethersfield  
Estimated Cost - £0

Reference 34 - Extension of double yellow lines into Brunwin Road, Brunwin Road j/w Shalford Road, Rayne  
Estimated Cost - £0

### Walking

LBRA152135 – Implementation of a footway along the road from Sparks Lane to No. 8 Stambourne Road, Stambourne Road, Ridgewell  
Estimated Cost - £0

- (2) That the following scheme be recommended for approval:-

Safer Roads

LBRA161008 - Installation of two new 'Other danger ahead' signs with a supplementary plate reading 'Lorries Turning' for the approaches to the recycling centre to warn motorists of slow moving HGVs, Long Green, Cressing

Estimated Cost - £3,000

In discussing this scheme, Councillor Abbott stated that pedestrians frequently used this stretch of road and were in danger as there was no footway. It was suggested that Councillor Abbott should submit a scheme request for the provision of a footway for consideration.

- (3) That the following scheme be retained on the schedule of possible schemes pending a further speed survey to be carried out prior to the March 2017 meeting of the Panel:-

Traffic Management

LBRA162044 – Provision of a pedestrian crossing in a suitable location on Church Hill at or close to the existing pedestrian refuge, Church Hill, Earls Colne

Estimated Cost - £0

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

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to 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.

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 amount to account for some 'roll over' from the 2015/16 financial year. Members were reminded that schemes representing 160% of the value of the budget had actually been recommended for approval in order to develop a rolling programme of works. The schemes included in the additional 60% were indicated on the programme for implementation in the 2017/18 financial year. It was reported that information regarding anticipated completion dates would be reported in terms of 'quarters' until the road space had been booked and a start date confirmed.

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

8 **SECTION 106 AGREEMENT – PROGRESS UPDATE**

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

The schemes were BTE171 – layby at A1017, Sturmer and BTE1229 – junction improvements at Rose Hill/Station Approach, Braintree.

**DECISION:** The progress report was noted.

9 **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS OF THE PANEL**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to a schedule of dates for forthcoming meetings of Braintree District Local Highways Panel.

**DECISION:** It was noted that the next meetings of Braintree District Local Highways Panel would take place on 22nd September 2016 and 19th January 2017.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.20pm.

Councillor R Walters  
(Chairman)



## APPENDIX

### BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

11TH JULY 2016

#### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

##### Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

- 1 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 7 – Schemes for Consideration by the Panel Scheme Ref 4, LBRA162010 - Various works, including domed mini-roundabout at Mill Lane/Guithavon Valley, Witham

Statement on behalf of Councillor Chris Bailey, Braintree District Council, Witham North Ward, The Grange, 4 Chipping Hill, Witham

- 2 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 7 - Schemes for Consideration by the Panel Scheme Ref 3, LBRA162007 – Detailed design to upgrade zebra crossing to signal crossing, Swan Street, Sible Hedingham; and Scheme Ref 18, LBRA162034 – Installation of parking bays at Oxford Meadow, Sible Hedingham; and Statement Relating to Agenda Item 8 - Schemes Already Recommended for Approval and Programmed for Delivery Scheme Ref 37, LBRA161004 – Relocation of ‘give way’ sign and reconfiguration of junction, Halstead Road j/w Queen Street (Braintree Corner), Sible Hedingham; and Scheme Ref 45, LBRA162009 – Installation of VAS/SID, Swan Street, Sible Hedingham

Statement by Mrs Gillian Jefferson, Vice-Chairman of Sible Hedingham Parish Council (address not supplied)

- 3 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 8 – Schemes Already Recommended for Approval and Programmed for Delivery Scheme LBRA142037 – Extension of 30mph speed limit, Broad Road, Braintree

Statement by Mrs Moore (address not supplied)

- 4 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 8 – Schemes Already Recommended for Approval and Programmed for Delivery Scheme LBRA168004 – Surfacing of Footpath 52, Convent Lane, Braintree

Statement by Mr Jim Konig, 107 Bridport Way, Braintree