

Minutes

Braintree District Local Highways Panel

19th March 2015

(Comprising representatives of:-

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

Present:-

Councillor R Walters (Chairman)
Councillor J Abbott
Councillor M Banthorpe
Councillor J Bendall
Councillor M Fincken
Councillor A Hayward
Councillor M Lager
Councillor R Mitchell (from 6.05pm)
Councillor Lady Newton

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

Officers

Sonia Church - Essex Highways (until 6.35pm)
Matt Valentine - Essex Highways
Alison Webb – Braintree District Council

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Clark (Braintree Association of Local Councils), Councillor E Johnson (Essex County Council), Mr A Lindsay (Essex County Council), Mr P Partridge (Braintree District Council) and Councillor J Pike (Essex County Council).

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interest was declared:-

Councillor M J Banthorpe declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 Schemes for Consideration by the Panel and specifically scheme 'LBRA142033 Valentine Way, Silver End – Feasibility study into provision of parking bays, road alignment and works to verge as he was a Director of Greenfields Community Housing.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillor Banthorpe remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion when the Item was considered.

2 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel held on 22nd January 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

INFORMATION: There were no matters arising.

4 **QUESTION TIME**

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

Statements were made by Mrs A Sutton and Ms S Lawrence regarding the provision of off-street parking at Witham Road, Black Notley. It was noted that a scheme request had been submitted in respect of this matter (LBRA142094 - Witham Road, Black Notley) (Validation – installation of parking) and that it was currently being assessed.

It was reported also that vehicles were exceeding the 30mph speed limit along this stretch of road and it was suggested that Black Notley Parish Council should request Essex Police to enforce the speed limit.

Councillor J E Abbott undertook to raise this matter at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

In considering this matter, Members of the Panel acknowledged that there were similar locations across the Braintree District where off-street parking provision was inadequate and that it would not be possible to address parking problems at all of these sites from the limited resources that were available to the Panel. Concern was expressed also that on-street parking caused difficulties across the District, particularly where emergency and refuse vehicles were unable to gain access along some roads. It was suggested that this issue should be addressed through the Local Plan process.

Councillor Lady Newton, Braintree District Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Property was requested to take this forward.

5 **BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL BUDGET**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a summary of Braintree District Local Highways Panel's capital and revenue budgets for 2015/16 as at 19th March 2015. It was noted that the capital budget amounted to £815,578 and that the revenue budget amounted to £23,471.

Details of the approved schemes were set out in the list of 'Schemes Already Recommended for Approval and Programmed for Delivery' at Item 8 of the Agenda (Minute 7 refers). Those schemes which had a delivery date of 31st March 2015, or earlier would be funded from the Panel's 2014/15 budget. However, those schemes denoted in red, or which had a delivery date of 1st

April 2015 or later would have to be funded from the Panel's 2015/16 budget. These schemes had a total value of approximately £410,000.

It was considered important that the Panel's 2015/16 budget should be spent in full, but decisions would be required as to which schemes, either those carried forward or new schemes, should be given priority. A report would be presented to the next meeting of the Panel identifying which of the approved schemes could be delivered during the forthcoming year to enable Members of the Panel to recommend which of these should be given priority.

In discussing the schemes denoted in red, it was proposed that scheme LBRA134004 Braintree Town - cycling (£50,000) should be deleted as it was not considered to be feasible. Instead, it was proposed that individual cycling schemes should be determined on their merits.

DECISION:

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel on whether or not previously approved schemes could be delivered during the 2015/16 financial year to enable the Panel to recommend which of these should be given priority and implemented.
- (3) That it be recommended that scheme LBRA134004 Braintree Town - cycling (£50,000) be deleted from the list of schemes already recommended for approval and programmed for delivery.

6 SCHEMES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PANEL

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report containing a schedule of possible schemes. The schemes recommended for approval would be put forward to be funded during the 2015/16 financial year.

The format of the report had been amended to include schemes which had been approved following consideration by the Panel at previous meetings. Details of these schemes have not been repeated in the decision below.

DECISION:

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

Passenger Transport

LBRA155005 – Installation of kerbs, hard stand and path,
Crematorium, Halstead Road, High Garrett
Estimated Cost - £10,000

(It was agreed that the owners of Three Counties Crematorium should be approached for consideration to provide match-funding for this scheme).

LBRA155006 – Installation of pole, flag and raised kerbs, opposite Crematorium, Halstead Road, High Garrett

Estimated Cost - £4,000

(It was agreed that the owners of Three Counties Crematorium should be approached for consideration to provide match-funding for this scheme).

Safer Roads

LBRA151004 – Casualty Reduction Team cluster run (identification of sites for design work in 2015/16 and implementation in 2016/17)

Estimated Cost - £15,000

Traffic Management

LBRA152016 – Installation of 30mph roundels at Dragons Teeth, London Road and Inworth Road, Feering

Estimated Cost - £1,650

LBRA152019 – Removal and installation of various advanced warning and width restriction signs, Church Street, Steeple Bumpstead

Estimated Cost - £7,500

LBRA152020 – Extension of double yellow lines, Brunwin Road j/w Shalford Road, Rayne

Estimated Cost - £2,500

LBRA152022 – Feasibility study into options for alterations to the mini-roundabouts and improvements to the junction. Mill Lane/Guithavon Valley, Witham

Estimated Cost - £3,000

LBRA152023 – Feasibility study into possible dedicated left hand lane to A120, Colne Road, Coggeshall

Estimated Cost - £3,000

LBRA152031 – Installation of solar powered vehicle activated sign (VAS) facing North-bound vehicles, Normandie Way j/w Colchester Road, Bures Hamlet

Estimated Cost - £7,500

LBRA142061 – Installation of two additional height restriction warning signs, North and South bound, Coggeshall Road, Feering (unforeseen UK Power Network connections)

Estimated Cost - £6,000 top-up

LBRA152045 – Feasibility study into possible widening of footway, Burrows Road, Earls Colne

Estimated Cost - £4,000

Walking

LBRA153001 – Installation of footway and optional bollards, Church Road, Hatfield Peverel
Estimated Cost - £55,000

LBRA153002 – Feasibility study into possible provision of footway between Brick Kiln Close and the fire station, Colne Road, Coggeshall
Estimated Cost - £4,000

Revenue Schemes

LBRA152024 – Three speed surveys, Mill Lane and The Street, Crossing
Estimated Cost - £690

LBRA152026 – One speed survey, Sheepcot Road, Castle Hedingham
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA152034 – One speed survey, Kynaston Road, Panfield
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA152033 – One speed survey, Eastbound A1124 Halstead Road between the Western gateway and Station Road, Earls Colne (It was noted that this scheme was a duplicate of scheme LBRA142121. It was agreed that scheme LBRA142121 should be deleted).
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA152027 – Two speed surveys, Swan Street, Sible Hedingham
Estimated Cost - £460

LBRA152028 – One PV2 survey, Swan Street, Sible Hedingham
Estimated Cost - £900

LBRA152029 – One speed survey, Rectory Road, Sible Hedingham
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA152050 – One vehicle activated sign (VAS) speed survey, Wethersfield Road, Finchingfield
Estimated Cost - £230

- (2) That the following action be taken in respect of the schemes referred to below:-

LBRA152018 – Installation of footway sign and narrow road signs, Queenborough Lane j/w New Road, Rayne
Estimated Cost - £7,000

(At the request of Councillor Banthorpe the District Council Ward Member, Matt Valentine Essex Highways agreed to investigate whether the size of the 'triangle' at the centre of the junction could be reduced to overcome the problem).

LBRA142114 – Installation of weight limit, Sheepcotes Lane, Silver End

Estimated Cost - £0

(Matt Valentine Essex Highways agreed to investigate whether Sheepcotes Lane, Silver End could be considered as a 'quiet lane').

LBRA142033 – Feasibility study (highway improvements), Valentine Way, Silver End

Estimated Cost - £0

(Matt Valentine Essex Highways agreed to report back to the next meeting of the Panel on the timescale for completing the Feasibility study)

LBRA132126 – Design only, route unsuitable for HGVs weight restriction, Oak Road, Rivenhall

Estimated Cost - £0

(Matt Valentine Essex Highways agreed to circulate information to Members of the Panel regarding the current status of this scheme)

7 PROGRAMME OF SCHEMES - ALREADY RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL/DELIVERED

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.

This Item was also considered in conjunction with Item 6 - Braintree District Local Highways Panel Budget (Minute 5 refers).

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

8 LEATHER LANE, GREAT YELDHAM – COLLAPSED CULVERT AND FLOODING

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report regarding a collapsed culvert at Leather Lane, Great Yeldham. It was reported that the collapsed culvert had caused significant flooding to properties and the highway on several occasions.

A scheme had been prepared in order to address the flooding problems and it was ready for implementation. The cost of the work was estimated to be £65,000. However, Essex County Council's £2million budget for Surface Water Alleviation Schemes (SWAS) was oversubscribed by £2.5million and the Great Yeldham scheme could not be funded as it did not have sufficiently

high priority. A request had therefore been made for the scheme to be funded from the Highways Panel's budget.

Members of the Panel considered that expenditure on this scheme would not be an appropriate use of the Panel's budget and that the scheme should instead be funded by Essex Highways as a maintenance issue.

In discussing this Item, Members of the Panel were reminded that Councillor R Bass, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, had allocated £50,000 to the Braintree District for flood relief and that Braintree District Council had agreed to provide match funding. It was agreed that the Panel should receive an update on how this fund had been allocated.

DECISION:

- (1) That it be recommended that the scheme to repair a collapsed culvert and to address flooding problems at Leather Lane, Great Yeldham is not funded from Braintree District Local Highways Panel's budget.
- (2) That an update be circulated to Members of the Panel on the expenditure of the flood relief fund.

9 **DATES FOR MEETINGS OF THE PANEL**

DECISION: It was noted that future meetings of Braintree District Local Highways Panel would take place on the following dates:-

25th June 2015 (changed from 18th June 2015)
8th October 2015 (to be confirmed)
21st January 2016 (to be confirmed)
17th March 2016 (to be confirmed)

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.25pm.

Councillor R G Walters
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

19TH MARCH 2015

Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

- 1 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 7 – Schemes for Consideration by the Panel (LBRA142094 - Witham Road, Black Notley) (Validation – installation of parking)

Statement by Mrs Ann Sutton, 126 Witham Road, Black Notley

- 2 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 7 – Schemes for Consideration by the Panel (LBRA142094 - Witham Road, Black Notley) (Validation – installation of parking)

Statement by Ms Shelly Lawrence, 118 Witham Road, Black Notley