

Minutes

Braintree District Local Highways Panel

22nd January 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 J Clark
Councillor M Fincken
Councillor A Hayward
Councillor R Mitchell
Councillor Lady Newton

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

Councillor R Wright (Braintree District Council/Rivenhall Parish Council) was also in attendance.

Officers

Sonia Church - Essex Highways
Alan Lindsay - Essex County Council
Matt Valentine - Essex Highways
Paul Partridge – Braintree District Council
Alison Webb – Braintree District Council

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Lager (Braintree District Council) and Councillor J Pike (Essex County Council).

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor M Banthorpe declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 – New Scheme Requests Update: B: Scheme requests awaiting validation and specifically scheme 'LBRA142107 Brunwin Road j/w Shalford Road, Rayne – Mini Roundabout', as he had requested this scheme and he lived near to the site.

Councillor A Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 - New Scheme Requests Update: A: Scheme requests – survey results received and specifically scheme 'LBRA142082 B1057 Dunmow Road, Great Bardfield – Speed survey' as a Member of Great Bardfield Parish Council which had jointly requested the scheme.

Councillor M Lager declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 – New Scheme Requests Update: A: Scheme requests – survey results received and Agenda Item 9 - Schemes for Consideration by the Panel and specifically schemes 'LBRA142091 Chipping Hill, Witham - PV2 survey/feasibility study' and 'LBRA142088 Chipping Hill bridge, Chipping Hill j/w Powers Hall End, Witham - Feasibility study as a local resident of Chipping Hill, Witham.

Note:- Councillor Lager was not present at the meeting, but he had submitted written comments on the above-mentioned schemes and other matters on the Agenda. The written comments were referred to and considered by Members of the Panel during the meeting.

Councillor R Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 - Scheme Updates and specifically scheme 'LBRA003001 Inworth Road, Feering - Extension of existing footway', as he was a resident of Inworth Road.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors Banthorpe, Hayward and Mitchell remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion when the Items were considered.

2 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel held on 9th October 2014 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.

5 **BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL BUDGET**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a summary of Braintree District Local Highways Panel's capital budget and expenditure for 2014/15 and 2015/16 as at 22nd January 2015. It was noted that the budget for each financial year amounted to £815,578 and that £886,052 had been allocated in 2014/15 and £108,300 in 2015/16. Any schemes recommended for approval at this meeting would be funded from the 2015/16 budget.

DECISION: That the report be noted.

6 **NEW SCHEME REQUESTS UPDATE**

INFORMATION:

A. New Scheme Requests – Survey Results Received

The Panel considered a schedule of new scheme requests which had been assessed.

It was noted that schemes LBRA142082 B1057 Dunmow Road, Great Bardfield - Speed survey; and LBRA142079 Inworth Road, Feering – Junction count had been recommended for approval.

In considering scheme LBRA142091 Chipping Hill, Witham – PV2 survey, Members of the Panel noted that a feasibility study was being recommended and they suggested that this should be carried out in conjunction with scheme LBRA142088 Chipping Hill Bridge, Chipping Hill j/w Powers Hall End, Witham - Feasibility study, which had been included in the schedule of proposed schemes.

In discussing scheme LBRA142087 Bakers Lane, Black Notley – Two speed surveys, Members of the Panel considered it a priority to introduce a 30mph speed limit at the Buck Hill end of Bakers Lane where the carriageway was at its narrowest and possibly at the London Road end of the lane. It was agreed that a continuous 30mph limit along the entire length of the lane was not necessarily required.

DECISION:

- (1) That scheme LBRA142087 Bakers Lane, Black Notley – Two speed surveys be re-considered.
- (2) That schemes LBRA142091 Chipping Hill, Witham and LBRA142088 Chipping Hill Bridge, Chipping Hill j/w Powers Hall End, Witham - Feasibility studies be undertaken jointly.

B. New Scheme Requests – Awaiting Validation

The Panel was made aware of new scheme requests which had yet to be validated and assessed.

DECISION: That the schedule of schemes be noted.

7 **SCHEME UPDATES – DEANERY HILL, BRAINTREE; BRAMBLE ROAD, WITHAM; AND INWORTH ROAD, FEERING**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to update reports on the following specific schemes:-

LBRA142060 Deanery Hill, Braintree - Construction of estimated 30m length path leading up Deanery Hill towards the bus stop

Members were reminded that the Local Highways Panel had recommended this scheme for approval on 19th June 2014. However, it had been reported that BT fibre optic covers and street lighting could be located in the vicinity of the proposed work which could increase the cost of the scheme substantially and it had been agreed that a further report should be submitted to the Panel on the viability of the scheme.

Members were advised that BT fibre optics had subsequently been identified during design work and it was estimated that the cost of diverting these would amount to £78,000 and that the total delivery cost of the scheme would be approximately £98,000. Members agreed that this cost was prohibitive.

DECISION: That it be recommended that the above-mentioned scheme does not proceed.

LBRA132039 Bramble Road, Witham - Re-profile kerb line at Bramble Road j/w Flora Road to reduce the speed of vehicles and installation of priority working along Bramble Road to the north-east of Harebell Drive.

Members were reminded that the Local Highways Panel had recommended this scheme for approval to design stage on 23rd January 2014. It was reported that this scheme could be funded in full by a sum of £32,000 which was available via a Section 106 Agreement and that the Highways Panel would not be required to provide additional funding.

DECISION: That the report be noted.

LBRA003001 Inworth Road, Feering - Extension of the existing footway on eastern side

Members were reminded that during the 2012/13 financial year the Local Highways Panel had recommended that £130,000 be allocated towards the extension of the existing footway along the eastern side of Inworth Road, Feering.

In October 2013, it had been reported that the scheme had been delayed as some residents had withdrawn their consent to dedicate land and that it would not be possible to construct the complete length of footway. However, the Panel had recommended that the lengths of footway which had support from residents should be constructed and funded from a Section 106 Agreement

contribution of £31,000 and the allocation of £20,000 from the Panel's budget.

Members were advised that if the remainder of the footway was to be constructed, agreement would have to be sought from the landowners who currently did not support the proposal to make their land available. If agreement was not forthcoming, a compulsory purchase order would have to be made.

DECISION: That it be recommend that the Highways Authority continues to investigate the provision of a continuous footway on the eastern side of Inworth Road, Feering with a view to compulsory purchase powers being authorised should this be required.

8 **SCHEMES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PANEL**

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

DECISION:

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

Improvement Schemes

LBRA142104 - Installation of a vehicle activated sign (VAS) along Dunmow Road before the development of houses North-East bound, B1057 Dunmow Road, Great Bardfield
Estimated Cost - £8,500

LBRA142074 - Install one 'children' warning sign, Lawrence Avenue j/w Pelly Avenue, Witham
Estimated Cost - £3,000

LBRA142111 - Feasibility study, London Road j/w Inworth Road, Feering
Estimated Cost - £18,000

LBRA142088 - Feasibility study to look at options to improve signage and traffic calming measures, Chipping Hill Bridge, Chipping Hill j/w Powers Hall End, Witham
Estimated Cost - £3,000

LBRA142091 - Feasibility study to investigate the site in detail and provide options, Chipping Hill, Witham
Estimated Cost - £5,000

LBRA142095 - Conversion of two pedestrian accesses to a ramped access; upgrading of one pedestrian access steps with handrail, Cut Throat Lane, Witham
Estimated Cost - £27,000

Small Works

LBRA142093 - Speed survey, Laburnum Way, Witham
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA142096 - Five speed surveys, East Street - West Street; Colne Road – St Peter's Road; Church Street including Church Green; Grange Hill – Bridge Street; Stoneham Street, Coggeshall
Estimated Cost - £1,150

LBRA142098 - Speed survey, New Lane, Feering
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA142110 - Two speed surveys, Cressing Road, Braintree
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA142101 - Vehicle class/volume survey, Water Lane and Kings Lane, Stisted
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA142112 - Five speed surveys, Broadway from the junction with Temple Lane; Silver Street from the junction with Boars Tye Road and all roads off these two; Grooms Lane from the junction with Western Road and on the Daniel Way estate; the entirety of School Road and Valentine Way, Silver End
Estimated Cost - £1,150

LBRA142089 - Vehicle class/volume survey, Church Street, Steeple Bumpstead
Estimated Cost - £230

LBRA142114 - Two speed surveys, Sheepcotes Lane, Silver End
Estimated Cost - £460

LBRA142118 - Two PV2 surveys, High Garrett, Braintree
Estimated Cost - £1,780

LBRA142121 - Speed survey, Western approach, A1124 Halstead Road, Earls Colne
Estimated Cost - £230

Bus Stop Improvements

LBRA145020 – Replacement of current shelter, South bound, Mill Road, Baythorne End
Estimated Cost - £9,000

Public Rights of Way

LBRA148001 - Laying of road planings to improve the surface conditions on unbound surface, Byway 9, also known as Snakey Lane, Black Notley
Estimated Cost - £30,000

LBRA148002 - Laying of road planings to improve the surface conditions on unbound surface, Byway 10, Black Notley
Estimated Cost - £13,000

LBRA148003 - Laying of road planings to improve the surface conditions on unbound surface, Byway 13, Gestingthorpe
Estimated Cost - £25,000

- (2) That it be recommended that an additional £6,000 be allocated to approved scheme 'LBRA142037 – Repositioning of 40mph speed limit signs, Broad Road, Braintree' to overcome unforeseen electricity supply costs (total scheme cost £9,000).

9 **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.

Particular reference was made to scheme LBRA142033 – Feasibility study (highway improvements), Valentine Way, Silver End. It was reported that problems associated with access, parking and damage to verges had exacerbated as the nearby Primary School was currently being extended and the building contractor's vehicles were using the area. It was noted that a report on the options available would be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.

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

10 **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:-

19th March 2015 (changed from 26th March 2015)

18th June 2015 (to be confirmed)

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 7.00pm.

Councillor R G Walters
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

22ND JANUARY 2015

Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

- 1 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 8 - Scheme Updates (LBRA003001 - Inworth Road, Feering) (Extension of existing footway)

Statement by Mr I Smith-Evans, Woodheys, Inworth Road, Feering

- 2 Statement Relating to Item 10 – Schemes Already Recommended for Approval and Programmed for Delivery (Rickstones Road, Rivenhall – Carriageway Widening; and Oak Road, Rivenhall – Route unsuitable for HGVs weight restriction)

Statement by Councillor Robert Wright, 303 Rickstones Road, Rivenhall representing Braintree District Council - Bradwell, Silver End and Rivenhall Ward and Rivenhall Parish Council.