

Minutes

Braintree District Local Highways Panel

18th January 2016

(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 D Gronland
Councillor R Mitchell
Councillor B Rose
Councillor D Smith

Essex County Council
Braintree District Council
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Braintree Association of Local Councils
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Councillor J Baugh (Braintree District Council) (from 7.11pm), Councillor M Dunn (Braintree District Council) (until 6.18pm) 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 Lady Newton (Essex County Council), Mr P Partridge (Braintree District Council) and Councillor Mrs S Wilson (Braintree Association of Local Councils).

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor J Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 - Schemes for Consideration by the Panel and specifically scheme LBRA152089 Park Road and the Northern section of Church Road, Rivenhall - A review of current measures including signage and lining and consideration of possible measures such as a speed limit reduction and no overtaking markings, as he lived in Park Road, Rivenhall.

Councillor M Banthorpe declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 - Scheme Updates and specifically scheme LBRA152061 Valentine Way, Silver End – Grasscrete improvement, as he was a Director of Greenfields Community Housing.

Councillor R Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 – Schemes Already Recommended for Approval and Programmed for Delivery and specifically scheme LBRA003001 Inworth Road, Feering - New footway, as he was a resident of Inworth Road.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors Abbott, Banthorpe 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 24th September 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

INFORMATION:

Minute 5 – Braintree District Local Highways Panel Budget

At the last meeting of the Panel consideration had been given to a report on Braintree District Local Highways Panel's capital budget and it had been agreed that a report on performance against the budget would be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

Sonia Church, Essex Highways stated that a briefing note on the final budget out-turn had been prepared and that it would be forwarded to Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Delivery in the near future. Subject to the Cabinet Member's consent, the note would be circulated to Members of the Panel for information. A detailed report on the budget would be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

Action By: Sonia Church and Matt Valentine - Essex Highways

4 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There was one statement made. Details of the person who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

A statement was made by Mrs G Jones of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association on behalf of Mrs B Roberts of Meadow Park, Braintree regarding the upgrade of a pedestrian refuge to a zebra crossing, South of Meadow Park, London Road, Braintree. It was noted that a scheme request had been submitted on the basis that the speed of vehicles travelling along London Road was excessive and a zebra crossing would make it easier for local

residents to cross the road safely. Mrs Jones stated that a petition had been submitted by residents of Meadow Park and The Hawthorns, many of whom were elderly, calling for the provision of a crossing. Mrs Jones indicated that land on the opposite side of the road had been identified for new residential development which would add to the number of people using the area and she queried whether the developer of this site could be requested to make a financial contribution via a Section 106 Agreement towards the provision of a crossing. Members were advised that London Road was a priority one route with a speed limit of 40mph and that any crossing installed would have to be signal controlled. The scheme had been assessed, but it was against policy and could cost in excess of £100,000.

It was agreed that Essex County Council's Development Management Team should be advised of the potential development of land in the vicinity and asked to consider requesting a financial contribution from the developer towards the provision of a crossing.

Action By: Matt Valentine, Essex Highways

5 **SCHEME UPDATES – VALENTINE WAY SILVER END AND CHURCH ROAD, HATFIELD PEVEREL**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to updated reports on the following two schemes which had been approved for implementation.

LBRA152061 – Installation of Grasscrete Along Sections of Valentine Way and Improvements to Junction Kerbing at Leicester Court and Stretford Court, Valentine Way, Silver End

Members of the Panel were reminded that £50,000 had been allocated to this scheme together with contributions of £10,000 each from Greenfields Community Housing Limited (GCH) and Silver End Primary School. However, the cost of the work had increased to a total of £120,000 due to the close proximity of the site to Silver End Primary School and the need to undertake work during restricted hours. As contributions were being made by GCH and the School, it would not be possible to delay the work which, it was anticipated, could be completed by the end of April 2016.

Members were advised that the Panel could request Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Delivery to approve an additional allocation of £50,000 from the 2016/17 budget to enable the scheme to be completed in the current financial year.

DECISION: That Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Delivery be recommended to approve an allocation of £50,000 from the Panel's 2016/17 budget, making a total allocation by the Panel of £100,000 to scheme LBRA152061 – Valentine Way, Silver End to enable the scheme to commence this current financial year.

LBRA153001 – Installation of 46 Metres of Footway from Ranulph Way (optional installation of three bollards), Church Road, Hatfield Peverel

Members of the Panel were advised that as this scheme would affect two trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order, it would not be possible to carry out proposed excavation works within the protected zones around the trees. It would also not be possible to install concrete kerbs, or to construct a footway.

It was possible that a cellular confinement system using bolt-down plastic kerbs on the edge of the existing carriageway, pegged in wooden edgings at the rear of the footway and loose road plannings on the footway could be used instead. This system would protect the trees' roots from heavy loads and it would be filled with an absorbent, free-flowing aggregate to enable air and water to pass through and provide essential nutrients to the roots. However, the bolt-down kerbs could become loose over time and the surface could either compact requiring topping up, or scatter onto the carriageway. Alternatively, bollards could be installed along the route to prevent vehicles from being parked on it, with the surface being covered by plannings.

It was reported that £55,000 had been allocated to this scheme

DECISION: That Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Delivery be recommended to amend scheme LBRA153001 – Church Road, Hatfield Peverel to the installation of bollards and surface plannings along the route of the footway.

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 the Panel's capital budget for 2015/16 had been fully allocated and that a rolling programme had been established for 2016/17. It was hoped that the 2015/16 budget would be spent in full.

Members were advised that the Panel's budget allocation for 2016/17 would be announced on 9th February 2016 and details would be reported to the next meeting of the Panel when Members would be requested to review the approved schemes.

The schedule of schemes attached to the Agenda had a total value of £379,500 and, if approved, they would be funded from the Panel's 2016/17 budget. However, as the budget was not known it was agreed that the Panel should defer recommending any schemes for approval at this time. It was proposed that those schemes identified as having a red RAG status and which were against policy should be removed from the schedule.

In response to a query, Councillor Bendall was advised that scheme a scheme to extend the current 40mph speed limit along the B1024 Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne had not been included on the schedule as it had been assessed as being against policy. However, Councillor Bendall considered that the scheme was within policy and in the circumstances it was agreed that the scheme should be reported to the next meeting of the Panel denoting a red RAG status.

DECISION:

- (1) That consideration of the schedule of possible schemes be deferred pending the announcement of the Panel's budget for 2016/17.
- (2) That it be recommended that the following schemes be removed from the schedule, subject to the specific comments denoted:-

Traffic Management

LBRA142124 – Installation of bend warning signs, Temple Lane, Silver End

LBRA152107 - Signage on both approaches to the vehicular accesses to Parley Beam Cottages to alert drivers of vehicles joining or leaving the A1124, A1124, Halstead

LBRA152081 – Introduction of traffic calming measures, A1017, between Baythorne End and Ridgewell

Traffic calming measures, Dog Chase, Wethersfield

LBRA152115 - Measures to reduce the speed of vehicles along the A1124 Halstead Road on the approach to the village, A1124 Halstead Road, Earls Colne

Two speed surveys, Church Lane, Doghouse Road, Pattiswick

Reduction in speed limits between three locations, A1017, Sturmer, New England and Baythorne End

LBRA152119 - School warning signs for Soaring High Montessori Primary School, Tey Road, Coggeshall

LBRA152090 – Three speed surveys, Queenborough Lane and Bridge End Lane, Great Notley

LBRA152096 - One speed survey to assess if a SID can be considered, outside no. 30 St Peters Road, Coggeshall

LBRA152095 – Extension of current 30mph speed limit, outside entrance, Highfields 96/98 West Street, Coggeshall

LBRA152098 - One speed survey, outside The Mount, 71 East Street, Coggeshall

Upgrading of pedestrian refuge to a zebra crossing, South of Meadow Park, London Road, Braintree

(It was agreed that **Matt Valentine, Essex Highways** should advise Essex County Council's Development Management Team of the potential development of land in the vicinity and ask them to consider requesting a financial contribution from the developer towards the provision of a crossing. Minute 4 refers)

Walking

LBRA153009 – Installation of a footway from the j/w Rosemary Lane to meet the existing footway, Sudbury Road, Castle Hedingham

- (3) The extension of 40mph speed limit, B1024 Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne be reported to the next meeting of the Panel denoting a red RAG status.
- (4) It was agreed that a briefing note on the definition of a 'Quiet Lane' should be circulated to Members of the Panel.
Action By: Matt Valentine, Essex Highways

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.

In discussing this Item, reference was made to scheme LBRA003001 - new footway, Inworth Road, Feering. Members were reminded that £120,000 had been allocated to this scheme, but that it was currently on hold pending discussions about the compulsory purchase of land. As these discussions were likely to take some time to resolve, it was proposed that the budget should be reduced to £30,000 to fund legal aspects of the scheme only. This would enable the balance of funding to be allocated to other schemes within the 2016/17 financial year.

Reference was also made to scheme LBRA152042 – 'One way' Traffic Regulation Order, signs and lines; 'no left turn ahead' sign; 'no entry' and ahead 'arrow' carriageway markings, Panfield Lane (between the junctions with Aetheric Road and Rayne Road), Braintree. It was noted that the implementation of this scheme had been delayed following the receipt of objections and it was queried whether the left turn facility could be re-instated. It was agreed that this scheme should be reviewed.

Regarding completed scheme LBRA152004 – installation of a small area of grasscrete outside Nos. 51 and 53, Oak Road, Rivenhall.
Matt Valentine, Essex Highways agreed to check that grasscrete had actually been installed.

Scheme LBRA152005 – installation of two signs warning of mini-roundabout ahead, The Grove (junction with Maldon Road), Witham.
Matt Valentine, Essex Highways agreed to check that that the correct signs had been installed on site.

DECISION: That the programme of schemes recommended for approval at previous meetings of the Panel be noted, subject to it being recommended that the budget allocation of £120,000 for scheme LBRA003001 - new footway, Inworth Road, Feering is reduced to £30,000 for legal aspects of the scheme only and the balance of funding allocated to other schemes within the 2016/17 financial year.

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

DECISION: It was noted that the next meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel would take place on 24th March 2016.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.35pm.

Councillor R Walters
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

18TH JANUARY 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 36 - Upgrade Pedestrian Refuge to a Zebra Crossing - South of Meadow Park, London Road, Braintree)

Statement by Mrs Gill Jones, Mobility Instructor, The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Welwyn District Team, Unit 3, Stroudwood Business Centre, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2NJ (for Mrs Barbara Roberts, 44 Meadow Park, Braintree)