

**MALDON DISTRICT  
LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL  
MEETING – 21 SEPTEMBER 2012  
Council Chamber, Princes Road, Maldon – at 9.30am**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Representing Essex County Council – Councillors R L Bass (Chairman), R G Boyce and Mrs P A Channer

Representing Maldon District Council – Councillors A J Cussen, Miss M R Lewis, R Pratt (Vice-Chairman) and Mrs M Thompson

Officers: Mr D Sprunt (Area Co-ordinator) and J Simmons (Liaison Officer, Essex County Council), Mr S Jennings (Committee Services Manager/Highways Liaison Officer, Maldon District Council)

Also present: Mr K Lawson and Ms V Duff (Essex County Council)

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F A Delderfield, and also Hannah Neve (Area Co-ordinator).

**3. Minutes of Meeting – 8 June 2012**

It was noted that the Panel had through discussion agreed that meetings would be held in private.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 8 June 2012 be approved and confirmed.

**4. Change in order of business**

With the concurrence of the Panel, the Chairman said that he proposed to vary the order of business to enable consideration of the matters for which two Officers were specifically in attendance.

**5. S106 Funding Summary**

Consideration was given to the summary of monies held for improvements arising from S106 agreements relating to Tesco Stores, Maldon, Heybridge Hall, Heybridge and Beckingham Business Park, Tolleshunt Major. Mr K Lawson (ECC) gave a brief presentation on the law and policy regarding S106 agreements, and then provided some background to the Tesco Stores funding contribution. He undertook personally to investigate and report back on the proposed cycleway improvement scheme. In the discussion that followed on this, concern was expressed at the existing condition of the seawall footpath and the need for the tidying up the Ironworks Meadow should any surplus funds be left. It was noted that consideration would need to be given to be given to legal route of the cycleway once it emerged onto Mill Lane.

## **6. Update on the Speed Limits Review**

Ms V Duff (ECC) explained the background to and progress of the above review. The outcome of the review had taken longer than expected and therefore it had not been possible to start to deal with the several outstanding requests, particularly for new speed limits. A list of new and increased speed limits had now been prepared for consideration by the Cabinet Member, and work was beginning on a list of the decreases including scheme designs. Local County Members would be notified prior to formal publication of any speed limit changes.

Discussion then took place regarding the involvement of the Panel in speed limit matters. Given that the Local County Members would be notified and consulted on proposals affecting Priority Routes 1 and 2, any new proposals affecting the Local Road Network could be considered by the Panel on the basis of engagement with the relevant Parishes. Equally, a Local County Member may wish to engage with the Panel on a particular consultation.

The discussion then moved onto the issue of the impact that farm traffic, cycling and similar organised events, horse-riding etc had on the highway. It was agreed that the subject of organised events on the highway should be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **7. Items previously raised by members of the Panel**

### **(a) Market Hill, Maldon (Councillor Rev A E J Shrimpton)**

A briefing note was received and noted. Despite having looked at relevant speed data and accident statistics, Officers were asked to look at the possibility of any available engineering solution, including bollarding of the footway in the vicinity of the Ship Flats, to improve public perception in relation to safety and report back to a future meeting on this.

### **(b) Street Light Switch Off Times (Councillor Rev A E J Shrimpton)**

A briefing note was received and noted. The Maldon Town Council had raised this on behalf of residents who wished to see lights in certain streets close to the town centre left on longer at night. The view was expressed that public expectation had been raised as to the benefits of the new Central Management System, and question remained whether any change in the way the County Council paid for its energy would allow greater flexibility in the operation of the light. If it would, then the possibility of a trial in certain streets could be explored.

### **(c) Mundon-Limebrook Way to Burnham Road – 18T Weight Limit (Councillor A J Cussen)**

It was noted that this was included in the update report on the Programme of Works for 2011/12 (agenda item 5).

### **(d) Althorne, B1010 Fambridge Road Carriageway Widening (Councillor A J Cussen)**

It was agreed that the Panel had previously decided that this was part of a broader issue involving an expensive scheme beyond the range of its budget.

## **7. Matters raised since the last meeting**

### **(a) Update on Roadside Car Sales**

A summary of the recent activity by Essex County Council Trading Standards had not been included with the hard copy agenda paperwork and would be circulated separately to Panel Members.

### **(b) Kerbing and Safety Measures at Asheldham (Councillor R G Boyce)**

Councillor R G Boyce spoke to this item by reference to photographs having been circulated. He mentioned the increase in the type and flow of heavy vehicular traffic in this location, and the resultant highway safety dangers and encroachment onto private land in the absence of a footway.

Councillor A J Cussen declared a disclosable non-pecuniary interest in that he acted for an owner of adjoining land shown on one of the circulated photographs.

It was agreed that this matter be left with Officers to explore possible engineering solutions and report back to the Panel.

### **(c) Improvement of footbridge between Glendale Road and Eastern Road, Burnham on Crouch (Mr B G Caulkett of 9 Cobbins Road to the Panel)**

It was noted that this request was to be validated/costed and the subject of a further report. The Town Council had previously raised this matter with Network Rail. It was likely to be an expensive scheme involving land acquisition.

As a matter of procedure, it was agreed that the Panel should not receive requests/suggestions from private individuals other than with Parish/Town Council or local Member support.

## **8. Programme of Works 2011/12 -**

The Panel received a report providing an update and progress on the schemes included in the 2011/12 programme. The present position was noted and actions agreed for the following schemes:

2. Burnham on Crouch, Glendale Road - school time restrictions – Officers to liaise further with school.
3. Burnham on Crouch, High Street/Ship Road – allocate £5k to light one way signs. 7/8 Great Totham, Maldon Road and Walden House Road – removal of ‘wig wags’ and no waiting at school crossing patrol – Officers to look further at possible safety improvements in consultation with local Members and the school.
9. Little Braxted, Little Braxted Lane, narrow bellmouth from Colemans Bridge – allocate £10k to complete.
10. Maldon, Mill Road – no entry point – allocate £16.5k for alternative solution of moving the no entry point beyond the forecourt of the adjacent takeaway premises and circulate to Panel Members a larger scale plan of the draft design.
13. Mundon, Limebrook Way to Burnham Road – 18T weight limit – need for traffic regulation order to be established – Officers to check on existence/adequacy of advisory signing at each end of route, and report back to Panel.

## **9. Programme of Works 2012/13**

The Panel received and noted details of the above programme. This included the previously reported provisional maintenance programme and was updated to include other schemes approved by the Panel together with projected start dates.

## **10. Reserve Scheme List 2012/13**

The Panel considered the above list of outstanding requested schemes which were categorised by type and given a priority rating of green (high priority), amber (low priority) and red (against policy or where there was no appropriate engineering solution).

The Chairman of the Panel put forward two suggestions. The first was the possible purchase (approx.. £25k) of an up to date flail to allow the District Council's Parks Team, in carrying out Highway Rangers work, to undertake enhanced maintenance of roadside vegetation. There was spare capacity within the Highway Rangers budget, and in operational terms this would also offer an extension to the existing arrangements and resource for maintenance of highway verges. After discussion, it was agreed that the principle of this proposal was acceptable and the sum of £25k be allocated to it, to enable the proposal to be further discussed between the two authorities and progressed for consideration and sign off by the Cabinet Member.

The Chairman's second suggestion was for work to be undertaken at the three main bridge 'gateways' to the District boundary, the locations being Blue Mills Bridge, Wickham Bishops, Appleford Bridge, Great Braxted, and Station Road, Wickham Bishops. He felt that vegetation required cutting back, railings required painting, and any other work that contributed to road safety. It was noted that such work would be beyond the remit of the Highway Rangers given the need for a traffic management system while the work was being undertaken. It was agreed that Officers give consideration to this, together with the cost of an associated traffic management system, and report back to the Panel.

The status of the various schemes on the reserve list was noted, and in those cases where information was awaited, the report would be updated as necessary to a future meeting. The following actions were agreed in relation to specific schemes:

IT430 Burnham Road/Green Lane, Althorne – Signing Review – proceed without dependency on a Freight Strategy – allocate £10k.

Bus Stop/Route Improvement 2 – Woodham Mortimer, Oak Corner – wooden shelter – allocate £7k.

With regard to the section on Cycling Schemes, it was agreed that the Cycling Officer be asked to attend the next meeting to advise the Panel on these items and also the work of the Cycling Sub-Group (formerly Place Shaping) of the Local Strategic Partnership.

## **11. Highway Rangers Work Summary**

The Panel received and noted a summary of the work carried out between June and August 2012. Members' attention was drawn to Topic Paper No 16 included in the Local Highway Panels Members' Toolkit document which had been circulated for

further background information. Officers were asked to look at whether the Toolkit document could be made available for circulation to Parish and Town Councils.

## **12. Liaison with Parish and Town Councils**

The Panel reviewed this part of its remit and noted a recent emailed communication from the Cabinet Member to Parish Councils. The attention of Officers was drawn to the fact that the distribution list omitted Town Councils.

It was noted that the concept of Area Forums being considered by the District Council might provide an opportunity to promote good liaison, and a report could be made to those Forums on the work of the Panel. The Chairman said that there should be strong emphasis on the Panel getting things done and reiterated the earlier point that requests and proposals from private individuals should be referred to the relevant Parish/Town Council and the local elected Member for support.

## **13. Arrangements for future meetings**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 7 December 2012. Councillor R G Boyce gave advanced notice of his apology for absence. The Chairman reminded Members that this would be an important meeting to establish commitment to any further schemes as part of the 2012/13 programme.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am.