

MINUTES

of the

CHELMSFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

24 June 2014

Present:

County Councillor John Aldridge	Essex County Council
County Councillor Jennifer Chandler	Essex County Council
Councillor Jude Deakin	Chelmsford City Council
Councillor Ian Grundy	Chelmsford City Council
County Councillor Eddie Johnson	Essex County Council
Councillor Jean Murray	Chelmsford City Council
Councillor Roy Whitehead (Chairman)	Chelmsford City Council

In attendance:

Brian Mayfield	Chelmsford City Council
Averil Price	Chelmsford City Council
Mark Robinson	Essex County Council
Michael Row	Essex County Council
Jon Simmons	Essex County Council
Derek Stebbing	Chelmsford City Council
Rosa Tanfield	Chelmsford City Council

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Mackrory and Dick Madden.

The Panel was informed that the Panel's meetings would be attended either by the County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation or one of his Deputies, Councillors Eddie Johnson or Ray Howard.

2. **Minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel Meeting on 24 April 2014**

The minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel meeting held on 2 June 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising**

Swan Lane

Jon Simmons reported that recent layby work and associated improvements under the Flood Alleviation Scheme had been completed and had alleviated the problem of flooding in the northern section of Swan Lane. Enforcement Officers would be taking action in respect of ditches in private ownership.

Arbour Lane Footway

The Panel was informed that the scheme validation had been looked at again and it would be possible to carry out a feasibility study to establish whether the footway could be widened, if that was the Panel's wish. This would be in addition to the works being undertaken by the Highway Rangers to clear as much vegetation as possible to make the width of the current footway fully useable.

Councillor Murray pointed out that the carriageway was only 5.5 metres wide and that widening the footway would simply restrict the flow of traffic. She suggested that a better solution would be to ensure that vegetation was regularly cut back and Jon Simmons said that this could be done by the Highway Rangers.

Councillor Whitehead said that a feasibility study would show whether the width of the footway was a safety issue or whether cutting back the vegetation would suffice. The Panel **agreed** to proceed with the study.

Action: Jon Simmons to programme the study.

Scheme LCHE141002 Galleywood Road/Dorset Avenue/Vicarage Lane

The works being carried out were pre-patching repairs for surface dressing. There was a separate casualty reduction scheme that would be carried out later. Both teams delivering the schemes were aware of each other's works.

Rainsford Road/Primrose Hill

Details of the scheme would be passed to Councillor Deakin shortly.

Action: Jon Simmons.

Kings Road

Councillor Deakin informed the Panel that the demolition of the pub had begun.

Colchester Road Widening Scheme

There was nothing new to report since the last meeting. The Panel **AGREED**, however, that the design work for the scheme, to be funded from Section 106 monies, should be prioritised.

Action: Jon Simmons to report to the next meeting on the likely timing of the design work.

Scheme LCHE 142020 Chelmer Village Way near Brook End Road North

One of the ward councillors, Councillor Gulliver, had expressed a wish to see a crossing installed and had asked whether a scheme proposed by the County Council in 2007, which had involved the closure of the junction with Brook End Road North, could be looked at again. The Panel **agreed** that this suggestion should be examined.

Action: Jon Simmons to re-evaluate the 2007 scheme as a potential scheme for inclusion in the works programme.

Approved Works Programme

Jon Simmons said that the complete work programme would be presented to the next meeting.

4. **Potential Scheme Proposals**

The Panel received a report which set out the schemes in the Potential Schemes List. Each scheme had been prioritised against set criteria and given a Red, Amber or Green status showing its priority. Of the capital budget, £228,997 remained available and for the revenue budget £44,580 had yet to be allocated. The latter sum could be used for any revenue scheme or works and not only for survey work.

With regard to specific schemes:

- (a) LCHE142036 A131/A130/B1008, Sheepcotes RAB – the Panel felt that the scheme needed to be carried out.
- (b) LCHE132082 and 132084 Highwood Road, Loves Green/Edney Common – the comment was made that the provision of a footway would be expensive and would need to be justified based on the number of pedestrians likely to use it.
- (c) LCHE142035 Nr Hylands School, Chelmsford Road – it was requested that the possibility should be explored of installing Wig Wag flashing lights as part of the wider scheme. Jon Simmons confirmed that this was being validated.
- (d) LCHE132072 North Avenue/Kings Road – the need for this scheme was accepted, particularly as there was no school crossing patrol. It was **agreed** to change it from an amber to a green scheme.
- (e) LCHE132054 Lawn Lane, Springfield – the traffic calming humps had been measured and they came within required parameters, with no problems having been identified. Councillor Murray said that owing to the humps traffic was avoiding Lawn Lane and using other roads. After discussion the Panel nonetheless **agreed** to remove this scheme from the list.
- (f) LCHE132084 Highwood Road, Edney Common to Loves Green – the Panel was informed that Section 106 funding of £1,812 and £2,000 held by ECC was available for this scheme.
- (g) LCHE142023 Entry Point Signs – the provision for this scheme needed to be increased to £40,000 to reflect the cost of out of hours working to erect the signs.

AGREED that, with the comments detailed above and with the deletion of the Lawn Lane scheme, the following schemes should be approved:

No.	Design reference	Task name	Parish	Works description	Allocated budget
2	LCHE132072	North Avenue j/w Kings Road	Chelmsford	Junction improvements - PV ² survey from Revenue budget	£890
3	LCHE142023	Various Entry Points to City	Chelmsford	Improved City Name signage (10 in number)	£40,000
4	LCHE142034	Various Points within City	Chelmsford	Improved Wayfinder signs	£52,120
5	LCHE142036	A131/A130/B1 008, Sheepcotes RAB	Great Waltham	Two M11 patches for existing advanced directional signs	£2,500
6	LCHE132082	Highwood Road, Loves Green	Highwood	Traffic management improvements – Feasibility Study	£4,000
7	LCHE132083	Highwood Road, Edney Common	Highwood	Traffic management improvements – Feasibility Study	£4,000
8	LCHE132084	Highwood Road Edney Common to Loves Green	Highwood	New footway to provide pedestrian link between hamlets – Feasibility Study	£7,500
10	LCHE132047	A132/B1012 (Shaw Farm RAB) and B1012/B1418	South Woodham Ferrers	Improved Goods Vehicle signage to keep vehicles on PR1 and not diverting through Woodham Ferrers	£7,500
12	LCHE132078	Buttsbury Bridge, Stock Lane	Stock	Bridge improvements – Safety Assessment from Revenue Budget	£500
13	LCHE142035	Nr Hylands School, Chelmsford Road	Writtle	Improved road markings at existing School Warning signs	£1,000
Total					
Revenue recommendations					£1,390
Capital recommendations					£118,620

7. **Highway Improvement Scheme Proposals**

The Panel received a report on 13 minor highway improvement schemes, seven bus stop/route improvements, three cycling schemes and one public rights of way scheme, each of which had been prioritised against set criteria and given a red, green or amber status to indicate priority.

With regard to the following schemes:

- (a) LCHE132024 Bicknacre Road, Bicknacre – a S106 contribution of £1,842.93 was available for this scheme.
- (b) LCHE132023 Main Road, Woodham Ferrers – a section 106 contribution of £1,780.10 was available.
- (c) LCHE132057 Old Moulsham (Moulsham Drive/Lady Lane/Hamlet Road/St Johns/ Vicarage Road/Moulsham Street) – **Action:** the result of speed surveys would be reported to the next meeting.
- (d) LCHE145007 119-121 Arbour Lane – a S106 contribution of £5,627.79 was available for this scheme.
- (e) LCHE145010 Broomfield Road opposite Skerry Rise – it was believed that First Bus vehicles were not yet fitted with transponder equipment, calling into question their ability to display real time passenger information at stops at present. Before deciding whether to approve this scheme it was requested that a report on this issue be considered at a future meeting. **Action:** Jon Simmons
- (f) LCHE146006, 145011 and 145012 Boyton Cross, Green Lane, Roxwell and A1060 Roxwell Road – it was reported that a Section 106 contribution of £2,000 held by ECC was available for scheme LCHE145011. The Panel asked for more information to justify the cost of Scheme LCHE146006; the passenger usage for Scheme LCHE145011; and whether the parish councils were contributing to the cost of any of the schemes. It also asked whether any of the shelters could be repaired rather than replaced. **Action:** Jon Simmons to report back on these points.
- (g) LCHE145005 St Mary's Church, Runwell Road – this scheme was no longer required.
- (h) LCHE144009 Westway cycling scheme – this scheme had been removed at the request of the Cycling Officer, it could now be removed from the list to request funding as other sources of funding were being explored.
- (i) Public Right of Way 40 South Woodham Ferrers station – the cost of this scheme had increased to £7,000. **Action:** Jon Simmons to obtain a breakdown of the cost and liaise with Councillor Whitehead on whether to proceed with the scheme in the light of that information.

The Panel was informed that the Cycling Officer would be attending its next meeting and would update it on the cycling schemes in general.

The Panel also received a list of 19 casualty reduction schemes, from which about seven would go on to form Scheme LCHE141004 referred to in the schemes

schedule. Detailed design on the shortlisted schemes would be brought to the Panel in March 2015. In response to a suggestion by Councillor Deakin it was **AGREED** that consideration would be given to the provision of yellow box markings at the junction of Robjohns Road/Westway either as part of the casualty reduction scheme for London Road/Westway or as a separate scheme. **Action:** Jon Simmons

AGREED that, taking into account the comments above, the following schemes be approved.

No.	Design reference	Task name	Parish	Works description	Allocated budget
Minor schemes					
1	LCHE132024	Bicknacre Road, Bicknacre	Bicknacre and Woodham Ferrers	Wigwag flashing signs	£15,000
2	LCHE132023	Main Road, Woodham Ferrers	Bicknacre and Woodham Ferrers	Vehicle Activated Sign	£8,500
7	LCHE132058	Railway Bridge, Arbour Lane	Chelmsford	Footway improvements across bridge – Feasibility study	£3,000
Bus Stop/Route Improvements					
1	LCHE145007	O/s 119-121 Arbour Lane	Chelmsford	Clearway sign,	£2,500
7	LCHE145001	New Bowers Way jw Petunia Crescent and opp Rubens Gate	Chelmsford	Formalise stop with new shelter/timetable information – scheme top up	£3,000
Cycling Schemes					
1	LCHE144008	Melbourne Avenue	Chelmsford	CH7 – Convert southern footway between Chignal Road and North Avenue – widen near West Avenue – design previously funded estimated scheme cost £25,000	£25,000 Agreed subject to target costings being provided and funding being provided in 2015/16
3	LCHE144010	Princes Road	Chelmsford	CH34 – Convert and widen	£95,000 Agreed

				footway between Opposite Moulsham School and Lidl – design previously funded estimated scheme cost £95,000	subject to target costings being provided and funding being provided in 2015/16
Public Rights of Way					
1	LCHE148004	South Woodham Ferrers station	South Woodham Ferrers	Surface improvements Subject to agreement of Chairman to breakdown of costs – scheme top up	£3,000 subject to further information being provided to the Chairman
Casualty Reduction Schemes					
1	LCHE141004	Design of seven casualty reduction schemes	Chelmsford	Various sites within Chelmsford City	£28,000
Total				Capital recommendations	<u>£223,000</u> <u>£63,000</u>

8. **Any Other Business**

Councillor Aldridge asked whether the public were able to access the papers for the Panel's meetings. The Panel was informed that the agendas and minutes were published on the LHP area of the County Council website.

The Panel requested that a list of all the schemes agreed by it that had been completed be presented to its next meeting. **Action:** Jon Simmons

It was noted that £50,000 of the Panel's capital budget for 2014/15 remained unallocated. It suggested that rather than re-directing it to other highway projects at this stage, the County Cabinet Member should be recommended to allow that sum to be retained by the LHP and used to top-up any approved schemes for which additional funding proved to be necessary. The unallocated sum would be used only for this purpose and not for new schemes. Councillor Johnson said that he would put that suggestion to the Cabinet Member. **Action:** Councillor Johnson

9. **Next Meeting**

AGREED that the next meeting be held on 15 September at 1:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 3:07 p.m.

Chairman