

**ROCHFORD DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
NOTES OF MEETING HELD 25 SEPTEMBER 2014**

County Councillors: Cllrs K Gibbs and C G Seagers
District Councillors: C I Black, B T Hazlewood, K H Hudson, Mrs G A Lucas-Gill and M J Steptoe
Visiting Councillor: Cllr R Howard (Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways)

Officers: S Scrutton (RDC Head of Planning & Transportation), A Buston (ECC Senior Transport Strategy and Engagement Officer), P Wright (Essex Highways - Highways Improvement Design Team Manager), M Valentine (Essex Highways - Highways Liaison Officer) and M Power (RDC Minutes)

Agenda Item	Key observations	Decision/Action
Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received from Cllrs T G Cutmore, M Hoy and M Maddocks.	
Declarations of Interest	Cllr M J Steptoe declared an interest in Item 9 of the Agenda, Indicative Programme list for Schemes Approved and Delivered 'Barling Road Village Gateways', by virtue of being a Barling Parish Councillor and living in Barling village.	
Notes of the meeting on 26 June 2014	The notes of the meeting of 26 June 2014 were agreed as a correct record.	
Rochford LHP 2014/15 Budget Summary	Members requested confirmation as to whether the funding allocated to schemes that were subsequently cancelled would be carried forward to the following year or whether (as was believed) funds allocated one year that are not spent cannot be brought forward to the following year. Members felt that if it is not possible to	

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	<p>carry funds forward, then allocation of funds may be confined to small schemes that can be approved and completed within the financial year. (NB The majority of projects funded by the LHP are delivered over the course of 18 months to two years. Larger projects have funding allocated in one year, with the works undertaken the following year.) Cllr Bass has advised that at present there is no automatic carry-forward of funding; however, this issue is being discussed at Highways Board meetings.</p> <p>County Highways projects are let out to contractors on a target cost basis, which is subject to a compensation fund once detailed site inspections have been made. This provides more accurate costings, which assists in managing the budget. Future reports would show the amount spent on a project, within 2 months of completion of the scheme, which will highlight any underspend of allocated funds.</p> <p>The example of the traffic island at the junction of Websters Way/Eastwood Road was cited. £50,000 of LHP funding was allocated by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation. The cost of the works was £25,000; the balance of £25,000 was lost. It was agreed that the best mechanism would be for Rochford LHP County Councillors to raise this issue direct with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr R Bass and the Deputy Member, Cllr R Howard. (The traffic island has</p>	
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	<p>been destroyed by traffic driving over it, indicating that the island is in the wrong place.)</p> <p>A list of the roads identified by the County Council as being in the worst state of repair in the Rochford District was circulated. A copy of this list to be provided by email to Panel Members. The roads included in the list had been selected by County Council officers; the criteria used for adding these roads to the list had not been made available to Members. Ward Members believe that some roads on the list are not in need of repair and others (particularly side roads) are in an extremely poor state of repair.</p> <p>There will be an additional 20 four-man crews working on the road network across the county - a total of 36 crews - until 31 March 2015. Six crews will work specifically on PR1 and PR2 roads; the remaining 30 crews will be available to improve all other roads. Work will commence in October on repairing carriageway, footway, kerbing and drain defects on identified PR1 and PR2 urban local roads and fixing carriageway defects on rural local roads. £50,000 match funding has been offered by ECC. Parish/Town Councils will have to provide match funding for repairs to roads that are not PR1/PR2; this will be orchestrated at the RDC Parish Forum. Clarification on how this will work will be requested from P Bird, Director for Commissioning:</p>	<p>Circulate list of roads to Panel Members (MP).</p> <p>Matt Valentine</p>
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	<p>Transport and Infrastructure, and relayed to LHP Members.</p> <p>Members conveyed their frustration with the fault reporting process, especially with regard to the communications aspect with regard to updating on progress, and disagreement with the outcome of the Maintenance Inspector's recommendation. Councillor Howard registered his surprise that some of the faults had not been attended to, offering to assist wherever possible. A Buston agreed to take these issues back to Essex Highways and report back to the panel to include an update on the following faults:</p> <p>A footpath in Barling has been reported as being in such a bad condition that it cannot be used.</p> <p>The following roads were detailed by Members as being in urgent need of attention:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearsons Avenue back of school; school children have to walk in the road due to cars parking on the footpath. Enforcement of parking. • Corner Eastview Road and Waterman Road – a large pothole just past the junction. • Side roads in Rochford ward have extremely bad potholes. Although these have been repaired, the 	<p>A Buston</p> <p>A Buston</p>
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	<p>quality of work was questioned, as the road surface has very quickly sunk again. ECC Highways to raise with ECC Commissioners to report the quality of work in this location.</p>	
<p>Rayleigh Town Centre – Update</p>	<p>A presentation of how a traffic flow model is used to ascertain traffic flows in a location was given - this is a realistic system where different scenarios/options can be tested. Traffic surveys are undertaken and data is collected, which is run through the model. This provides a fuller picture than figures on a spreadsheet model could show. This is a key route in the District and the model would cover all roads into main centre of Rayleigh (MV to provide the detail of the area to be covered). The surveys will cost around £14,000, the simulation model will be £40,000. The £4,000 recommended previously by the Panel for this scheme will be included in the £54,000 total. Members would be consulted throughout the process. In any event, the model would be useful for obtaining future funding as it will show traffic flow problems and appropriate solutions. This will also enable more bid applications for funding from Central Government to be made, all of which require an evidence base of traffic flow characteristics to demonstrate the need for road improvements.</p>	<p>Matt Valentine</p>
<p>New Scheme Requests Update</p>	<p>Results of the surveys for the four scheme requests in the report were not available at the meeting. It was</p>	

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	<p>agreed that if the surveys show that the schemes are viable and meet the necessary criteria, the LHP Chairman would be given authority to progress the schemes to the next stage of the process. Panel Members would be advised by email of any progress in this respect.</p> <p>Parish/Town Councils and residents should bring issues to the Panel via any District/County Council Members, as well as Members of the LHP.</p>	
<p>Potential Schemes for consideration by the Panel</p>	<p>LROC142033 Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh – scheme to install two flashing wigway signs at either end of the school to improve the safety of school children. It was confirmed that ECC Highways will maintain these signs after installation.</p> <p>LROC142030 Edward Francis School – Uplands Park Road, Rayleigh – scheme to move the guard rail and reinstate the rail, making good the area of footway, to improve the safety of the children.</p> <p>LROC142038 Briar Close/Hawkwell park Drive, Hockley – scheme to install dropped kerbs along Briar Close junction with Hawkwell Park Drive to enable wheelchair/mobility scooter users and prams to cross the roads safely. Cllr Young, Hawkwell Parish Council, to be advised that this matter should be raised with the relevant District Ward Member for referral to the Panel.</p>	<p>Scheme Agreed</p> <p>Scheme Agreed</p> <p>Matt Valentine to advise Cllr Young.</p>

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	<p>LROC142017 Canewdon, Ashingdon and Stambridge – signage and TRO review. MV to refer back.</p> <p>LROC142035 Brays Lane and Apton Hall Road, Rochford – scheme to install 2 signs back to back – advance warning of weight restriction along Hyde Wood Lane.</p> <p>LROC132034 Kingswood Crescent, Rayleigh – to install grasscrete on the bend of Kingswood Crescent to assist passing vehicles and maintain the verge.</p>	<p>Matt Valentine</p> <p>Scheme Agreed</p> <p>Scheme Agreed</p>
<p>Indicative Programme list for Schemes Approved and Delivered during 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15</p>	<p>Members to email MV with any queries they have on schemes on the list.</p>	
<p>Any other business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed new bridleway leading off The Chase, Ashingdon. Members were provided with a written summary report of the scheme, which proposes upgrading a section of footpath 4, Ashingdon to bridleway leading from The Chase, and dedicating an additional new section of bridleway to link southwards to the existing Bridleway 43; a number of objections had been received from residents of The Chase. Cllr R Bass, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, requested that the Rochford LHP Members make the decision on this scheme. It appeared there would be no natural 	<p>Scheme to be declined.</p>

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	<p>continuation of the bridleway. A map of the area was considered by Members and it was felt that a bridleway in this location would result in safety issues and potential for accidents as horse riders would have to pull out on to a main road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Barling Road the footpath ends opposite Ye Old Shoulderstick pub, resulting in there being no footpath on the bend in the road. It was requested that a short length of footpath be instated. This stretch of road is frequently used by pedestrians. It was further requested that chevrons be put on the 'blind' corner on the right side of the road approaching the Shoulderstick pub. • Currently there are no bridleways in Barling. It was requested that landowners of existing footpaths be approached regarding the adaptation of existing footpaths to provide permissive routes for horse riders. • Speed surveys undertaken two years previously had shown that a request to reduce the speed limit on the 60 mph section of Old London Road, Rawreth to 40 mph had been declined as it had not met ECC policy (due to there being no residential development on either side of the road). It was requested that there be a warning sign to warn motorists of the sports pitches that are now next to 	<p>A scheme validation would be undertaken in respect of installing a footpath and ownership of the land where the footpath is proposed ascertained. A pedestrian movement survey to be undertaken. (MV)</p> <p>The erection of warning signs on the bend before the football pitches to be validated. (MV)</p>
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	<p>this stretch of road. The footway along the road is in a poor state of repair.</p> <p>A request was made for yellow hatching on the northern side of the Fairglen interchange, coming from Rawreth to improve traffic flow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pathways under the bridge from Ashingdon into Hall Road are too narrow to allow access by push chairs, wheelchairs or mobility scooters, resulting in these users having to go into the road. A suggestion that the paths are widened and a light-control contraflow installed would be put to validation. • Engineers would report on the Purdey's Way roundabout scheme by the end of the year, with funding being available in 2015/16 (SELEP would advise towards the end of the year if funding of £5 million is available for the scheme). 	<p>Validation to be undertaken. (MV)</p> <p>Cllr Lucas-Gill to email MV with details. Scheme to be validated. (MV)</p>
Date of next meeting	The next Rochford LHP meeting date is Thursday 29 January 2015 from 2pm - 4pm.	

The meeting started at 10 am and ended at 12.28 pm.