

# Minutes

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## Essex County Council with Brentwood Borough Council Local Highways Panel (LHP)

23 March 2015

### Membership/Attendance

- \* Cllr Kendall (ECC) (Chair)
- \* Cllr Aspinell (ECC)
- \* Cllr Baker (BBC)
- \* Cllr Cloke (BBC)
- \* Cllr Morrissey (BBC) (Vice Chair)
- \* Cllr Dr Naylor (ECC)
- \* Cllr Parker (BBC)

\*present

### Apologies

Cllr Clark  
Cllr Hirst

### Also present

Cllr Russell

### Officers Present

Sonia Church - Highways Liaison Manager (ECC)  
Mark Robinson – Senior Transport and Strategy Engagement Manager (ECC)  
Jean Sharp – Governance and Member Support Officer (BBC)  
Kim Shenton – Highways Liaison Officer (ECC)  
Vicky Duff - Network Manager(ECC)

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Kendall welcomed all present to the meeting and introduced the Members and officers present.

#### 2. Declarations of interest

None were received.

### **3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hirst and Clark and under the constitution of the Local Highway Panels no substitutes were allowed.

### **4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the 15 December 2014 meeting were approved as a true record.

In relation to the minutes, Cllr Kendall requested that Members wishing an item to be investigated or taken forward should complete a validation form and send it to ECC officers to progress the matter.

He was also pleased to advise that the withdrawn services for Bus 21 Kelvedon Hatch (Minute 11) had now been reinstated following representations from Parish, Borough and County councillors.

### **5. Member and Public Questions**

Cllr Kendall had agreed to receive a petition from a member of the public calling for a 20mph speed restriction within the stretch of the A128 between the white gates demarcating Herongate and Ingrave villages, also in Billericay Road, Herongate Tye. There were 450 signatures on the petition and additional letters of support.

Cllr Kendall advised the petition would be passed to ECC officers to progress and that County Councillor Hirst was aware of it and was supportive.

\* An update would be given at a future meeting.

A parish councillor who was also a teacher and governor at Mountnessing School made representation relating to the feasibility study carried out relating to extending the pedestrian island and traffic calming measures outside the school.

Cllr Kendall requested the comments be emailed to him and Cllr Dr Naylor and that

\* Cllr Dr Naylor liaise with ECC officers. The letters of support provided from parents and the school were passed to ECC officers at the meeting.

### **6. A128 Ongar Road**

Members were aware of the recent fatal accident which had occurred in Ongar Road, Kelvedon Hatch and on behalf of the Panel, Cllr Kendall expressed condolences to the family of the schoolgirl who had died. A police investigation was underway and a full report would be made to ECC Highways in due course following which

\* the LHP would discuss any outcome.

An ECC officer advised that a request had previously been received from Kelvedon Hatch Parish Council for pedestrian refuge island to be provided on the A128 and a

feasibility study had recommended a PV<sup>2</sup> investigation be undertaken. As a result of this, no measures were recommended to be carried out.

## **7. Brentwood High Street Maintenance**

Members were reminded that maintenance did not fall within the remit of Local Highway Panels, however the Panel meetings provided an opportunity for Members to discuss issues generally.

Cllr Kendall was aware of concerns expressed by many people about the defects in the High Street carriageway and pavements. Repairs had been scheduled to be carried out by ECC but these had been delayed during road works being undertaken on the A12.

Cllr Kendall advised that a street audit had been carried out in the High Street on behalf of the Renaissance Group and issues were reported to ECC. A highway inspection had taken place and 30 defects identified.

A discussion ensued regarding the repairs needed and lack of maintenance to carriageways and pavements in the town centre and throughout the Borough, the poor quality of work where repairs had been made - particularly by statutory undertakers, the lack of quality assurance by ECC and lack of a maintenance strategy. Cllr Kendall advised he had requested the relevant ECC Cabinet Member to arrange a seminar for Members on the criteria for maintenance issues.

It was felt that the 20mph limit and weight limit in the High Street not being enforced and lorries parking on the pavement were responsible for many of the problems.

## **8. Great Ropers Lane**

The Panel was pleased to note that, subject to the support of LHP, the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation had approved the commencement of a formal TRO process for the introduction of a 40mph limit at all times in Great Ropers Lane and an advisory 20mph limit when lights were flashing in the vicinity of the school, with appropriate signage.

\* The ECC officer proposed that speed surveys be undertaken when the scheme was implemented to assess compliance.

**The Panel RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to support this proposal and it was anticipated the scheme would be installed by the end of April 2015.**

There was some discussion regarding the classification of roads and

\* Cllr Kendall proposed that 'Quiet Lanes' be discussed at the next LHP meeting.

## 9. Update on Funding and Schemes Approved

An ECC officer advised that all schemes included in Report 1 had been recommended by the LHP and funding agreed by the Cabinet Member. Those items indicating delivery in 2015/16 would be delivered after 1 April 2015 and Members could decide whether they wished to progress them or not.

Item 10 related to the public realm improvements at Shenfield and Brentwood Stations and Cllr Kendall advised that it was proposed to hold meetings with relevant Ward Members and County Councillors after the May 2015 elections to consider the design works produced so far for both stations and to enable the Members to comment before designs were progressed any further.

Item 2 – Hanging Hill Lane/Pondfield Lane. Cllr Kendall advised that since the chevrons and VAS signs had been installed on the bend there had been no further personal injury accidents and it was therefore proposed that the carriage widening scheme be put on hold for the time being.

Cllr Parker requested clarification regarding the £60,000 allocated budget for this scheme, ie whether any slippage would be carried over to 2015/16 and the ECC officer advised there would be no slippage from 2014/15: Cllr Bass had re-profiled unspent budget in previous years and this would be the case for the current year.

\* However, she would report back to the LHP regarding the £60,000 in question.

\*Cllr Kendall requested clarification on all allocated monies included in Report 1. The ECC officer suggested that, given the amount of time it would take to scrutinize all schemes, she investigate and give a detailed breakdown on a sample of schemes.

\* Members were requested to nominate to ECC officers schemes they wished to be investigated.

\*Cllr Parker requested that Members be advised of details of any underspend at each meeting and Cllr Kendall requested that reasons be given for designs not coming to fruition.

\*Members noted that a report would be given at the June LHP meeting on Devil's Head Crossroads and the Sandpit Lane/Ongar Road junction on the outcome of vehicle count strips having been installed at both sites.

**Cllr Kendall MOVED and it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that all schemes shown on Report 1 be progressed.**

## 10. Schemes to consider for Funding – Report 2/Appendix A

An updated version of Report 2 was circulated. The ECC Officer advised that schemes to the value of £144,200 recommended in 2014/15 were to be delivered in 2015/16 and this included £85,000 for the cycling schemes. Members noted that it was ECC's

intention to deliver schemes to the value of 100% of Brentwood's budget in 2015/16 and therefore all schemes put forward should be deliverable and prioritised.

Cllr Kendall requested that the ECC Highways Manager discuss with design colleagues which of the schemes were most likely to be deliverable and provide details – including costings and timescales - for Members to discuss at the June LHP meeting and prioritise for the current year and for the rolling programme.

\*He also requested that Cllr Bass or Cllr Johnson attend the June LHP meeting.

**Cllr Aspinell MOVED and Cllr Kendall SECONDED and it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

- 1. To allocate all of the budget against the listed schemes, which totalled £526,000, and decide which schemes to progress at the June LHP meeting.**
- 2. That Cllr Kendall and Cllr Parker would discuss and sanction any schemes which could be progressed in the meantime.**
- 3. That £5000 be reserved from the Revenue budget for ad hoc surveys.**

## **11. Any Other Business**

Lower Road, Mountnessing: Cllr Cloke requested that the issue of cars parking all day in the 'stub' of the roundabout be re-examined. Cllr Parker advised that the issue was being considered by South Essex Parking Partnership but Mark Reed it was unlikely action would be taken since no problem was being caused.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would take place on Monday 8 June 2015 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Brentwood Town Hall.