

**HIGHWAYS PANEL held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD  
SAFFRON WALDEN at 6pm on 20 JUNE 2016**

Present: Councillor S Walsh (Chairman)  
Councillors S Barker and J Lodge (Essex County Council).  
Councillors J Davey and A Townsend (Uttlesford Association of  
Local Councils).

Officers in attendance: R Long (Highways Liaison Officer – Essex Highways)  
and A Rees (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer – UDC).

Also Present: Councillor Paul Gadd (Saffron Walden Town Council), Councillor  
Stephanie Gill (Clavering Parish Council) and Mr Tom White (Audley End  
Estate).

**HP1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Freeman.

**HP2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2016**

The minutes were received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record  
subject to the following amendments

**HP29 – Potential Schemes**

**(xviii) Duck Street, Wendens Ambo – Implementation of a 20mph  
zone**

Members agreed to fund the scheme subject to sign-off by the Portfolio  
Holder.

**(xxii) High Easter – Extension to speed limit**

Members agreed to not fund the scheme at this point in time.

**(xxxiv) Thaxted Road, Wimbish – Reduction in speed limit to 30mph**

Members agreed to fund the scheme subject to sign-off by the Portfolio  
Holder.

**HP3 MATTERS ARISING**

**(i) HP29 – Potential Schemes**

In response to request from Councillor Lodge for an update on the potential  
scheme at Duck Street, the Highways Liaison Officer said she had prepared  
a report on the scheme which was now going through the necessary

procedures. A possible stumbling block to the scheme was that 20mph limits were not normally implemented on this type of road. She would send a copy of the report to Councillor Lodge.

**(ii) Any other business**

Councillor Davey would be provided with an update on the weight scheme at Dunmow. The Highways Liaison said that reports on Section 106 funding would be brought to future meetings of the Panel.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

The Chairman invited Mr White to speak about issues on the roads surrounding Audley End Estate. He began by stating that there had been a large increase in the amount of traffic going past Audley End House, which had coincided with the introduction of the Wenden Road Cycle path. A number of HGV drivers ignored the weight limit on the bridge. Alternatively they attempted to turn the vehicles around, which slowed down traffic and caused damage to the grass verges. He understood that the weight limit for the bridge was effectively unenforceable.

The Highways Liaison Officer explained that there were two types of weight limit; structural and environmental. The weight limit in place at the bridge was structural but the integrity of the bridge had recently been re-evaluated and had been deemed to be structurally sound. This made the weight limit unenforceable.

In response to a further question by Mr White, the Highways Liaison Officer said she was going to propose that the weight limits surrounding Saffron Walden were looked at next year when funding became available.

Councillor Barker suggested that the matter was looked at urgently and that funding was made available. Councillor Lodge agreed with Councillor Barker's comments and added that the weight limit sign for Wenden Road was still in place. This was for a 7.5 tonne weight limit instead of three tonnes and meant that the signage was very confusing.

Mr White said that 60mph speed limit on the approach to Audley End House from Saffron Walden meant that vehicles drove too quickly over the bridge which was in a 40mph zone. There was now also difficulty getting from Audley End Station to Audley End House by foot as the path was now unusable in places.

The Highways Liaison Officer said that she had been looking to co-ordinate Highway Rangers and Highway Maintenance to allow the Rangers to carry out works. However, it was possible that any works would be too large for the Rangers to carry out.

In response to a question by Councillor Gadd, the Highways Liaison Officer said that Rangers had looked at whether the verge on Wenden Road could be cut back, but felt if this was done the rest of the verge would be at risk of subsiding.

The Highways Liaison Officer then spoke in response to questions by Councillor Lodge. She said that parts of the footpath from Littlebury to Great Chesterford was falling apart and wouldn't be usable as cycle paths. A cycle path from Wendens Ambo to Great Chesterford could also be possible but would also depend on the quality of the footpath.

HP4

#### **SCHEMES APPROVED IN 2016-17**

The Highways Liaison Officer explained that the Panel allocated all of its funding at the previous meeting. She then highlighted the following schemes

**(i) High Street, Hempstead – Phase 2 of the footway construction**

The necessary meetings had now taken place and the only possible issue now was organising a road closure to enable works to take place. It was hoped that the scheme would be completed by the end of the summer.

**(ii) Ashdon Road, Saffron Walden – Installation of a pedestrian build-out**

She was looking to clarify whether the parking restrictions on the road would cause any hold-up on the scheme, although the initial indication was that there wouldn't be an issue.

**(iii) Feathers Hill, Hatfield Broad Oak – New 30mph VAS sign to replace the existing 40mph VAS sign**

The sign had been replaced through a different scheme so the cost was no longer out of the allocated budget. This funding would now be allocated to schemes on the reserve funding list. This was also the case with a similar scheme on Wicken Road which had been on the reserve funding list.

**(iv) Hall Road, Elsenham – Sign review to look into possibly erecting signage to alert drivers to road narrowing**

The scheme had been cancelled as no viable solution could be found.

**(v) In the vicinity of the school, Finchingfield Road, Great Sampford – Signage and lining amendments in the vicinity of the school**

The scheme had been cancelled as no viable solution could be found.

**(vi) Catons Lane, Saffron Walden – Design for a possible footway linking the car park to the existing footpath on Little Walden Road**

In response to a question by Councillor Lodge, the Highways Liaison Officer said that the scheme was going ahead

The report was noted.

HP5

**POTENTIAL SCHEME LIST**

The Highways Liaison Officer said that since all the current financial year's budget had already been allocated, Members couldn't agree to fund the schemes at this point in time.

Members asked questions about the following schemes;

**(i) Audley End Road jw B1052 Newport Road, Saffron Walden – Implementation of CR scheme designed in 2015-16**

In response to a question by Councillor Barker, the Highways Liaison Officer explained that it was probable that the scheme would look at signage in the vicinity of the junction. It was possible that Section 106 monies might be available to help fund the scheme.

Councillor Lodge added that the Panel should wait until the Highways Strategy had been published.

The Highways Liaison Officer, in response to a question by Councillor Barker said that the scheme on the A120 was just within the Uttlesford boundary and was not a high value scheme.

**(ii) B1256 Braintree Road jw Braintree Road – Implementation of CR scheme designed in 2015-16**

The Highways Liaison Officer said that there was a need to complete a further, manual, traffic count and asked that £11,000 was made available from revenues.

Councillor Davey said there had been issues on the B0125 with drivers cutting across the road. In response the Highways Liaison Officer said there was a lack of signage telling drivers to give way.

The Highways Liaison Officer asked Members if they would make a further £6,000 available from revenues for ad-hoc speed surveys.

AGREED that;

- That an extra £11,000 was made available from revenues for the casualty reduction scheme on the B1256.

- An extra £6,000 was made available from revenues for ad-hoc speed surveys.

HP6            **HIGHWAYS RANGERS**

The Highways Liaison Officer said that the Rangers had been continuing with the good work they had been doing previously. The process to send requests to the Rangers had now been changed so requests should now be sent through the online portal instead of via email.

In response to a point by Councillor Gill, the Highways Liaison Officer she was aware that there were occasionally some issues with the online portal. If there were issues with the online portal then requests could be emailed.

The report was noted.

HP7            **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Townsend said that the VAS sign was set very high and did not appear to be calibrated correctly as it flashed when vehicles were travelling at 25mph.

In reply the Highways Liaison Officer said this would be looked at. There was an expectation going forward that maintenance of VAS signs would be met through the revenues budget

HP8            **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Councillor Walsh said that if there was no substantive business the meeting on 12 September might be cancelled, with any updates being dealt with by way of email. The Highways Liaison Officer explained that she was seeking clarification on whether the meeting would be going ahead.

The meeting ended at 6:45pm