

MINUTES

of the

CHELMSFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

5 July 2012

Present:

County Councillor Jude Deakin	Essex County Council
Councillor Ian Grundy	Chelmsford City Council
County Councillor Norman Hume	Essex County Council
County Councillor Mike Mackrory	Essex County Council
Councillor Chris Rycroft	Chelmsford City Council
Councillor Roy Whitehead	Chelmsford City Council (Chairman)
Councillor Ian Wright	Chelmsford City Council

In attendance:

Nick Binder	Chelmsford City Council
Keith Blackburn	Essex County Council
County Councillor Ray Howard	Essex County Council
Derek Latimer	Chelmsford City Council
Hannah Neve	Essex County Council
Mary Poulton	Chelmsford City Council
Averil Price	Chelmsford City Council
Jon Simmons	Essex County Council
Derek Stebbing	Chelmsford City Council
Joy Thomas	Chelmsford City Council

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Councillor Whitehead welcomed everyone present to the second meeting of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel.

2. **Apologies and Substitutions**

County Councillor Dick Madden had sent his apologies.

3. **Minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel Meeting on 25 May 2012**

The minutes of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel meeting held on 25 May 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Update on all Action Points from the last Meeting**

County Councillor Mackrory confirmed that he had spoken with the Leader of Essex County Council, County Councillor Martin, about the differences between the draft document of March 2012 and the document which was circulated prior to the last meeting. It appeared that he had not been advised of the changes by accident.

Mapping

Hannah Neve reported that mapping of highways schemes had commenced across the County and would include maintenance works, Section 106 improvements and schemes already planned. The aim was that it would become a mapping tool on the Essex County Council website so that anyone viewing it could identify what a scheme involved, the cost and when it was likely to be delivered. Initially it would only be in a pdf format but in time it would be interactive. The Chairman welcomed this initiative as it would enable the information to be collated and then assessed for decision. Although it would be some months before the interactive version was on the website, she would report on progress to the next meeting of the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel.

Odeon Roundabout

Jon Simmons reported that developing a final design for the roundabout scheme taking into account the concerns expressed at the last Panel meeting would cost in the region of £4,000. He asked if the Panel were happy to authorise that funding and this was agreed

Tesco, Princes Road, Chelmsford

The Chairman confirmed that Tesco had agreed to extend the period when the Section 106 contribution towards improvements works in the Princes Road area until 2015. As a result, there would be an additional £95,187 which was available. The Chairman reiterated the importance of early consideration as to how this funding will be utilised.

Rainsford Road, Chelmsford

County Councillor Deakin outlined the background to the request for a pedestrian refuge island in Rainsford Road. Jon Simmons reported that an earlier scheme had not progressed because of safety issues but a fresh scheme had been designed and he presented this to the Panel. This scheme would involve moving a bus stop and the loss of some permit parking spaces. County Councillor Deakin considered that the loss of a few spaces would not be a problem and proposed that a wide consultation take place in the area. It was agreed that full details including costs and the impact of losing parking spaces should be brought to the next Panel meeting.

Linnet Drive, Chelmsford

Jon Simmons reported on the background to this proposal for a zebra crossing, which had been generated by the requirements of Mildmay Primary School and Moulsham High School. When the scheme had gone out to public consultation, two representations in favour of the scheme had been received and 8 objections including a petition of 35 signatures. After the close of the consultation period, however a further 22 representations in support of the scheme had been received. As a result, the Panel had been asked at its last meeting to decide if the scheme should be pursued.

County Councillor Deakin reiterated the view that the reason why so few letters of support had been received was that it had been assumed that because it was perceived to be necessary on safety grounds that it would be proceeding.

The Chairman confirmed that the safety aspects of the proposal were the Panel's concern rather than the consultation exercise and he proposed that as a safety exercise a "school crossing patrol" should be arranged for a trial period for the Autumn school term at the crossing site. County Councillor Hume supported the trial period for a crossing patrol as whilst on paper the scheme did not appear supportable, the facts gained over the trial could determine its priority. Councillor Rycroft whilst expressing some concern about the visibility of any school crossing patrol agreed that the proposal would establish the safety of the location. Councillor Wright concurred with this approach as it would provide information for a decision later on concerning the zebra crossing proposal.

Councillor Deakin suggested that a six month period might be better but the Chairman felt that after the initial three months, the matter should be reviewed and by that time it would be clear if the scheme could be progressed. County Councillor Mackrory emphasised the need to respond to the requirements of constituents and felt that the needs of the elderly should be taken into account as well.

Councillor Grundy asked about the funding for the school crossing patrol and Hannah Neve advised that as this was a revenue cost as opposed to a capital cost, it might need to be vired from the Highways Rangers budget. Jon Simmons agreed he would discuss the patrol with the other Essex County Council teams and report further to the Chairman. The Chairman stressed the need for some urgent action on this matter to agree implementation before the school summer holidays.

ACTION

- Jon Simmons to advise the Chairman of the costs involved and subject to his agreement, a school crossing patrol be established in Linnet Drive for a trial period of three months commencing in September 2012

Parish Councils

Averil Price confirmed that Parish and Town Councils had been sent an email about the work of the Panel together with the minutes of the last meeting.

The Army and Navy Roundabout

Hannah Neve reported that a stakeholder meeting to discuss the safety of the flyover would be held on 9 July 2012 involving local Councillors and the Chairman as well as the emergency services. Councillor Rycroft suggested that either the County Councillor for Great Baddow (County Councillor Maureen Miller) or Councillor Trevor Miller or herself from Chelmsford City Council should also be included. Hannah Neve agreed that invitation would be sent to Great Baddow representatives.

Toolkit

Jon Simmons confirmed that the toolkit was being finalised and would be available very shortly. It would include topic papers on a number of matters including crossings and rights of way.

5. Chelmsford LHP Full Reserve Scheme list

Jon Simmons introduced the reserve scheme list by explaining the definitions of "green", "amber" and "red" schemes. He confirmed that the current "green" safety schemes amounted to £81,850 and the "amber" safety schemes amounted to £29,500.

County Councillor Hume expressed concern about a likely capital underspend and it was agreed that all the safety schemes should be funded.

The Margaretting Road, Galleywood footpath scheme (scheme 11) which was linked to the flood reduction scheme was then considered for prioritisation. £5,000 would be needed for a design and options for this scheme and this could be presented to the next meeting. This funding was agreed.

County Councillor Mackrory asked for clarification of the status of Scheme 102 (New Nabbotts Way, Springfield – Zebra Crossing) as he had understood it was to go ahead but in the reserve scheme list it was listed as a “red” scheme. Jon Simmons confirmed that he would investigate the position and then advise County Councillor Mackrory. County Councillor Mackrory also asked at what point an “amber” scheme became a “green” one and he was advised that once it had a "criteria" number of 14 a scheme became “green”.

County Councillor Deakin suggested that all cycling schemes should be progressed as soon as possible but it was noted that some cycling schemes were at a high cost. Hannah Neve suggested that as far as cycling schemes were concerned generally there could be a phased approach with design works in one year and implemented in the next.

Hannah Neve advised that a scheme for the Army and Navy Flyover would be brought before the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel for views on a viable solution and she stated that this might be in advance of the next meeting of the Panel.

Hannah Neve then reported on Scheme, 114 (Broomfield Road, Chelmsford – Access to the West End). It was noted that the current bus and taxi only access into Broomfield Road from Parkway was being reviewed to see if other vehicles might be able to use it arising from a request for greater access into the West End. Surveys needed to be carried out to assess the safety and economic effects of any changes. The Panel were asked to agree funding for the surveys and economic appraisals. County Councillor Deakin confirmed that from her own attendance at West End Business Association meetings she was aware that there was a strong demand for more traffic to be able to come past the shops, She suggested that any parking to be lost on the Ship public house side of Broomfield Road could be replaced by additional parking in Coval Lane. It was noted that there would be a capital and revenue cost of £13,000 for the trials and a report on the surveys would be made to the Panel. The Chairman urged swift action to get the trial in place as soon as possible.

ACTION

- all safety schemes in the safety list together with designs for Scheme 11 be progressed;
- a report on the Army and Navy flyover be made to the Panel either before or at the next meeting.
- surveys in connection with Scheme 114 be implemented and a further report made on the results.

6. Section 106 Schemes

Keith Blackburn briefly explained the Section 106 process and how it would be augmented by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). He emphasised that the schemes should not be regarded as an unlimited source of money and that requirements in such agreements needed to be fair, reasonable and directly related to the development concerned. As the capital was limited in scope, it needed to be spent as effectively as possible on infrastructure.

The Panel then considered the list of current Chelmsford section 106 contributions. Councillor Wright expressed his concern that the Molrams Lane agreement had expired without the works being finalised but Keith Blackburn explained that the works had been done but the contribution had not been taken from the Section 106 budget and to that extent it was an accounting discrepancy that was shown on the list before the Panel. The money had not been lost. Keith Blackburn also confirmed that although the expiry date for the Burleigh Way traffic calming in connection with Strada at Princes Road had been 12 June 2011 the scheme nonetheless was in progress.

County Councillor Mackrory queried why so long after implementation of the Great Leighs Bypass the improvements in Main Road were still not in place, Derek Stebbing confirmed that the Section 106 funded works had been deferred to take account of any longer-term calming measures that might be needed. In answer to a further question by County Councillor Mackrory, it was confirmed that the "Springfield pot for improvements" was separate from the contributions in this report.

ACTION

- The list of schemes be amended for future meetings so that it concludes a current progress column and that it highlights decisions that need to be taken in the near future.
- Keith Blackburn and Joy Thomas work together to prepare an updated list

7. **Highways Rangers Summary**

The Panel received for information a summary of the Chelmsford City Highways Rangers works of minor local works such as the clearing of vegetation, maintenance of signs and the repair of kerbs between April and June 2012. Councillor Wright asked that before fly posted signs are removed, the Highways Rangers contact the organisation concerned. Jon Simmons confirmed that whenever possible, this liaison did take place already.

8. **Provisional Works Programme**

The Panel received an updated programme of works 2012/2013 for highways maintenance. In answer to a request from the Chairman, that he advise Councillor Kingsley, the Mayor of Chelmsford City Council about progress with white lining in Danbury, Jon Simmons agreed to investigate and report further

9. **Any Other Business**

A12 Noise Reduction

In answer to a question from Councillor Wright about the rumour that when the current temporary scheme ends, the measures will be withdrawn, Jon Simmons agreed to investigate and report further

Speed Indicator Devices

Councillor Grundy asked about the policy of changing the locations of speed indicator devices, Jon Simmons explained that a team at Essex County Council were considering this matter but that Parish Councils were responsible already for moving vehicle activated devices.

Public Involvement

County Councillor Deakin asked when a meeting of the Panel with the public in attendance would be. The Chairman suggested that as much of the current business was information gathering and that some of the information was sensitive, it would be proper to have the Annual Meeting of the CLHP as a public meeting. To promote public awareness, the agenda without the reports and the minutes would be placed on the Chelmsford City Council website.

Safety Scheme 37 (Waltham Road, Boreham)

Jon Simmons reported that he needed to investigate further the actual costs for this scheme and he would report back to the Chairman.

10 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be at 12:30 p.m. on 3 September 2012 at the Chelmsford City Council offices.

The meeting closed at 3:05 p.m.

Chairman