

COLCHESTER LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL – MINUTES AND ACTIONS

PRESENT:

Date: 19 September 2012

Venue: Essex House, Colchester Business Park

Panel Members:

CC Member Anne Brown (Chair), Colchester Cllr Martin Hunt (Deputy Chair), CC Member Margaret Fisher, CC Member Lyn Barton, Colchester Cllr Dennis Willetts (deputising for CC Member Kevin Bentley), Colchester Cllr William Quince, Colchester Cllr Lesley Scott-Boutell, Parish Cllr John Gili-Ross

Apologies:

**CC Member Kevin Bentley
CC Member Julie Young**

Other Attendees:

CC Member Penny Channer, ECC Officer Alan Lindsay Principal Area Transportation Co-ordinator, ECC Officer Rob Macdonald Highways Liaison Officer, ECC Officer Bev Sargeant Senior Customer Services Officer

Item:	Action:	Action Owner:
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <p>Chair Cllr Anne Brown opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and introduced new panel members Cllr Martin Hunt as deputy chair and Parish Cllr John Gili-Ross</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>Cllr John Gili-Ross informed the panel that he was standing as an independent candidate in the Essex Police Crime Commissioner elections to be held in November 2012.</p> <p>Chair Cllr Anne Brown raised the issue of any possible conflict of interest during the period of 'purdah' (period prior to any election) and requested clarification on the rules in such cases.</p> <p>Cllr Gili-Ross has agreed to be bound by the Code of Conduct that applies to Colchester Borough Councillors. This Code of Conduct was formally accepted by West Bergholt Parish Council and therefore by the individual members in June 2012. As the next meeting of the LHP is not likely to occur until after the PCC elections then only if he is elected should he register his position as the PCC when declaring any interests at a LHP meeting. If he is not elected then the requirement to declare an interest of this nature would not apply.</p>	
3.	<p>Parking issues around schools:</p> <p>Discussions took place on parking around schools and it was confirmed that parking issues are not something that should be considered by the LHP but these should be referred to the Parking Partnership.</p>	

	<p>Improvement schemes could be considered by the LHP if there are safety implications.</p> <p>Cllr Dennis Willetts referred to the proposed school building out pavement improvement scheme at Heathlands School. A report has been written with action points which should be forwarded to Rob Macdonald for applicable actions to be added to the scheme list.</p> <p>Cllr Lesley Scott-Boutell stated that the Parking Partnership had prepared a report on Birch School, Birch and meetings had taken place with the Parish and the Police. Following investigations the NEPP have been considering how to improve parking for residents at two sites in Mile End and Stanway and surveyed households in affected streets to help identify a preferred solution.</p>	<p>Rob Macdonald</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 2 August 2012</p> <p>Panel members agreed as correct record and the following issues were raised:</p> <p><u>Item 3 – Implementing 20mph traffic speeds across the borough</u></p> <p>Cllr John Gili-Ross questioned whether the Task and Finish Group mentioned in this item was the same one he previously attended. It was agreed that this was the same group but there was uncertainty around the frequency of meetings. Status of T&F Group and the proposal for local communities' demand for the implementation of 20mph schemes to be taken to this group to be reviewed and brought back to next meeting.</p> <p><u>Item 7 – Panel Attendance</u></p> <p>Cllr John Gili-Ross questioned the decision made by panel members to only have 2 public meetings per year.</p> <p>Chair Cllr Anne Brown explained that as the newly formed panel had inherited an historic list with the origin request of some schemes being unknown it was felt necessary in the first instance to have private meetings to become familiar with the schemes list and to ensure that correct and up-to-date information regarding each scheme was provided.</p> <p>First public meeting is proposed to take place in January 2013, date to be advised in due course.</p> <p>Schemes list for consideration of the panel members will be shared with Parish Councils after meetings. Going forward it is proposed that a 'What Schemes are on the List' item be added to the ECC website enabling all interested parties to view what schemes have been submitted to the LHP in their local areas.</p>	<p>Rob Macdonald/Bev Sargeant</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Potential Schemes for consideration of the Panel:</p> <p>Panel members agreed to recommend for approval and sign off all</p>	

priority category 'Green' schemes under £10,000 and all category 'Amber' schemes under £5,000.

'Green' Improvement Schemes:

Scheme:	Estimated Cost:	Action:
Straight Road, Boxted – 140m footway to link existing footway at Windmill Close	£75,000	Agreed
New Church Road, W Bergholt – Kerb build out to assist pedestrian movement	£15,000	Agreed
Berechurch Hall Road – Kerbing & footway to Maypole Green	£90,000	Agreed
Halstead Road, Stanway	£75,000	On hold – work could be progressed as part of the development

'Green' Bus Stop/Route Improvements:

Panel members agreed to propose to the Parish Council that the requests to formalise the location of the stops in Langham only be carried out on one side of the road with a notice stating 'bus stop on other side of road' giving a total estimated cost of £15,000 resulting in a saving of £15,000. If PC happy with this option panel members agreed to take forward.

'Green' School Crossing Patrol Sites:

All agreed as all form part of priority category 'Green' schemes under £10,000.

'Green' Public Right of Way:

Scheme:	Estimated Cost:	Action:
Essex Way – revamp Shoulder of Mutton, Aldham	£10,000	Agreed

'Amber' Improvement Schemes:

Scheme:	Estimated	Action:
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	Cost:		
Berechurch Hall Road – Widen footway West of Berefield Way	£15,000	Uncertainty as to whether this is just a restriction caused by vegetation or a potential safety issue. Agreed subject to vegetation inspection.	
A134 Southway/A1124 Lexden Road – Widening on Lexden Road approach	£10,000	It was felt that this was more an issue with cars queuing to gain access to Essex County Hospital which should be resolved once the Cancer Services unit move up to Colchester University Hospital on Turner Road in 18 Months time. Scheme not agreed.	
*New Road, Tiptree nr Church Road – Zebra crossing to enable route to shops	£55,000	Scheme to be reviewed with intention to either move to category 'Green' status or put in abeyance.	
*Vine Road, Tiptree – Footway	£100,000	Further investigation required.	
<p>*Panel agreed that Tiptree Parish Council should be approached to ascertain which of the above 2 schemes they would consider to be a priority.</p>			Rob Macdonald
Mill Road, Myland opposite Thomas Wakley Close – Widen footway to remove pinch point	£70,000	Panel agreed to move into abeyance and bring back for further consideration following any future requests	
B1022 Colchester Zoo Access – Improve access	£80,000	Improvement plans are to create a right hand lane. Site location needs to be re- visited to see if access problem still exists. Officer observation required. On hold until re evaluated. Accident data requested.	Rob Macdonald

Brinkley Grove Road/Mill Road – junction modification to improve bus access	£50,000	Agreed
Elmstead Road, Wivenhoe – Footway from Colchester Road to Feedhams Close	Dependant on land costs	Compulsory Purchase Order process - Panel agreed to remove from scheme list.
Elmstead Road, Wivenhoe – Footway from Broadfields to Broad Lane Sports Ground	As above	As above
Ransom Road, Tiptree – New footway as footway incomplete	£24,000	Residents of Ransom Road presented a petition to the previous LHP on 9 th Jan 2012 asking that this work be allocated funding and the Parish Council is fully supportive of the residents. Agreed.
Warren Lane B1022 Heckford Bridge – Junction improvement	£10,000	Agreed
Colne Causeway/Tesco Roundabout	£19,000	Investigate further and establish the availability of any S106 monies
Boxted Road, Colchester – 30mph repeaters x 3	£500	Agreed
Doucecroft School, Eight Ash Green – School Signage	£6,000	Agreed
Access to Marks Tey Rail Station – dropped kerbs to ease access	£5,000	Agreed
Dyres Road – Colchester – Traffic Calming	£4,000	Further investigation required as speed surveys already carried out. On hold

Church Road, Thorrington – Children warning sign	£4,000	Agreed
Grosvenor Place, East Street – Keep clear signs	£2,000	Agreed
Plough Road, Great Bentley – dropped kerb	£5,000	Agreed
Alresford Road, Wivenhoe – slow markings and warning signs	£5,000	Agreed
Pudding Lane, Birch – Advisory Freight Route	£3,000	Agreed
The Avenue, Wivenhoe – Remedial works and final safety audit	£2,000	Agreed

'Amber' Small Works:

Scheme:	Estimated Cost:	Action:
West Bergholt – Horse Warning Signs	£1,000	Further investigation with Parish Council required. On hold

All other 'Amber' small works under £5,000 were agreed

'Amber' Bus/Route Improvements:

Scheme:	Estimated Cost:	Action:
Bus Stop Villa Farm, Alresford Road – new shelter on exposed location	£10,000	Further information required. On hold
Bus Stop St Ives Road, Church Road, Peldon – New passenger shelter	£10,000	Agreed

All other 'Amber' bus stop schemes under £5,000 agreed

School Crossing Patrol Sites:

Scheme:	Estimated Cost:	Action:
Layer-de-la-Haye, CE Primary School	£5,900	Agreed
All other 'Amber' School Crossing Patrol Sites under £5,000 agreed.		

Cycle Schemes:

Cllr John Gili-Ross felt that there are not enough rural cycle schemes and very little out to the North West of Colchester.

Panel Members agreed the following cycle schemes and requested a map of existing cycle routes and for a Cycle Officer to attend the next meeting.

Scheme:	Estimated Cost:	Action:
Shrub End Road/Maldon Road to Town Centre – T8 Pedestrian/Cycle Audit	£70,000	Agreed
Marks Tey Station – Cycle Storage	£15,000	Agreed
Northgate Street – Cycleway to St Mary's and Hilly Fields	£23,000	Agreed
Bergholt Road – S1 Braiswick to North Station cycle route	100,000	Agreed

Mersea Road, Colchester, Pedestrian/Cycle Audit is also being considered following review of total spend.

Rob Macdonald

6.

AOB

Cllr John Gili-Ross noted that the 2 items below previously put forward did not appear to be on the schemes list:

Scheme:	Cost:	Action:

	Post Office, Maldon Road, Birch Bus Shelter	£12,000	This was on the list but was missed off printed copy. This scheme was Agreed.	
	Bus Shelters, Horkesley, Colchester	£5,000	On the list and agreed.	
7.	Date of next meeting TBC – due to allocation of schemes at this meeting it was proposed that the next scheduled meeting on 31 October 2012 be deterred until January 2013			