

**MINUTES OF THE HARLOW LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
HELD ON**

11 September 2014

10.00 - 11.28 am

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Eddie Johnson, Essex County Council (Chairman)
Councillor Mike Danvers, Essex County Council (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Tony Durcan, Essex County Council
Councillor David Carter, Harlow District Council
Councillor Muriel Jolles, Harlow District Council

Officers

Rissa Long, Highways Liaison Officer, Essex County Council
David Sprunt, Principal Area Transportation Co-ordinator, Essex County Council
Joe McGill, Properties, Facilities and Projects Manager, Harlow Council
Lisa Purse, Corporate and Governance Support Officer, Harlow Council

Other Members

Councillor Dennis Palmer

70. **INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Essex County Councillor Karen Clempner and Harlow Councillors Tony Hall and Mark Wilkinson.

71. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

72. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman called for nominations for Chairman of the Panel 2014/15.
Councillor Tony Durcan nominated Councillor Eddie Johnson and
Councillor Muriel Jolles seconded the nomination.

RESOLVED that Councillor Eddie Johnson is appointed Chairman of the Panel 2014/15.

The Chairman called for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Panel 2014/15. Councillor Tony Durcan nominated Councillor Mike Danvers and Councillor David Carter seconded the nomination.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Danvers is appointed Vice Chairman of the Panel 2014/15.

73. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2014 are agreed as a correct record.

With reference to minute 67 Councillor Mike Danvers reported that one year appears to be a long time for road improvements at the Clock Tower roundabout. David Sprunt advised that the works involve the underpass being lengthened and strengthened and that delays are often encountered by the utilities, however subject to ongoing discussions with contractors, completion of the Clock Tower roundabout improvements are likely to be reduced to nine or ten months.

74. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Two members of the public had submitted written questions (attached) and were in attendance to address the Panel. The following responses were provided:

- a) David Bracey, 8 Churchgate Street, Harlow, CM17 0JS

The Chairman thanked Mr Bracey for his question and advised that the Panel were not aware of the issues raised however the problems would be rectified as soon as possible. Mr Bracey drew the attention of the Panel to two lampposts which have never had numbers on them and are in need of replacement bulbs. Officers invited Mr Bracey to point out the exact location of the lampposts after the meeting so that the bulbs can be replaced.

- b) David Bracey, 8 Churchgate Street, Harlow, CM17 0JS

Officers advised Mr Bracey that his question did not fall within the remit of the Panel, however a list of proposed road closures could be found at www.roadworks.org.

- c) John Wright, Waterhouse Moor Residents Association

A written response to Mr Wright's question was circulated to the Panel and is attached to these minutes. The Panel discussed ways of preventing traffic using Waterhouse Moor as a through road. Councillor Tony Durcan, Harlow Council Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Regeneration, suggested that a road block may be considered as part of the wider redevelopment review at Elm Hatch and the Hummingbird Public House in conjunction with Essex County Council and Harlow District Council.

- d) Councillor David Carter asked two maintenance related questions that did not fall within the remit of the Panel.

75. **UPDATE ON SCHEMES APPROVED 2012/13 AND 2013/14**

The Panel received a report from Essex County Council on the status of schemes approved 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Rissa Long, Highways Liaison Officer, provided some further updates on several of the listed schemes as follows:

- i) Estate Parking , District Wide, Harlow District Congestion Relief – an additional £50k was agreed in relation to Tendring Road.
- ii) Mulberry Green/Gilden way – an additional £5k was agreed
- iii) School Safety, District Wide – a traffic order has been sent to NEPP and will be advertised.
- iv) Manston Road – an additional £5k was agreed
- v) A414 fifth avenue j/w Burntmill Lane – design works are now complete

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

76. **UPDATE ON SCHEMES APPROVED 2014/15**

The Panel received a report from Essex County Council on the status of minor schemes previously approved by the Panel for 2014/15.

Rissa advised that the implementation of echelon parking scheme at Moorfields had been completed.

Councillor Muriel Jolles reported a near miss involving a pedestrian at Gilden Way at the junction between Newhall and Old Harlow. Action: Councillor Jolles to send details of the specific location to Rissa.

The initiative for a feasibility study at Altham Grove was included in the approved schemes list for 2014/15 at the June meeting but was absent from the list of approved schemes for 2014/15 in the agenda pack for this meeting. Action: Rissa to ensure that this initiative be included at the next meeting of this Panel.

RESOLVED that this report is noted.

77. **POTENTIAL SCHEME LIST**

The Panel received a list potential schemes for 2014/15 from Essex County Council.

The Third Avenue – at exit of Water Gardens car park was discussed. Part time traffic lights were discussed as a potential solution.

The Chairman advised the Group that since the last meeting of this Panel £32k had been allocated for bollards to be erected at Riverway (£17k from the Local Highways Panel budget and £15.000 from Harlow Council).

RESOLVED that:

£12k is was agreed for feasibility studies for casualty reduction schemes 1-5 listed in the report.

£1,100 is agreed for speed surveys from revenue funds.

78. **HIGHWAYS RANGERS AND REVENUE EXPENDITURE**

The Panel received a report on the Harlow Rangers service. Details of how to request the services of the Highway Rangers are on page 12 of the report pack.

79. **MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES**

David Sprunt, provided a verbal update on the following major highways schemes:

- 1) Works at the Burnt Mill roundabout have been completed.
- 2) Improvement works at the Clocktower roundabout have begun.
- 3) Enterprise Zone monies have been agreed which will allow new access to River Way, works commencing November 2015.
- 4) Formal consultation on the proposed M11 7a has been delayed to January – March 2015. The consultation will include the cost benefits analysis of options. The theoretical timetable of works is 2018 start and 2020 completion.

80. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Councillor Muriel Jolles drew the Panels attention to blocked drains on Southern Way which appear to be causing flooding at Kingsmoor Road. Joe McGill, Property and Facilities Manager, advised that this highways issue has been reported and is potentially serious due to the flooding risk to nearby houses.
- b) Councillor Muriel Jolles also advised that defective lampposts at specific locations had been reported but not yet rectified. Action: Joe McGill to follow up with Councillor Jolles outside of the meeting.
- c) Joe McGill advised that Holy Cross Primary School has started an initiative to encourage parents to park at Nicholls Field car park. The School would like barriers to be erected along the road outside

the school. Rissa advised that the School should contact the local ward Councillor in the first instance.

- d) Councillor David Carter reported concerns with vehicle speeds and dangers at junctions along Katherines Way. A speed survey was requested at Katherines Way as the limit is 60mph but vehicles have been seen travelling at 100mph and accidents have been reported at this location.

RESOLVED that: a study and speed survey at Katherines Way/Paycock road junction is funded from revenue budget.

It was noted that additional potential schemes should be included in the list for 2014/15.

81. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be arranged and Councillors would be notified appropriately.

CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL

HARLOW LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL – 11 SEPTEMBER 2014 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question from David Bracey, 8 Churchgate Street, CM17 0JS

Can the Panel explain why, when the contract was awarded to a company to paint the footpath lampposts recently, the lampposts were not prepared by the gardening department, to remove vegetation, ivy etc. from the lampposts prior to repainting? This resulted in a number of lampposts partially or totally unpainted. Also no lamppost ID numbers have been replaced.

Verbal response to be provided.

Question from David Bracey, 8 Churchgate Street, CM17 0JS

Does the Panel know or can they find out who put Road Closure signs out on Friday 29 August in Churchgate Street, then removed same by Wednesday 3 September?

Verbal response to be provided.

Question from John Wright, Waterhouse Moor Residents Association

On behalf of the Waterhouse Moor Residents Association (WHMRA) I would like to thank the Highways panel for their prompt action in arranging for comprehensive traffic assessments to be undertaken in our road and for providing us with the substantial data collected from that assessment.

We have studied the data and understand that the results obtained do not meet the criteria necessary for any intervention by either Harlow Council or Essex County Council. However at a recent WHMRA meeting it was unanimously agreed that the level of vehicles travelling in excess of 30mph along our residential road was unacceptable. The survey data indicated that 2.6% of vehicles using Waterhouse Moor were travelling in excess of 30mph. To have 150+ vehicles exceeding the speed limit over the period of a month, potentially 1800 a year is totally unacceptable to us as residents.

In an effort to highlight this situation we have written to the Chief Inspector asking for the help of local police as well as reporting our concerns to the local press.

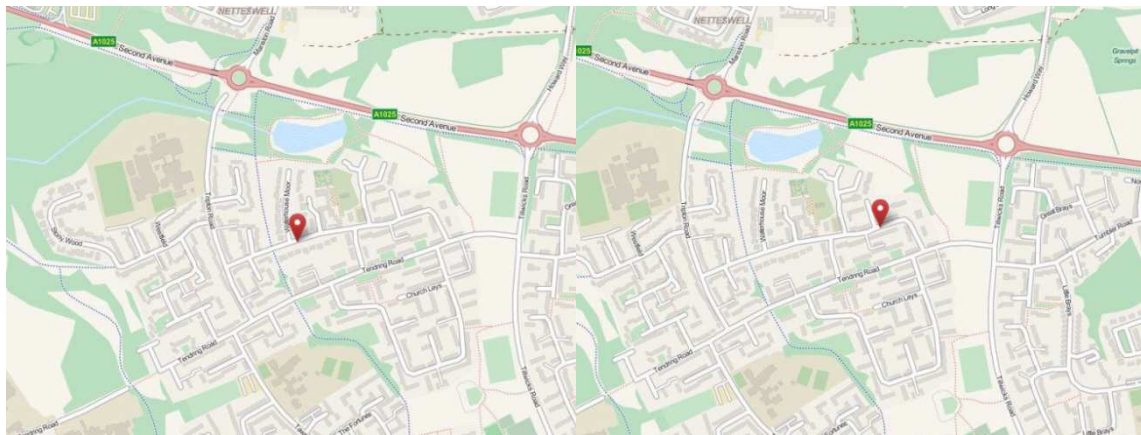
We appreciate that the highways panel has many demands on its time and resources and that the volume and speed of traffic on our road is not of serious concern to you. However as residents, many with young families, we are not prepared to stand back and allow this situation to continue. We believe it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs and we would not be serving our community, elderly and frail or our young children if we failed to take steps to solve the speeding problem.

To this end we would ask the panel to consider reducing the speed limit in Waterhouse Moor to 20mph, with the appropriate signage and to implement any

other measures that would influence drivers to reduce their speed. Perhaps SLOW written large on the road? For us, doing nothing is not an option.

Response from the Panel:

The Harlow LHP commissioned two speed surveys in Waterhouse Moor; one at either end of the street as illustrated below. Although there is evidence that a percentage of drivers are not adhering to the limit, the majority of drivers are driving with respect for the 30mph limit and the figures in fact suggest a very positive compliance with the limit and it is the average speed which Essex Highways considers when looking at possible traffic calming measures.



The average speed for the first site on the left was 24.6mph when combining the west and eastbound figures and the second site to the eastern side of Waterhouse Moor was 19mph. This is a very positive outcome for a street which is used as a cut through for traffic using Tripton Road and Tendring Road.

The Department for Transport has recently relaxed the legislation relating to the implementation of 20mph limits allowing local Councils more flexibility with where they are installed, but we still need to maintain some consistency with where they are progressed. Although there is no clear policy on where 20mph limits can be installed, the criteria that needs to be met is for the average speed to not exceed 24mph so this is basically okay with Waterhouse Moor. The speed of the traffic using Waterhouse Moor is within acceptable parameters so it could be argued that there is no justification for reducing the speed limit and introducing an official order and new signage etc when on the whole traffic is driving at respectful speeds anyway.

Is it also unlikely that a 20mph limit would deter traffic from using a particular road so there would be no effect on the volumes of traffic.

It is highly recommended that 20 limits are not installed in isolation meaning that if Waterhouse Moor is considered for a 20 limit then other streets in the vicinity should also be considered. This would lead to blanket 20 orders across the town where it is perhaps more realistic that 20 limits should be considered in the vicinity of schools and other public amenities. It is unlikely that 20 limits could be maintained across all streets without the need to introduce physical measures to slow the traffic down.

As there are no policy reasons why a 20 couldn't be considered it would be for the panel members to decide if an individual request should be considered or if a unified approach for where we do or don't pursue them is adopted.

A possible measure for Waterhouse Moor which could be pursued would be for a one way system to be introduced which would certainly reduce the volume of through traffic but which might not be a popular measure for all residents.