

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

18 February 2014

7.00 - 8.12 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Eddie Johnson, Essex County Council (Chairman)
Councillor Mike Danvers, Essex County Council (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Karen Clempner, Essex County Council
Councillor Tony Durcan, Essex County Council
Councillor Michael Garnett, Harlow District Council
Councillor Tony Hall, Harlow District Council
Councillor Guy Mitchinson, 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
Joel West, Governance Support Officer, Harlow Council

Other Members

Councillor Muriel Jolles
Councillor Sue Livings

38. **APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies of absence were received from Harlow Councillor Phil Waite.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2013 are agreed as a correct record.

40. **UPDATE ON MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 28 NOVEMBER 2013**

Rissa Long provided updates on several of the matters previously discussed at the last meeting of the Panel, on 28 November 2013. Further to Minute 27 – Opportunity for Public Speaking – Rissa advised that (i) the results of the speed survey along Priory Avenue, Old Harlow had shown the average speed along the road to be 27mph and therefore the road does not meet current criteria for installation of a vehicle activated sign (VAS), and (ii) the reported blocked drain along Tendring Road (west) has now been repaired and is draining effectively.

41. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING**

A member of the public had submitted a written question (attached) and was in attendance to address it to the Panel. A response was provided as follows:

Mr John Wright, Waterhouse Moor Residents Association

The Chairman thanked Mr Wright for his question. Rissa Long advised that a speed analysis survey could be undertaken along Waterhouse Moor if Councillors were minded to agree it, when revenue spending was considered later in the meeting. If agreed, survey results would be available in around six weeks' time.

Further to Rissa's update to the results of the speed analysis survey along Priory Avenue, Mr Potter (the member of the public who had originally asked the Panel to investigate this matter) was in attendance and asked for more detail on the survey results. Rissa agreed to send the survey results to Mr Potter. David Sprunt advised that, as part of the wider M11 Junction 7a proposals, options were being explored to manage traffic flows in this area, including consideration of a 'no right hand turn' from Gilden Way into Mulberry Green during rush hour.

Councillor Tony Hall asked a question on behalf of a resident, concerning inconsiderate parking along Kiln Way, in the vicinity of Henry Moore Primary School, Church Langley. Councillor Hall advised that during school drop-off periods, parents choose to park along the road and often obstructed the mini roundabout. Joe McGill advised that amending the Traffic Regulation Order in the immediate vicinity of the mini roundabout would mitigate this problem. The Panel agreed to recommend to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) that the TRO in this area is amended appropriately.

Essex County Councillor Karen Clempner asked Officers if the zig-zag markings along Tilegate Road, Bush Fair, would be reinstated. Joe McGill advised that this matter would be referred to the NEPP for consideration. Councillor Clempner also asked if traffic flow around the Sainsbury's supermarket entrance/exit along Fifth Avenue could be investigated, as exceptional congestion had been experienced recently here. David Sprunt advised that recent congestion could likely be attributed to improvement works on the Burnt Mill Roundabout, which are expected to be completed around May 2014.

42. **UPDATE ON SCHEMES**

a) Update on schemes approved 2012-13

The Panel received a report from Essex County Council on the status of minor schemes previously approved by the Panel for 2012/13. Rissa provided further updates on several of the listed schemes and advised that

all schemes were expected to be completed by early 2014/15. Specific attention was paid to the following schemes:

- i. Minor – Zebra crossing on Paringdon Road in the vicinity of Millwards Primary school – It was confirmed that work on this crossing has commenced. Harlow Councillor Guy Mitchinson thanked all persons who had worked to achieve the crossing, including Officers and Councillors of both Councils, and the Member of Parliament for Harlow.
- ii. Bus Stop Improvements - The Gatekeeper. Address: Potter Street, London Road, Harlow – it was confirmed that the two works listed for this location are not funded from the Panel's budget, but are included in the report for information, due to the close proximity of the bus stop to the Harlow boundary.
- iii. School Crossing Patrol - money allocated for generic works outside schools with safety concerns. Rissa advised that the safety audit of this proposed scheme had identified potential pedestrian flow concerns, and the preferred approach was to carry out educational initiatives to mitigate safety concerns. The Panel indicated their dissatisfaction with this suggested approach, and recommended that the previously agreed barrier scheme be again pursued. Officers advised they would liaise with safety audit engineers to find out what specific problems they had identified with the original scheme.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

- b) Update on schemes approved 2013-14

The Panel received a report from Essex County Council on the status of minor schemes previously approved by the Panel for 2013/14.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

43. **POTENTIAL SCHEME LIST**

- a) Summary of schemes for potential consideration in 2014/15

The Panel received a report from Essex County Council which included several potential minor schemes for inclusion in Harlow's draft 2014/15 capital allocation. Comment was offered on the following items:

Item 1 - Southern Way junction with Tillwicks Road. The Panel advised Officers that the correct location of this proposed scheme was the Southern Way junction with Tawneys Road.

In addition to the listed schemes, Councillor Mike Danvers asked that consideration be given to a scheme that would make it easier and safer for

traffic exiting the junctions of Momples Road and Maddox Road on to Howard Way.

The Panel affirmed that a refresh of information on how to propose schemes would be helpful.

RESOLVED that

- A The report is noted, subject to the inclusion of the Howard Way scheme noted above.
- B Officers will re-send information on how to nominate highways schemes to members of the Panel.

44. **HIGHWAY RANGERS AND REVENUE EXPENDITURE**

The Panel agreed to fund speed analysis surveys at locations previously discussed.

Officers advised that an update on the recent work of the Highways Rangers will be brought to the next meeting of the Panel in April 2014.

RESOLVED that funding is approved for speed analysis surveys at

- (i) Waterhouse Moor (2 surveys);
- (ii) Kiln Lane, Church Langley (2 surveys).

45. **MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE**

David Sprunt provided a verbal update on a number of major highways schemes:

- 1) Improvement works at Burnt Mill Roundabout have been delayed slightly by discovery of a gas main, but are due for completion in May 2014.
- 2) The public consultation on the proposed M11 Junction 7a has now finished and its results are being analysed, though an extension to the website consultation has been agreed to compensate for an error which meant some residents were unable to choose a 'none of the above' option.
- 3) Improvement works to the Clock Tower Roundabout are due to start around May/June 2014.

The Panel drew Officers' attention to worsening congestion around the 'hamburger' roundabout (A414/Southern Way). Councillors suggested that a review of signalling/timing may help to mitigate congestion at the location.

46. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Guy Mitchinson drew the Panel's attention to serious parking and congestion issues at Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH), exacerbated by recent building which had reduced the availability of parking spaces. He asked, whilst it may not be not within the Panel's remit, if consideration could be given to encouraging PAH to provide a multi-storey car park on site. Councillors recalled that plans for a multi-storey car park had been prepared by the Hospital several years ago, but had been opposed by local residents. The Panel felt that it might be worth revisiting this idea.

47. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 16 April 2014, 10am in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Harlow.

CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL

HARLOW LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL – 18 FEBRUARY 2014 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question from Mr John Wright, Warehouse Moor Residents Association

The Waterhouse Moor Residents Association (WMRA) was formed in September 2013. Over the course of its last five meetings it has become clear that one of the major areas of concern is the increase in traffic using Waterhouse Moor as a rat run to avoid congestion along Tendring Road and the speed at which these vehicles travel. We have endeavoured to engage the help of the Police in resolving this issue and have attended the local NAP on numerous occasions. Unfortunately we have not yet been able to gain access to or be trained in the use of a speed gun, which would enable us to produce data on the volume and speed of the traffic using Waterhouse Moor. However, undeterred we decided to carry out our own survey, measuring a distance of 100yds along an area of the road, and using a stop watch to assess the speed of passing vehicles

The Residents Association is now of the opinion that at least 65% of vehicles are travelling at speeds in excess of 45mph and in some instances a great deal faster. We consider this situation to be extremely dangerous for residents of Waterhouse Moor, many who are over 65yrs of age, as well as for the children of the increasing number of young families moving in to the area.

We would ask the Highways Panel what Harlow Council and Essex County Council can do to monitor this situation and what actions or interventions can be taken to restrict the number and speed of vehicles using Waterhouse Moor?