

# Minutes

## Braintree District Local Highways Panel

17<sup>th</sup> January 2013

(Comprising representatives of:-

Essex County Council  
Braintree District Council  
Braintree Association of Local Councils)

### Present:-

Councillor D Finch (Chairman)  
Councillor J Abbott (from 6.04pm)  
Councillor M Banthorpe  
Councillor J Baugh (from 6.07pm)  
Councillor J Bendall  
Councillor J Clark  
Councillor M Fincken (from 6.21pm)  
Councillor A Hayward  
Councillor M Lager  
Councillor R Mitchell (from 6.50pm)  
Councillor J Pike  
Councillor R Walters

Essex County Council  
Braintree District Council  
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Essex County Council  
Braintree Association of Local Councils  
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Essex County Council  
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### Officers

Alan Lindsay – Essex County Council  
Rob MacDonald - Essex County Council  
Chloe Glock - Braintree District Council  
Paul Partridge – Braintree District Council  
Alison Webb – Braintree District Council

Councillor Chris Butler, Councillor Graham Vine and Mrs Joanne Beavis (Clerk to the Council) attended the meeting during Question Time to represent Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council. They left the meeting at 6.15pm.

### 1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:-

All Councillors declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters on the Agenda relating to the Wards/Parishes which they represented.

The following specific interests were declared:-

Councillor J E Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to Rivenhall as he was Chairman of Rivenhall Parish Council.

Councillor M J Banthorpe declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 – Schemes for Consideration by the Panel as he was a Board Member of Greenfields Community Housing.

Councillor J Baugh declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to Bocking as he was the County Councillor for the Bocking Division.

Councillor J Bendall declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to Earls Colne as he was Chairman of Earls Colne Parish Council.

Councillor M C M Lager declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to Witham Town Council as he was a Member of Witham Town Council.

## 2 **MINUTES**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel held on 22nd November 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 3 **MATTERS ARISING**

**INFORMATION:** Councillor Abbott drew attention to Matters Arising from the last meeting and, in particular, to the references to the proposed 7.5 tonne weight limit at Oak Road, Rivenhall (IT867), and the proposed signal controlled one-way system and pedestrian guard rail at Oak Road railway bridge, Rivenhall) (IT859).

Concern was expressed about the confusion which had arisen regarding these two schemes and that action agreed at the last meeting had not been followed through.

The Chairman stated that it was important that the Panel's decisions should be implemented and, if not, that an explanatory report should be presented to a future meeting.

## 4 **QUESTION TIME**

**INFORMATION:** There were two statements made. Details of the people who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

Principally, these Minutes are a record of decisions made by the Panel and, where appropriate, the reasons for those decisions.

## 5 **SCHEMES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PANEL**

**INFORMATION:** It was noted that a total of £276,608.00, equivalent to 34% of Braintree District Local Highways Panel's budget, remained unallocated.

### **DECISION:-**

(1) That the following schemes be recommended for approval:-

#### Improvement Schemes

BRA 27 Batt Hall, Bulmer Road, Bulmer – 40mph buffer zone  
Cost - £10,000

BRA 26 Massingham Drive/junction with A1124 Halstead Road, Earls Colne –  
Upgrade HGV signage  
Cost - £2,000

BRA 29 Colne Road, Coggeshall – 30mph VAS sign  
Cost - £6,000

BRA 30 B1018, Crossing – Investigation of localised widening of road  
Cost - £10,000

### Small Works

Village of Pebmarsh – Speed survey  
Cost - £200

### Bus Stop/Route Improvements

1. Bus stop ID 150027001009, Mount Hill/White Horse Avenue, Halstead – metal shelter and raised kerbs  
Cost - £7,500
  2. Bus stop ID 24005016, Church End, Deanery Hill, Panfield – wooden shelter  
Cost - £7,500
  3. Bus stop ID 1500IM1239 Paycock House, West Street, Coggeshall – wooden shelter  
Cost - £7,500
  5. Bus stop ID 15003901907 Elizabeth Avenue/ Laurence Avenue, Witham – wooden shelter  
Cost - £7,500
  6. Bus stop ID 1500IM821 Flora Road, Witham – wooden shelter  
Cost - £7,500
  7. Bus stop ID 15003900901 Bramble Road/Flora Road, Witham – wooden shelter  
Cost - £7,500
- (2) (a) That the following scheme be recommended for approval, subject to £35,000 being allocated to it and scheme (IT859) – Signal controlled one-way system and pedestrian guard rail, Oak Road railway bridge, Rivenhall from the Panel's budget for 2012/13, with a view to a similar sum being allocated from the 2013/14 budget.
- (b) That an estimate of the cost of scheme (IT859) be sought and details circulated to Members of the Panel prior to the next meeting:-

### Small Works

BRA33 Oak Road, Rivenhall – seven day speed, volume and classification survey (linked to scheme (IT859) for Oak Road, Rivenhall)  
Cost - £1,330

*In discussing this matter, Members were reminded that scheme (IT859) had been recommended for approval, in principle, at a previous meeting of the Panel and they expressed concern that funding would no longer be available if implementation was delayed. It was acknowledged that there had been some confusion surrounding this scheme and a related scheme ((IT867) - 7.5 tonne weight limit, Oak Road, Rivenhall) which had also had been recommended for approval, in principle.*

- (3) That the following schemes be recommended for approval in principle, subject to the support of local District and/or County Councillors being obtained:-

Cycling Schemes

IT753 John Ray Park, Braintree – Cycleway  
Cost - £100,000 (scheme design and cost to be clarified)

IT754 Vernon Way to Blackwater Way, Braintree – Cycleway  
Cost - £30,000 (scheme design and cost to be clarified)

- (4) That the following schemes be deleted:-

Improvement Schemes

BRA08 Boley Road, White Colne – Possible passing places; or one-way system; or pull-in from A1124; or marshalling of traffic  
Cost - £40,000 (excluding land)

BRA31 A131 Hedingham Road to Ryes Lane, Bulmer – 40mph speed limit  
Cost - £10,000

Congestion (Essex Intelligent Traffic Systems)

IT680 Galleys Corner Roundabout, Braintree – Queue detection system upgrade  
Cost - £10,000

- (5) That clarification be sought on the estimated cost (£50,000) of the following scheme and if funding is required entirely for the installation of signage and an update submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

Cycling Schemes

BRA06 Braintree – Installation of signs  
Cost - £50,000 estimate

- (6) That the ownership of land affected by the following scheme be established and an update submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

Improvement Schemes

BRA03 Mayland Road, Witham – Dropped kerb  
Cost - £3,000

6 **PROGRAMME OF SCHEMES**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to a programme of schemes recommended by the Panel for approval.

It was noted that some schemes which the Panel had recommended for approval did not currently appear on the programme as these were being processed.

**DECISION:** That the Programme of Schemes recommended for approval at previous meetings of the Panel be noted.

## 7 DATES FOR MEETINGS OF THE PANEL

**DECISION:** It was agreed that future meetings of Braintree District Local Highways Panel would take place on the following dates:-

14<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
16<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
4th July 2013  
3rd October 2013  
16th January 2014  
3rd April 2014

It was agreed that the meeting provisionally scheduled for 4th April 2013 was not required.

### Approved Schemes

At the close of the meeting, reference was made to those schemes which had been approved at previous meetings of the Panel, but which did not appear on the programme of approved schemes. It was noted that a process had to be followed and that these schemes were currently awaiting approval by Councillor Louis, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation. However, details of the schemes had been included on a separate list, which had been placed on Braintree District Council's web site.

It was agreed that details of all previously approved schemes should be included with each of the Panel's Agendas to enable Councillors to monitor progress.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.30pm.

Councillor D M Finch  
(Chairman)

## APPENDIX

### BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013

#### (Summary of Statements Made During Public Question Time)

- 1 Statement by Councillor Chris Butler of Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council regarding the amount of water flowing along roads in the Parish which became very icy in cold weather and impassable; and large pot-holes.
- 2 Statement by Councillor Graham Vine of Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council. Councillor Vine indicated that he was speaking in a private capacity regarding the amount of water flowing down Grange Hill, Greenstead Green. Much of the water missed drains and collected in front of his property where it flowed off.

The Chairman asked Alan Lindsay and Rob MacDonald, Essex County Council Highway Officers, to investigate whether these issues may be resolved either via the Panel's, or the Highways Department's resources and he invited Mrs Joanne Beavis, Clerk to Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council, to keep him informed.