

**ROCHFORD DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
NOTES OF MEETING HELD 13 MARCH 2013**

County Councillors: Cllrs S C Castle, Mrs T Chapman and Mrs E M Hart
District Councillors: Cllrs C I Black, K H Hudson (Chairman), M J Steptoe and T E Mountain

Visiting Councillors: Cllr I H Ward

Officers: S Scrutton (RDC Head of Planning & Transportation), S Perry (ECC Principal Transportation Co-ordinator), N Szpigleman (ECC Highways Liaison Officer) M Mason (ECC Infrastructure Development Manager) and M Power (RDC Minutes)

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs G A Lucas-Gill and Mrs M J Webster

Agenda Item	Key observations	Decision/Action
Notes of the meeting on 23 November 2012	The notes of the meeting of 23 November 2012 were agreed as a correct record.	
Bus Stops	<p>M Mason (ECC Infrastructure Development Manager) advised that the budget for bus stop improvements had been transferred to Local Highways Panels. Parish/Town Councils to submit schemes to County Highways, which would be forwarded to the LHP. Responsibility for maintenance of the bus shelters depended on ownership of the stop.</p> <p>It was confirmed that if the Panel agreed to fund building a new bus shelter, it would not necessarily be obliged to finance on-going maintenance: this could be managed by the Parish/Town Council. Parish Councils often like to retain ownership/control of bus shelters and can increase the precept if it is considered to be a priority.</p>	

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	<p>However, as smaller Parish Councils may find it difficult to take on the cost of maintenance, a dialogue would need to be held with them first. The County Council has a separate maintenance budget for repairs to bus stops for which it is responsible. The ECC bus stop improvement programme allows for funding of the infrastructure around bus stops; this programme seeks to promote the use of public transport. The option of the LHP working with Parish Councils and match-funding bus stops was discussed. It was agreed that the Panel would deal with any 'bus stop' requests on a case by case basis but that improving the appearance of a shelter would not generally be viewed as a priority. The bus stop improvements in the report would be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Chapman advised that when the Panels were established it was envisaged that the LHP budget for 2013/14 would be the same as for 2012/13.</p>	
<p>Hullbridge Road Crossing Request</p>	<p>The PV² assessment had shown that the request for a crossing on Hullbridge Road outside Lubbards Farm had not met the criteria required, following a survey undertaken on Tuesday 12 February 2013. (Although the choice of date was unfortunate as it was an icy day, the importance of carrying out the survey before the next LHP meeting, so that the scheme could be considered for delivery in the 2012/13 budget, was recognised.)</p> <p>It was suggested by Panel Members that more people</p>	<p>A proposal to be put to the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation for a temporary pedestrian crossing (to be funded out of the Panel's revenue budget) at Hullbridge Road outside Lubbards Farm for a month in the summer and that a further PV² assessment be undertaken. (Cllr Castle)</p>

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	<p>might use the footpath if there was a crossing, as many people chose to drive to locations in this area because they felt it was too dangerous to walk. Although it was acknowledged that the Hullbridge community would be growing as a result of the proposed new secondary school, the assessment could only take into account the current situation; it could not look to the future. It was proposed that a temporary pedestrian crossing (to be funded out of the Panel's revenue budget) be set up at this location for, say, a month in the summer, during which time the flow of pedestrian/vehicular traffic would be monitored via a further PV² assessment.. Cllr Castle would approach the ECC Cabinet Member to advise of the Panel's proposals. If the crossing is not approved, the £150,000 funding allocated by the Panel to establish the crossing could be spent on footway improvements in Hullbridge Road to enable the possibility of a crossing to be installed in future should an increase in the pedestrian count be seen.</p>	
<p>Potential Schemes for consideration of Panel</p>	<p>Spencers Close – Horse inhibitors. A resident spoke to the Panel. This is a well-used footpath and it was requested that a horse inhibitor, which would allow access for mobility scooters and pushchairs, be installed. It was noted that the Parish Council had extended the bridleway so there is no need for horses to use the footpath. As a TRO would have to be enforced, it was felt that a physical barrier would be more effective. This inhibitor would not be visible to the nearby houses.</p>	<p>A motorcycle inhibitor to be installed in this location – to be funded by the LHP. (NS)</p>

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Cycling Schemes - The Panel agreed that until there is sufficient funding to maintain cycle ways fully, it would not be appropriate to create new schemes.

The issue of cars speeding along Mucking Hall Lane, Barling Magna, which was a single track with passing places, was raised. The Panel agreed to request that 20mph advisory notices be put up at the entrance and exit to both ends of the Lane and that signs warning of the potential presence of cyclists and horse riders be erected where the road passes houses and there is no footway.

Rawreth Playing Pitches Although the car park had been extended, the issue of cars parking on the verge persisted, which had safety implications because of visibility. Adequate parking was needed for the footballers and it was felt that ground conditions may be the reason for people choosing to park on the verge rather than in the car park. Further measures could include a warning leaflet on windscreens and a conversation with football teams that this was not an appropriate way to park. The Panel agreed to put the scheme forward to install bollards on the grass verge – at a cost of £15,000.

The issue of congestion in **Little Wheatley Chase**, Rayleigh near to Our Lady of Ransom School had been passed to the SEPP.

NS to take to the engineers the proposal that 20mph advisory notices be put up in Mucking Hall Lane, Barling Magna at the beginning and end of where the road passes through the small hamlet of houses. The outcome of this request to be brought back to the Panel. (NS)

Signs to warn of cyclists and horses could also be erected where the road passes houses and there is no footway.

A scheme to install bollards on the grass verge at a cost of £15,000 to be put forward.

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	<p>A complaint had been received from a resident in Rawreth Gardens. Six houses were sited on an unmade road, which is Highways land, but which does not have proper drainage. Residents believe that the installation of a kerb and gullies would solve problem. This would be investigated by County Highways and, if appropriate, a flooding investigation report could be done.</p> <p>Failure to include yellow lines as part of the build-out scheme outside Barling School CIF funding for this scheme had been lost. The Panel was advised that there was no way of reinstating the CIF funding but that the works could be completed by the Panel allocating revenue funding in the region of £5-10,000.</p> <p>Willow Walk, Hockley The yellow lines in Willow Walk to stop commuter parking would be delivered within budget and by the end of March 2013.</p> <p>Spa Road, Hockley Guard rail The Panel asked for an indicative start date. NS advised that no date had been received as yet but that she was anticipating that LHP schemes generally would start to be delivered from summer 2013.</p> <p>An observation was received that high bushes compromised visibility at the junction of Webster's Way and Eastwood Road – this would be looked into.</p>	<p>The issue to be referred to the Essex County Council Flood Management team. NS</p>
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	<p>Further to information in the report that the tar within the road surface of Ashingdon road is regarded as hazardous, it was requested that the definition of tar/tarmac be provided for the next meeting. There is no confirmed date yet for resurfacing works at Ashingdon Road.</p> <p>The Panel referred to a letter received from Rochford Parish Council regarding the 'pedestrian refuge' at the junction of Weir Pond Road/East Street. Due to the width of the carriageway it is necessary to retain an island as this provides safe refuge for pedestrians to cross. SS would respond to Rochford Parish Council.</p>	<p>Response to be sent to Rochford Parish Council's letter dated 21/2/13. SS</p>
<p>Magnolia Road Speed Survey Results</p>	<p>Further to the survey results, the Panel agreed to allocate funding of £20,000 to this scheme. Due to the number of pedestrians who use the road, the Panel requested that a 10mph advisory speed limit be considered rather than 20mph as indicated in the report. If this is not possible, 20mph will go ahead. SP to email Panel with a breakdown of how the £20,000 is made up.</p>	<p>That a request be made that a 10mph advisory speed limit be considered at Magnolia Road.</p> <p>That a breakdown of how the £20,000 is made up be emailed to Panel members. SP</p>
<p>Any other business</p>	<p>One way system at Fountain Lane, Hockley The Panel suggested that a solution to the problem could be to reduce the size of the bellmouth, but concluded this could not satisfactorily be achieved. NS would ask for this suggestion to be investigated by engineers.</p> <p>The Panel asked why the footway in Bradley Way was</p>	<p>That maintenance engineers be asked</p>

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	<p>being repaired during the day, which was causing disruption to road users.</p> <p>Bus Stop Improvements The Panel considered the schemes in the report and agreed that part of the Panel's remaining budget of £25,000 should be allocated to those requests for a completely new shelter, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus stop ID 15001100702 Doggetts Close, Stambridge Road, Rochford – install new wooden shelter (£7,500) • Bus Stop ID 15001100203 Church Road, Hockley Road, Rayleigh. <p>Agreed that a bus stop at Tendring Avenue, Bardfield Way, Rayleigh should not be funded as there had been opposition from some residents to the scheme.</p> <p>As this was the final meeting of the Panel this year, the Chairman thanked Panel Members for their input and involvement over the last year.</p>	<p>why the footway in Bradley Way, Rochford was being repaired during the day. NS</p> <p>That funding be allocated to bus stop improvements, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus stop ID 15001100702 Doggetts Close, Stambridge Road, Rochford – install new wooden shelter (£7,500) • Bus Stop ID 15001100203 Church Road, Hockley Road, Rayleigh.
<p>Dates of forthcoming meetings</p>	<p>Friday 12 July 2013 at 10 am Thursday 10 October 2013 at 10 am</p>	

The meeting started at 10 am and ended at 11.53 am.

