

HIGHWAYS PANEL held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.00 pm on 24 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: Councillor A Walters – Chairman.
Councillors J Salmon (Uttlesford District Council).
Councillors R Chambers, R Gooding and S Walsh (Essex County Council).

Also Present: Councillor P Channer (Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, ECC).
Councillors M Sullivan and A Townsend (UALC).

Officers in attendance: M Cox (Democratic Services Officer), J Pine (Planning Policy/DM Liaison Officer), Andrew Taylor (Assistant Director Planning and Building Control), R Long (Highways Liaison Officer - ECC) and David Sprunt (Principal Transportation Co-ordinator – ECC).

HP14

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Freeman (Uttlesford District Council) and Councillor S Barker (Essex County Council).

Councillor Chambers declared a personal interest as the district ward member for Wenden Lofts.

Councillor Sullivan declared a personal interest in relation to the schemes in Hatfield Heath, as these were in his parish.

HP15

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Sean McCarthy, Chairman of Hempstead Parish Council spoke to the Panel about the proposed footway through Hempstead village.

The first request for a footway was made some 40 years ago and initial plans had been drawn up in 1975. The scheme had stalled over the years due to lack of funding and legal and technical issues associated with the proposal. There was a real safety issue as there was no pavement through the village and a recent speed survey had showed average speeds through the village at over 40mph. The scheme was well supported locally. The four landowners affected had agreed to donate a small area of garden for the footway and the Parish Council had put aside £4,000 to pay for any conveyance that might be required. There was very strong feeling in the village that this situation had gone on for long enough and action should be taken to ensure the safety of residents.

The Chairman said that the Panel appreciated the need for a new footway but explained that ECC had allocated a sum of £472K for all schemes within Uttlesford and the Panel had to prioritise the proposals submitted. As this would be a complex scheme it was important to ensure that the legal and technical issues were sorted out before the scheme was implemented.

The Highways Liaison Officer gave details of the proposal. The cost of the scheme had been reduced to a more realistic level now that the existing telegraph poles had been retained and the footway being reduced with a series of pinch points. She highlighted the proposed route of the footway, showed the most dangerous part of the road and the properties that would be required to donate part of their gardens.

Councillor Howell, the local district Member stressed the importance of the project in terms of road safety. There were few villages in the district that had a 30mph zone with no pavement. Councillor Walsh understood that the Panel had limited funds available but hoped that a way forward could be found possibly with a phased implementation.

HP16 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

HP17 **BUSINESS ARISING**

The Panel commented on schemes that had been considered at the last meeting.

(i) 20mph speed limit in Great Chesterford

The Police were still of the view that the 20mph limit would be achievable on the stretch of road suggested. There would be further discussions between the Police and the parish council in order to clarify the situation.

(ii) Scheme IT493 Hoblongs junction Gt Dunmow

An order had been put through for ECC to utilise the section 106 monies to complete the design stage of the scheme.

(iii) Scheme IT563 Footway at Hempstead

The Panel discussed whether to allocate funds to this scheme following the presentation earlier in the meeting.

The Highways Liaison Officer advised that the cost for the civil engineering works would be £135 with the total cost including legal/compensation etc around £150k.

Although it was too late in the year to commence any works on site, the legal aspects of the scheme could be progressed now. The Panel was advised to allocate a sum at this meeting as this would guarantee the amount for this financial year and place the scheme in a better position to be implemented in the future.

It was AGREED that £50,000 be approved for the initial legal/design work.

HP18

APPROVED SCHEMES

The Panel was advised that all the schemes agreed at the two meetings in June had been approved for progression by the County Cabinet member for Highways. The schemes were still in the design stage but all the projects were expected to be delivered in this financial year.

HP19

HIGHWAY SCHEMES

The Panel considered the list of potential schemes that had been deferred at the previous meeting. The remaining balance from the last meeting was £93.5k. The schemes were assessed as follows:

1. Schemes Approved

Number	Location	Scheme	Amount	Comments
IT676	B1256 Takeley Crossroads	Installation of DUSC to enable ETCC traffic signal control during A120 closure	£7K	This scheme would be easy to implement and would reduce congestion in Takeley during A120 closures. It would benefit both locals and the wider driving public.
IT563	High Street, Hempstead	Footway	£50K	The panel had agreed to allocate £50 for initial legal/design work
Funds Committed			£57K	
Total funds committed from meeting on 11 and 18 June 2012			£378.5	
Total funds committed to date			£435.5	

2. Schemes deferred

Number	Location	Scheme	Reason
IT832	A1060 Sawbridgeworth Rd Hatfield Heath	Junction realignment	The parish council would come back with a revised scheme.
IT493	Hoblongs junction	Junction improvement	Section 106 monies used for design stage to draw up a scheme for consideration at a later date
IT618	Audley End Station	Cycle storage	Deferred until a further decision on the walking/cycle route from Saffron Walden to Audley End Station

IT623	A1060/Dunmow Road Hatfield Heath	Mini Roundabout	The design work had started. The panel would consider options at a later date.
IT622 (deferred at last meeting)	The Street Takeley	Traffic Calming	The project could be delivered in stages – the crossing points could be provided for £20,000. This scheme would be considered at the next meeting when Councillor Barker could be present.
PROW	Aythorpe Roding 21	Repair rutting, ditching works and clearance	Too late to progress this year
IT719	Wendens Ambo to Saffron Walden	cycle link to station	Awaiting results from the consultation and further discussions with the campaign group
New Schemes	Margaret Roding, Saffron Walden and High Roding	Mobile VAS signs	Awaiting evaluation

3. Schemes removed from the list

Number	Location	Scheme	Reason
IT799	Saffron Walden	AQMA zone: includes Radwinter Road congestion (inc. Thaxted Road junction) and parking review at High St/ George street	Funded elsewhere
IT800	District wide	HGV routing for Saffron Walden Thaxted and Dunmow	Funded elsewhere
PROW	Clavering 50	Repair rutting, ditching works and clearance	Problem could be addressed with a seasonal closure. Not a local need for the work to be done.

HP20

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE SCHEMES

The Panel received the list of capital schemes that had been undertaken during this financial year.

HP21

RESURFACING REPAIR PROJECTS

It was reported that Essex County Council had allocated £11m extra funding for resurfacing repair projects in the county. In the region of 22,000 pot holes had been repaired to date. Some of this work was being undertaken with the Jet

Patcher equipment which was working well and appeared to lead to enhanced speed and quality of work.

The Chairman mentioned that in association with the resurfacing work there had as yet been no replacement white lining in Saffron Walden and he asked for this to be addressed.

HP22 **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

The Panel was advised that the responsibility for most traffic regulation orders had now passed to the Parking Partnership. Essex Highways was now only making orders if they were related to safety or congestion. Most of the outstanding orders were currently being concluded.

HP23 **WENDEN ROAD CYCLE ROUTE**

The Panel was informed that a consortium of groups was planning to hold a public exhibition event on three dates in September, highlighting four potential options for providing a cycle and pedestrian route from Saffron Walden to Audley End railway station. The first event had been very well attended. The Panel would receive a report on the outcomes in due course

HP24 **HIGHWAY RANGERS**

The Panel was updated on progress with the Highway Ranger service. Since it had been set up 100 requests had been passed to the team. During the summer the work had mainly focused on cutting vegetation but other types of minor maintenance had been undertaken. Much of this work would have been low priority for Essex Highways but had a high impact in the local area.

The Panel noted that there was a £40,000 surplus in the budget, which being a revenue amount could not be carried forward to next financial year. The Panel would consider options for spending the £40,000 surplus at the next meeting.

HP25 **VAS SIGNS**

The Highway Liaison Officer said that in order to make better use of the available VAS signs she had suggested a scheme whereby two parishes pair up and agree to exchange the equipment on a bi monthly basis. She would email parish councils with the details.

HP26 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to would be held in the week beginning 19 November – *Now agreed as Monday 19 September 7.00pm.*

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.