

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
MINUTES – 5 JULY 2021 16:00 HRS
VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

Chairman:	Councillor Ray Gooding (ECC Member)
Panel Members:	Councillors Susan Barker (ECC Member), Paul Gadd (ECC Member), Martin Foley (ECC Member), Geof Driscoll (UDC Member), Garry LeCount (UDC Member), Geoffrey Sell (UDC Member).
Also Present:	Councillor Danielle Frost (Great Dunmow Town Council), Chloe Fiddy (UDC - Climate Change Project Officer)
Officers:	Essex Highways – Rissa Long, Highway Liaison Officer Essex Highways – Sonia Church, Highway Liaison Manager
Secretariat:	UDC – Clare Edwards

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: The Chair welcomed the Panel.	
2.	Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest: Apologies were received from Councillor Jones. No declarations of interest were received. There was discussion regarding the meeting start time, it was agreed that the meeting in September would be moved to a different date and time and that Members would be canvassed.	
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes of the meeting held on 6 th April 2021 were agreed as a correct record.	
4.	Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Councillor Gadd asked how items were added to the agenda. The Highway Liaison Officer said that there were 2 main standing items on the agenda; an update on funded schemes and schemes awaiting funding. She said that other queries were brought up by the Panel in Any Other Business and members of the public and councillors could request to speak at the meeting about any concerns. There was discussion regarding the £200k budget from Uttlesford District Council (UDC) which had not been resolved. The Chair said that the	

	<p>money needed to be available at the start of the year, when schemes were decided and budgets put in place. He said that schemes could not be added on the basis of invoices being paid once the work had been carried out.</p> <p>Councillor Foley said that he had spoken to the Leader of the Council and the £200k was available. He asked that contact be made with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, the Leader and the relevant person at Essex County Council (ECC) so that this could be resolved.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that the current budget did not include the UDC money and due to timing it would be difficult to resource and carry out any further schemes. She suggested that the foundations were put in place for this money for next year.</p> <p>It was agreed that this would be followed up and resolved outside of the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Sell was nominated by the Chair to become Vice-Chair and seconded by Councillor Barker.</p> <p>The Panel thanked Councillor Walsh for his Chairmanship and Councillor Moran for his contributions to the Panel.</p> <p>Councillor Barker agreed to check whether the signs at Leaden Roding were still being hit by lorries and to update the Highway Liaison Officer.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Katherine Nuthall a Councillor from Quendon and Rickling had been sent information from the Highway Liaison Officer regarding the Quendon traffic calming system. She asked for an update and for details of the design.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that the design would be shared with all relevant parties when it was available. The Panel had agreed at the last meeting to hold monies back so that the implementation could be completed in the same financial year as the design.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Gadd the Chair agreed that it was a good idea to send completed designs to the County and District Member although he said that it would not be necessary for every scheme.</p> <p>Ray Woodcock a resident from Stansted Mountfitchet said that he was very concerned about HGV movements at Grove Hill and the surrounding roads, including cars jumping red traffic lights and vehicles carrying out dangerous manoeuvres, frequently backing onto pedestrian footpaths. He said he could provide evidence and asked how this could be progressed.</p> <p>The Chair said that it was a strategic review matter but that any details were worthy of consideration.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that a strategic study was being undertaken of Grove Hill and all the adjoining roads. Once this was completed there would be a meeting of County Officers to discuss findings and decide how to move forward.</p>	

	<p>Further to a question from Councillor Sell, the Highways Liaison Officer confirmed that the review included a study of traffic flow at strategic points and cameras to see what traffic was using the route. This included the direction and classification of vehicles to try and establish a pattern of usage. This would then be communicated and discussed more widely and would be fed back through the Chair.</p> <p>Ray Woodcock said he had observed the roads in question as a speed watcher and had a great deal of experience, he said he would be willing to attend the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair said legislation to prosecute vehicles who ignored the weight limit signage had been delayed.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Driscoll the Highway Liaison Officer said that traffic cameras were not suitable for Grove Hill as the start and end of the route could not be seen.</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll said traffic cameras for vehicles jumping red traffic lights could be used.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer explained the budget summary.</p> <p>Councillor Barker raised the S106 funding and asked why the Thaxted Road Footway was not being funded by this scheme.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that this was not picked up at the application stage, however there was an S106 funding pot being used for the implementation of this scheme.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that if there was a development on the edge of a town or village then the question of how it connected to the road network or pathways needed to be considered. It was a missed opportunity if developers were not conditioned to fund this type of scheme.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager said that Highways did not have much scope for influencing a planning application. She said that on the original application it had not been a stipulated requirement for the developer to provide a crossing or footway. She said that it was a larger issue that needed to be dealt with at a higher level.</p> <p>She suggested that as there were new members of the Panel she could arrange for a speaker to explain the restrictions to the Highways team in relation to planning applications. She said Highways were a consultee and could only make recommendations within the law and planning regulations.</p> <p>Councillor LeCount said he was reviewing the planning application process and would be putting a paper forward later in the year with recommendations of changes to be made.</p> <p>The Climate Change Project Officer said she was looking at new developments from a climate change perspective and how active travel was being addressed.</p>	

	<p>The Chair said that the effect on carbon emissions needed to be considered on each scheme, but he said that for many of the smaller schemes there would be a minimal or no effect.</p> <p>Funded schemes brought over from 2020/21</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Gadd, the Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that there were on going discussions with the Town Council in relation to item 2, he offered his help if it was needed.</p> <p>Funded schemes from 2021/22</p> <p>Item 2 had been completed but further to a couple of accidents this had been elevated to an accident hot spot, and would be brought back as a casualty reduction scheme in the new financial year.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Foley, the Highway Liaison Officer said that the schemes that read 'Validation' should say 'Total scheme' she would correct this for the next meeting.</p> <p>The Climate Change Project Officer asked about accident reduction schemes. The Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that these were led by statistics and did come out of the Highways budget.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that all the budget for 2021/22 had been allocated. However she suggested that some of the schemes were added as priority 2 schemes if savings were made.</p> <p>She recommended the following schemes:- Item 5 Walden Road, Hadstock - Signage £6,200 Item 9 Wicken Bonhunt – Traffic Management Improvements £4,800 Item 11 Church Street, Saffron Walden – Bollards £10,000</p> <p>These were agreed by the Panel.</p> <p>In response to a query from Councillor Sell regarding why bollards were acceptable at Church Street and not Grove Hill, the Highway Liaison Officer said that the footpath at Grove Hill was narrower and could not accommodate both bollards and pedestrians.</p> <p>Councillor Sell asked if item 4, Bury Water Lane and School Lane, Newport – 20mph limit could be prioritised.</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll asked why item 3, Hatfield Broad Oak weight limit was still in validation from last year. The Highway Liaison Officer said that surveys had not taken place last year because of the pandemic but the validation stage would be completed shortly.</p> <p>Councillor Barker said that number 28, A1060, Chelmsford Road, junction with Dunmow Road, Hatfield Heath – mini roundabout was already on the funded schemes list, item number 19. The Highway Liaison Officer said she would remove the duplication.</p>	

	<p>Councillor Gadd asked how schemes got onto the list. The Highway Liaison Officer said that items were considered in March and June for funding, other schemes were then submitted throughout the year and added to the awaiting funding list. These were not considered for funding by the Panel until the following year.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Further to a question from Councillor LeCount the Chair said the B1383 to Elsenham closure was not part of the Panel's remit. This was a maintenance issue and a significant project; there would be a virtual public meeting in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Councillor Barker said the workmanship at the mini roundabout in Barnston was not good, the tarmac was breaking up. The Highway Liaison Officer said that as 2 years had passed there was no longer a warranty and this would need to be looked at from a maintenance perspective, she agreed to follow this up.</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll asked about the Birchanger wig wags that the Parish Council had paid for in May but had received no confirmation of payment. The Highway Liaison Officer agreed to chase for the payment and installation.</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll also asked about the Clearways sign at Birchanger Lane roundabout. The Highway Liaison Officer said that this could not be implemented on a temporary basis and was therefore delayed by the other works due to be carried out.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said the Clearways were usually in the remit of the Parking Partnership but sometimes Essex County Council could take forward depending on the circumstances.</p> <p>They agreed to discuss outside the meeting but Councillor Driscoll said something needed to be put in place sooner rather than later.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Gadd the Highway Liaison Officer said that 20mph speed limits through villages were looked at individually on their own merits. She said that not every site was suitable and there were other things that needed to be considered for example change to lighting.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer asked for future schemes to be forwarded onto County Members and for formal submissions to be made to Highways by December, in order that the schemes could be validated.</p>	
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting would be re-arranged in September.</p>	

Meeting closed at 5:50pm