

# **BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES – 25th September 2025 at 5.00pm**

## **Meeting held ‘In Person’**

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| <b>Chairman:</b>      | Councillor C Siddall (Chairman) (ECC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Panel Members:</b> | <p>Councillor L Bowers-Flint (ECC)</p> <p>Councillor G Butland (ECC)</p> <p>Councillor R Playle (ECC)</p> <p>Councillor P Schwier (ECC)</p> <p>Councillor P Thorogood (ECC)</p><br><p>Councillor K Bowers (BDC)</p> <p>Councillor R van Dulken (BDC)</p><br><p>Councillor K Barnes (BALC)</p> <p>Councillor T Edwards (BALC)</p> <p>Councillor K McDonald (BALC)</p> <p>Councillor J Robertson (BALC)</p> |
| <b>Officers:</b>      | <p>Jennifer Boxall - Highway Liaison Officer (EH)</p> <p>Dan Maclean – Highway Liaison Team Leader (EH)</p> <p>Esme McCambridge – Operations Strategy and Business Support Manager (BDC)</p><br><p>Also in Attendance: -</p> <p>Lisa Hinman – Area Manager (North Essex Parking Partnership)</p> <p>Neil Jones – Lead Principal Planner (BDC)</p>                                                         |
| <b>Secretariat:</b>   | <p>Alison Webb – Governance and Members Officer (BDC)</p><br><p>(EH – Essex Highways)</p> <p>(ECC - Essex County Council)</p> <p>(BDC - Braintree District Council)</p> <p>(BALC - Braintree Association of Local Councils)</p>                                                                                                                                                                           |

| Item |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Owner |
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| 1.   | <p><b>Welcome:</b></p> <p>Councillor C Siddall, Chairman, welcomed all attendees to the meeting and he invited everyone to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Councillor Siddall was pleased to welcome Councillor T Edwards and Councillor J Robertson, who had been appointed to the Panel as representatives of BALC.</p> |       |

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| 2. | <p><b>Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Public Questions:</b></p> <p><b>Apologies for Absence:</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Ayten (BDC), Councillor T Cunningham (ECC), Councillor D Louis (ECC) and Councillor G Spray (BDC).</p> <p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b></p> <p>There were no interests declared.</p> <p><b>Public Questions:</b></p> <p>There were no questions asked, or statements made by members of the public.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| 3. | <p><b>Minutes:</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel held on 26th June 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| 4. | <p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26th June 2025:</b></p> <p>Councillor Siddall (Chairman), Dan Maclean (Essex Highways) and Jennifer Boxall (Essex Highways) provided updates on matters which had been raised at the last meeting.</p> <p>Reference was made to two matters, and the following updates were provided: -</p> <p><u>Minute 4 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2025</u></p> <p>LBRA162029 – ‘Quiet Lane’, Water Lane, Shalford<br/>Estimated Cost: - £1,250</p> <p>It had been reported, that although this scheme had been completed it was unlikely to allay the concerns of local residents about use of the lane.</p> <p>Members of the Panel had agreed that a speed and volume survey should be carried out to ascertain whether the ‘Quiet Lane’ status of Water Lane was relevant. However, the survey had not been carried out as the Panel did not have a revenue budget to fund it.</p> |  |

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|                  | <p><u>Update:</u> - It was agreed that Councillor G Butland, the elected Member for Three Fields and Great Notley Division of Essex County Council, should be informed about the current status of this scheme.</p> <p><b>Action By: J Boxall, Essex Highways to inform Councillor G Butland about the status of this scheme.</b></p> <p>LBRA242020 – Traffic calming measures, Bulford Mill Lane, Cressing</p> <p>Estimated Cost: - Not applicable (status assessed as ‘red’)</p> <p>This scheme had been categorised as ‘red’ as it did not meet Essex Highways’ criteria. However, it had been agreed that it should remain on the schedule of ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’ to enable further investigation to be undertaken.</p> <p>The scheme had subsequently been discussed with Essex County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport and Essex Highways’ Officers, but it had not been possible to identify a solution other than to close one end of the road to prevent traffic from passing through.</p> <p>This solution would require the provision of a turning circle to enable vehicles to manoeuvre and to return via the access. It had been reported that such a project would be outside the scope of the Panel and that Essex Highways did not own land in the area that could be utilised. However, it was possible that a local landowner might be able to assist.</p> <p><u>Update:</u> - It was reported that some local landowners had offered the land required to provide a turning circle. This had gained the support of The Rt. Hon. P Patel, the local Member of Parliament. It was noted that the scheme remained outside the scope of the Panel.</p> <p>Dan Maclean and Jennifer Boxall, Essex Highways, reported that steps had been taken to implement all action points referred to in the Minutes of 26th June 2025.</p> | <p>J Boxall<br/>(HLO)</p> |
| <p><b>5.</b></p> | <p><b>Funded Schemes 2025/26:</b></p> <p>Consideration was given to a report on Braintree Local Highways Panel’s Funded Schemes for 2025/26, which had been recommended for approval. The report provided an update on the current position of all schemes in the 2025/26 programme of work. It was reported, that following publication of the agenda a further update on these schemes had been obtained and it was agreed that this should be circulated to Members of the Panel by E-Mail.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                           |

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|                  | <p>Members of the Panel were reminded that at their last meeting they had been requested to prioritise schemes for inclusion in a two-year rolling programme of work covering the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27. It was noted that the Panel's budget for the two-year programme amounted to £611,400, that schemes having a total value of £398,300 had been approved and that a sum of £213,100 remained to be allocated.</p> <p>However, in an amendment to the report it was noted that scheme LBRA193005 – Zebra crossing, Rickstones Road, Witham, Allocated Budget: - £147,400 had been cancelled and withdrawn from the Panel's schedule of Funded Schemes as it was to be funded as part of a new housing development. The budget apportioned to this scheme would be available for re-allocation.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> That the report on the Panel's Funded Schemes for 2025/26 be noted.</p> <p><b>Action By: J Boxall, Essex Highways to circulate the most recent update on Braintree Local Highways Panel's Funded Schemes for 2025/26 to Members of the Panel by E-Mail.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                       | <p>J Boxall<br/>(HLO)</p> |
| <p><b>6.</b></p> | <p><b>Schemes Awaiting Funding:</b></p> <p>Consideration was given to a 'Schemes Awaiting Funding' report, which included information about proposed schemes submitted for funding.</p> <p>Members of the Panel were requested to recommend schemes for inclusion in a two-year rolling programme of work covering the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27. It was noted that the Panel's budget for the two-year programme amounted to £611,400, that schemes having a total value of £398,300 had already been approved for inclusion in the programme, and that a sum of £213,100 remained to be allocated.</p> <p>As referred to in Minute 5 'Funded Schemes 2025/26' above, it was noted that scheme LBRA193005 – Zebra crossing, Rickstones Road, Witham, Allocated Budget £147,400 had been cancelled and withdrawn from the Panel's schedule of Funded Schemes. The budget apportioned to this scheme would be available for re-allocation.</p> <p>It was reported, that due to associated abortive costs it would not be possible to include schemes within the programme which required a 'design only' or a 'feasibility study. Only those schemes which could be delivered by the end of the financial year could be recommended for inclusion.</p> |                           |

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|    | <p>The scheme awaiting funding referred to in the report had an estimated cost of £250,100.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b></p> <p>(1) That it be recommended that the following scheme be approved: -</p> <p><u>Walking</u></p> <p>LBRA152140 – Upgrade of existing pedestrian refuge to a signalised crossing, Hatfield Road, Witham<br/>Estimated Cost: - £250,100</p> <p>(2) That it be recommended that the following schemes, the RAG status of which has been assessed as ‘red’ as they do not meet Essex Highways’ criteria, remain on the list of potential schemes and that their status is amended too ‘amber’:-</p> <p><u>Traffic Management</u></p> <p>LBRA222038 – Contra flow route and signage for cyclists, Guithavon Street, Witham<br/>Estimated Cost: - Not applicable</p> <p>LBRA222047 – HGV routes, various locations, Witham<br/>Estimated Cost: - Not applicable</p> <p><b>Action By: J Boxall, Essex Highways, as indicated.</b></p> |                   |
| 7. | <p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p><u>B1018, Cressing – Speeding Traffic and Footpath to Galleys Corner</u></p> <p>Speeding Traffic - Councillor P Thorogood, the elected Member for Braintree Eastern Division of Essex County Council, reported that residents had contacted him about the speed of traffic along the B1018 at Cressing. Councillor Thorogood asked if the Highways Panel could fund a speed survey and, if speeding was confirmed, whether the Panel could implement measures to reduce it.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that Cressing Parish Council could fund a survey if it wished, but that the Panel would not be able to do so or fund any mitigation required.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | J Boxall<br>(HLO) |

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|    | <p>Footpath to Galleys Corner - Councillor Thorogood stated also that concerns had been raised about there no longer being a connecting footpath between Cressing and Galleys Corner following new residential development. This was a key route for local people, particularly children attending Alec Hunter Academy, Braintree.</p> <p>It was noted that the Highways Panel could not assist with this matter, and it was suggested that Councillor Thorogood should raise it with Councillor T Cunningham, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport.</p> |  |
| 8. | <p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>The next meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel is scheduled to take place 'in person' on Thursday, 29th January 2026 at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree starting at 5.00pm.</p> <p>Future meetings of the Panel are scheduled for Thursday, 19th March 2026, Thursday, 25th June 2026 and Thursday, 1st October 2026. Each meeting will be held 'in person' at Causeway House starting at 5.00pm.</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 5.00pm and closed at 5.45pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councillor C Siddall<br/>(Chairman)</p>                      |  |

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