

**HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN on 12 JULY 2000**

Present: Councillor R C Smith - Chairman.
Councillors Mrs C A Bayley, Mrs S Flack, M A Gayler, R D Green, P G F
Lewis, R J O'Neill and R W L Stone.

Officers in attendance: Mrs M Cox, A Forrow, Mrs S Nicholas and
Mrs R Johnson (Uttlesford District Council), P Hardy (Essex County Council)
and Sergeant J Sones (Essex Police TMO Chelmsford).

HW1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M L Foley, D W Gregory and Mrs J
E Menell.

HW2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2000 were received, confirmed and signed by the
Chairman as a correct record.

HW3 BUSINESS ARISING

Minute HW46 - Saffron Walden Town Centre

It was confirmed that the Council's representatives on the Saffron Walden Town Centre Working
Party should comprise the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee and Councillors
Green and Tyler. The Vice-Chairman would be appointed at the next meeting of the Sub-
Committee.

HW4 LOCALLY DETERMINED BUDGET PROGRAMME 2000/01

Members were asked to agree that in future the Locally Determined Budget programme could be
of a two year duration. This would allow design and planning for work for the following year to be
completed in the current year in the knowledge that the work would not be wasted having already
gained the support of Members. It would also enable parishes who had requested a scheme to
know the position of the proposal in the programme. Any scheme not completed in a particular
year would automatically roll into the following year's programme and a scheme from the following
year could be brought forward to replace it. New proposals could be added to the list that would
still be put before Members at the normal time. The Sub-Committee agreed that this was a
sensible proposal and also that it would be beneficial to maintain the split of the budget into the
various headings to enable the Sub-Committee to prioritise certain issues.

Members noted that since the approval of the Locally Determined Programme in March, the
County Council had cut the budget by 15%, which meant that not all the schemes agreed in the
budget would be able to go ahead in 2000/01. The Highways Officers had recommended removal
of the scheme for a new footway in Leaden Roding. This was on the basis that a lot of work had
already taken place in that parish this year and the County intended to review the criteria for
ranking footways schemes.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the management of the Locally Determined Budget 2000/01 be changed to allow for a 2 year programme, and
- 2 a report on progress on the Locally Determined Programme be available at each Highways Sub-Committee, and
- 3 the Leaden Roding footway scheme be removed from the 2000/01 programme and given priority in the 2001/02 programme.

HW5 DEBDEN ROAD/BOROUGH LANE CROSSROADS

The Sub-Committee was advised that, at the request of a Member, Highways Officers had reviewed the traffic flows and safety performance at the Debden Road/Borough Lane junction in Saffron Walden. In 1994 and 1997 the junction had been highlighted as an accident reduction site and accident reduction measures had taken place. Since then only one recorded injury accident had occurred, which indicated that the measures had been effective. With regard to further measures, there was no case for changing the priority at the junction and it was too narrow for a mini roundabout. Any further option such as traffic signals would be cost prohibitive.

Members commented that visibility at the junction was sometimes poor due to the number of parked cars on Debden Road and asked Highways Officers to look at the possibility of placing double yellow lines near to the junction.

RESOLVED that the District Manager investigate the possible provision of double yellow lines on Debden Road near to the Borough Lane/Debden Road crossroads and submit a further report to the Sub-Committee.

HW6 BRIDGE WEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDERS - PARISH OF LITTLEBURY

The Sub-Committee was informed of the current position regarding the weak bridges in the parish of Littlebury. The weight restriction order for the bridge at Walden Road, Littlebury had been introduced during 1994. The 3 tonne weight limit had caused problems for the local community and consultants had been commissioned to look into various options for the strengthening work, but the funding for the works had not been available. The Sub-Committee was advised that this year the District Council had been in a position to transfer its Basic Credit Approval to the County Council to enable capital projects within the District to take place. The strengthening works to the bridge were likely to be one of those projects and would be commenced during this financial year.

With regard to the Howe Wood Road Railway Bridge, the original 7.5 tonne weight restriction was being amended to 17 tonnes. As the bridge was owned by Railtrack it was unlikely that the structure would be strengthened in the near future due to the complex procedure between Railtrack and the County Council that would be required to be carried out before any scheme could proceed.

HW7 WEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDER - PANT BRIDGE ECC NO 20 GREAT SAMPFORD

Members recalled that a 7.5 tonne weight restriction had been placed on the Pant Bridge, Great Sampford during 1998. The Great Sampford Parish Council had raised concern due to the long diversion route and inconvenience caused to the local community. Arrangements had been made

to undertake an option study this financial year which would allow the Bridges Section to assess the different options available to allow the bridge to have the weight limit lifted. In the interests of safety and preservation of the existing structure, it was necessary to implement the permanent 7.5 tonne weight restriction on the bridge until the option study had been completed and the necessary resources were available to strengthen the structure.

HW8 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2000/01

Members were advised of the progress of schemes within the Local Transport Plan Programme for 2000/01 which related to the Uttlesford District.

Councillor Stone asked about the Wimbish Parish Council's request for a 50 mph speed limit on the B184 near to Carver Barracks, Wimbish. He asked Members to bear this scheme in mind for implementation if any scheme within this year's programme did not go ahead.

HW9 LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Local Road Safety Advisory Committees held in Dunmow on 12 June and Saffron Walden on 21 June 2000 were received.

The Sub-Committee discussed speed limits outside schools. The Chairman mentioned a scheme that operated in America where there were two speed limits outside schools, and the lower speed limit would operate when the light was flashing at school starting and finishing times. Previous representations to the Government about the possibility of implementing a similar this scheme in this country had not been successful but it was felt that the current political climate might be more sympathetic to this proposal. Other Members spoke about various other initiatives that might be pursued. These included a painted "mother/toddler" sign or enhanced red pads marked with "school" on the road outside schools.

RESOLVED that representations be made to the Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions in relation to speed reduction measures outside schools, as outlined above.

The Road Safety Officer had sent a questionnaire to all schools in the District about road safety issues and all had classed the road outside their school as dangerous. The schools had indicated that they would like more painted signs on the road. With regard to the safer routes to schools, initial meetings had been held with the four schools involved in the scheme.

The Chairman mentioned the problem of vegetation overhanging roads. There was some uncertainty as to whose responsibility this was and he asked that, before this question was pursued further, the matter be discussed at the next meetings of the Local Road Safety Advisory Committees to ascertain the extent to which it was considered a problem and views be reported back to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.