

**HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 18 OCTOBER 2000**

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

Officers in attendance: Mrs L J Crowe, A Forrow, Mrs S Nicholas and Mrs R
Johnson (Uttlesford District Council), P Hardy (Essex County
Council) and Sergeant J Soanes (Essex Police TMO Chelmsford)

Also present: County Councillor R C Wallace

HW10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs J E Menell.

HW11 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs S Flack be appointed Vice-Chairman of the
Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

HW12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2000 were received confirmed and
signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

HW13 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute HW 3- Saffron Walden Town Centre

Councillor Mrs Flack confirmed that she was happy to be one of the Council's
representatives on the Saffron Walden Town Centre Management Scheme
Working Party.

(ii) Minute HW 9 – Local Road Safety Advisory Committees

Members received copies of correspondence from the DETR and Essex County
Council concerning 20mph variable speed limits outside schools. The Sub-
Committee discussed these matters and in particular the situation outside St.
Mary's Primary School in Saffron Walden. The Chairman commented that
variable speed limits would greatly help in solving the problem. Members
generally felt that the Sub-Committee should continue to make representations
to the Department of Transport & the Regions and the local MP.

The District Transportation Manager explained that Essex County Council Transportation Department was dealing with this issue through the "Safer Journeys to School" initiative. Measures were being prepared for four schools in the district. He explained that 20mph zones were more relevant and commented that statistics showed that accidents were more likely to happen on the way to and from school rather than outside schools themselves.

RESOLVED that representations be made to the local MP in relation to speed reduction measures outside schools, including advice on promoting private legislation, and that the case for variable speed limits continue to be pressed with the DETR.

(iii) Minutes HW 8 – Local Transport Plan Programme 2000/01

Councillor Stone pointed out that Carver Barracks had also supported the request for a 50mph speed limit on the B184 near to Carver Barracks.

HW14

CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC ORDERS IN DIRECT DISTRICTS

Members received a report informing them of a proposal by the County Council to regularise the existing arrangements for the consideration of objections to statutory notices and orders.

In reply to questions from Councillor O'Neill the District Transportation Manager said that the County Council was making proposals which would confirm existing practice which was working well. The District Council would be granted an ad hoc agency which would enable it to consider most objections although objections from the Chief Constable would have to be considered by Essex County Council. The County Council would prepare the Order and the District Council would seal the Order. No change would be needed to the District Council's existing delegation scheme

RESOLVED that no objections be made to the proposed change.

HW15

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME 2000/01

Members received a report for information on the progress of schemes within the Local Transport Plan programme for 2000/01 relating to the Uttlesford District. In answer to a question the District Transportation Manager explained that a pelican crossing was activated when a pedestrian pushed the button and worked on pre-set times. The puffin crossing was activated by a footpad or overhead detector which detected the presence of a pedestrian waiting to cross the road and the length of time they required to cross.

Councillor Foley drew attention to one of the roads in the Thaxted ward which flooded regularly and asked the Transportation Department to investigate this matter.

The District Transportation Manager confirmed that accident remedial schemes were assessed on the basis of four or more personal injury incidents occurring within a 50 metre radius over a three year period.

The structural maintenance schemes would be implemented during February 2001.

HW16 **LOCALLY DETERMINED BUDGET PROGRAMME**

Members received a report on the progress of schemes within the locally determined budget programme. It was confirmed that it was intended to arrange a meeting of the Saffron Walden Town Centre Management Scheme Working Party within the next two weeks.

HW17 **LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Local Road Safety Advisory Committees held in Saffron Walden on 20 September and Great Dunmow on 25 September 2000 were received.

(i) Minute SW54(ii) – Cycle Path to Audley End Station

In answer to questions about the progress on the cycle path to Audley End station the Assistant to the Chief Executive said he would investigate the current situation on the transfer of the Basic Credit Approval to Essex County Council. It was hoped that work could go ahead quickly.

(ii) Minute SW55 – Road Safety Officer's Report

In answer to questions, Sergeant Soanes explained that children were in general advised not to ride on the pavement as this was against the law but it was a question of balance. Although there was a fixed penalty cost for cycling on the pavement, such a penalty could not be imposed on children under 16. The present situation was unsatisfactory for everybody.

(iii) Minute SW56 – Police Report

Members drew attention to motor cycles driving at high speeds on certain roads in the district. Sergeant Soanes replied that the police were well aware of the routes used and were doing all they could to curtail this activity. The present law concerning fixed digital cameras was that a police officer had to attest the evidence of the camera.

(iv) Minute SW57 – District Transportation Manager's Report

Councillor Mrs Bayley asked whether work would be commencing on the road outside the Katherine Semar School on Monday 23 October 2000. The District

Transportation Manager would investigate this matter and report back to Councillor Mrs Bayley.

Arising on the discussion on these Minutes, it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Bishop's Stortford and District Footpaths Association be invited to attend a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

HW18 **ROAD TRAFFIC REDUCTION REPORT**

Members were informed that the District Council had been consulted by Essex County Council on that Council's road traffic reduction report. Comments were originally to be reported by 31 October 2000 but this date had now been extended. The District Transportation Manager explained that the Report outlined the way in which the statutory requirements of the Road Traffic Reduction Act 1997 would be addressed by Essex County Council through the implementation of the Local Transport Plan. In addition, the report detailed a range of strategies and targets for road traffic reduction based upon a set of achievable targets developed from the road traffic reduction model.

The Government's 1997 Road Traffic Reduction Act (RTRA) and 1998 White Paper on Transport aimed to achieve an overall reduction in the length and number of motorised journeys and more reliance on alternative modes of transport, which had less negative environmental impact.

The Government had now decided to set targets for motorways and trunk roads and the highways authorities set their own targets for local roads. The County Council was aiming to reduce the rate of increase in traffic by 10% by 2011.

Members discussed the difficulties on being able to comment on the report, which they had not yet seen, and suggested that there should be a special meeting of the Highways Sub-Committee to discuss this matter. The District Transportation Manager advised Members to consider what targets were needed for the District and the ways to meet them and also the District views on traffic reduction and how this could be accomplished. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that a special meeting of the Highways Sub-Committee be arranged to consider the Road Traffic Reduction Report.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm.