

**HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 11 JULY 2001**

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

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman: Councillors R A E Clifford and  
G W Powers.

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**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs C M Dean.

**HW2 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2001 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the first sentence of the second paragraph of HW36 being replaced with the following words:

“Mrs C M Dean said the stretches of road where parking was allowed should be marked into bays to prevent cars abutting driveways and thus causing difficulties for residents backing onto the road. Parking restrictions should apply to both sides of the road.”

**HW3 BUSINESS ARISING**

**(i) Minute HW34 (ii) – Traffic Regulation Order – Proposed Waiting Restrictions High Stile Great Dunmow**

Members were advised of the latest situation at High Stile, Great Dunmow. The County Council's Development Control and Regulation Committee had recently granted planning permission for the extension to the school. It had not included a requirement for a scheme of traffic management measures to be in place before the permission was implemented, as had been requested by this Council's Development Control Sub-Committee. Subsequently, the Development Control Sub-Committee at its last meeting had asked that the issue of a traffic management scheme be referred to County Councillor Williams, the Portfolio Holder for Transportation. He had been invited to attend this meeting but had replied that he hoped that in the first instance the matter could be considered by the Local Transportation Panel. A meeting to discuss this and other issues raised by Uttlesford Members was to be arranged shortly.

Councillor Powers felt that the County Council should not consider the planning application until an appropriate traffic management scheme was in place. He had still not been able to arrange a meeting between all the interested parties. The Chairman said that she would speak to Councillor Powers after the meeting in her capacity as a County Councillor to try and move this matter forward.

**(ii) Minute HW30 – Locally Determined Budget Programme**

Councillor Mrs Menell asked if she could have a reply from County Highways regarding her request for a grit box in the parish of Littlebury.

**(iii) Traffic Regulation Order – Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Bridge End Street High Street and Station Road Saffron Walden**

In answer to a question from Councillor O'Neill it was confirmed that the scheme had been passed to the contractor and would be implemented in due course.

HW4

**NEW STREET/HASLERS LANE JUNCTION GREAT DUNMOW**

Members were given details of a situation at the junction of New Street and Haslers Lane, Great Dunmow. The road had not yet been adopted and, because of the developer's concerns about the possible creation of a rat run, he had placed oil drums at the end of the lane to prevent vehicular access. Complaints had been received from Great Dunmow Town Council and the Chamber of Trade about the condition of the drums and the need to find a permanent solution.

Members discussed this proposal in detail and were advised of the possible options. As there was no reason why Haslers Lane should be a through route Members felt that removable/lockable bollards to be placed at the back of the footway line in the area that had been adopted would be the most appropriate solution. This matter would need to be looked at again once the road was adopted. Members agreed that nearby residents should be informed of this proposal and given the opportunity to raise any objections to the Highways Authority.

RESOLVED that residents be informed that removable/lockable bollards be placed at the end of Haslers Lane/New Street junction and any objections be passed to the Area Manager.

HW5

**LOCALLY DETERMINED BUDGET PROGRAMME 2001/02 – 2003/04**

Further to the meeting on 21 March 2001, all parish council requests for schemes had now been visited, scored and ranked and a programme for the current year and the two subsequent years had been prepared. It had been decided that schemes over £25,000 should be considered for alternative funding and these had not been included within the programme. The programme would be reviewed annually and any new requests scored and added to the list as a reserve scheme. It was also proposed that at the start

of each programme year a further year be added to the overall programme using the reserve list. The total value of the requests on the new lists was £3,236,500 whereas the budget allocation for 2001/02 was only £164,000. As there was likely to be a similar amount available in subsequent years, it was obvious that other ways of funding some of the schemes needed to be investigated.

The Chairman commended the Highways Officers for producing this document. This was now a properly costed and objective programme and all parishes could see where their schemes were and have some idea of when they might be implemented.

It was intended to write to all parish councils to inform them of the position of their requests. Members asked that parishes be given the opportunity to fund a scheme themselves if they considered it to be particularly urgent. Members were still very disappointed at the amount of funds allocated to the Locally Determined Budget.

RESOLVED that

- 1 The proposed three year Locally Determined Programmes shown at Appendix 10 to the report be approved.
- 2 The Area Manager report to each meeting of the relevant Committee on progress on the current year's programme.
- 3 The Area Manager prepare an annual report to the relevant Committee to gain approval for programmes beyond 2003/04 made up from the reserve list.
- 4 The Area Manager be approved to make minor changes to the Programme by bringing forward and putting back schemes only when problems arise which precluded a scheme from being completed in a particular year. These changes to be reported in the progress report.
- 5 The Area Manager be asked to write to all parish councils to inform them of the position of all their requests and the likely period of time before schemes on the reserve list are funded and to give them the opportunity to fund the schemes themselves if they so wished. Comments received to be reported to the relevant Committee when making decisions about a future year's programme.

HW6

## **LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2001/02**

Members were informed of the progress on schemes within the Local Transport Plan Programme for 2001/02 that related to the Uttlesford District. Councillor Willcock referred to the London to Ipswich multi modal (LOIS) road study and the leaflet outlining various options that had been circulated to all households. One option was to direct traffic to the A120/M11 and he considered that the Council should object to that proposal.

RESOLVED that the Council's response to the LOIS study be referred to a future meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee.

#### HW7 **VARIABLE SPEED LIMITS OUTSIDE SCHOOLS**

Further to Minute HW23 of the meeting on 4 February 2001 a reply had now been received from the Highways Agency – Cumbria regarding the speed limit on the A5092 at Lowick, Cumbria. Councillor Gayler commented that as this type of sign would cost in the region of £25,000 to £30,000 it was cost prohibitive at the present time, but should be borne in mind for the future.

#### HW8 **ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

The Minutes of the Road Safety Advisory Committees held at Saffron Walden on 13 June and Dunmow on 18 June were received. The Chairman said that these Advisory Committees had a tendency to discuss issues other than road safety and Members were tending to question the Area Manager about maintenance problems within their parish. It was important that the district council representatives made sure that the other Members were quite clear about the Committee's terms of reference.

The Road Safety Officer reported that there had been a delay with the surveys for the Safer Journey to Schools initiative, but she hoped that progress would be made soon.

The Chairman enquired about the legal position when road signs were obliterated by overgrowth. Sergeant Sones said that in these cases the Police would be unlikely to prosecute. Councillor Stone asked that some effort be made to clean the village signs in the district, some of which were in a very poor condition. In answer to a question from Councillor O'Neill it was confirmed that the District Council now had the powers to make traffic regulation orders.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.