

DUNMOW LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE held at 8.00 pm on 14 FEBRUARY 2000 at COUNCIL OFFICES HIGH STREET GREAT DUNMOW

Present:- Mr P G F Lewis - Chairman, Hatfield Heath
Councillor Mrs S Flack - Vice Chairman - Uttlesford District Council
Acting Inspector S Brewer, Sergeant J Sones and PC N Hayden - Traffic Management, Braintree Police
Mr J Gregory - Takeley
Mr D Howland - Stebbing
Mr C Mangham - High Roding
Mr R G Matthews - Margaret Roding
Mr P G Leader - Thaxted
Mr D Prail - Great Easton
Mrs J Roberts - Great Hallingbury
Mrs E Scott - Little Canfield
Mrs L White - Tilty

Officers in attendance:- Mrs C Roberts - Secretary, Uttlesford District Council, W J Rose - District Transportation Manager, Essex County Transportation Department, P Hardy - District Transportation Manager elect, Essex County Transportation Department.

I. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Townsend of Barnston and Mrs P Wiggett of Little Bardfield.

I. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 1999 were received, confirmed and signed by the Vice Chairman as a correct record, subject to the deletion of Mr D Prail's name from the list of those present.

I. **BUSINESS ARISING**

Minute DRS26 - Speed Reduction, Little Canfield

The District Transportation Manager informed the meeting that a design and an estimate for remedial measures and signs were now prepared and it was hoped that a decision be taken on funding before the June meeting of the Committee.

Minute DRS31 - Weight Restrictions

The Secretary informed the meeting that a letter had been sent to BAA Stansted. It was understood that the road in question belonged to the Airport. The weight restriction was one of 7½ tonnes and the access was monitored by CCTV and the Airport Police. As yet no reply had been received.

Minute DRS34 - Road Cover, Little Canfield

The representative for Little Canfield informed the meeting that this matter had been referred for the attention of the Essex County Transportation Department.

Minute DRS37 - Road Defects at Margaret Roding

The District Transportation Manager informed members that the inspection team had had problems identifying the location of the potholes. Councillor Mrs S Flack agreed to liaise with the representative for Margaret Roding and to provide the County Transportation Department with details of the position of the potholes.

I. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

(i) Retirement of the Road Safety Officer

The Secretary drew attention to the work of Mrs Christine Stearn, the retiring Road Safety Officer. A written appreciation had been supplied by the Head of Community and Leisure Services. The Chairman paid tribute to Mrs Stearn's six years of useful work in Road Safety.

RESOLVED that a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs Christine Stearn, the retiring Road Safety Officer, for the excellent job she has carried out over the past six years.

(ii) Retirement of the District Transportation Manager

The Secretary informed the meeting that Mr William Rose, the District Transportation Manager, would be retiring in May. The Chairman and Members expressed gratitude for Mr Rose's invaluable contribution to the Committee, his broad knowledge, unfailing patience and courtesy. Mr Rose thanked Members and introduced Mr Paul Hardy who was to be his successor.

RESOLVED that a letter of good wishes be sent to the District Transportation Manager for his retirement.

I. FURTHER MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the next meetings of the Committee be held on Monday 12 June and Monday 25 September 2000, subject for the dates for the Highways Sub-Committee being fixed, as expected, for 12 July and 18 October.

I. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FOR GREAT DUNMOW JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Committee considered correspondence from Mr J Free of Great Dunmow requesting two crossings for children attending Great Dunmow Junior School (one at the Foakes Hall and one at High Stile) in view of the increasing speed and impatience of morning traffic. The District Transportation Manager informed members that surveys of the area were to be commissioned in the next month.

I. ROADSIDE HOARDINGS

The Committee received information from the District Council's Head of Legal Services that, under an agreement with Essex County Council that Council uses its highway powers to remove hoardings whereas the District Council as planning authority advises the County Council where action is needed. The District Transportation Manager added that a hoarding of more than 1 square metre in area required planning permission which the District Council would have to grant or refuse. If such a hoarding were placed in a highway it would amount to an obstruction and be removable as such by the County Council. Hoardings were usually in fields however and therefore did not amount to obstruction.

I. ROAD SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

The Committee received the written report of the Road Safety Officer.

Helena Romanes School

Year 8 classes were receiving road safety lessons including speed, pedestrian safety, cycle helmets, traffic calming, accident data, friction and stopping distances.

"Safer Journeys to School"

This scheme was underway in the Roding and Hatfield Heath Schools. All schools had been invited to bid for next year's funds by 21 January. Councillor Mrs S Flack expressed concern that money might be wasted by buying 40 mph signs when speed limits might be reduced to 30 mph in a year's time. The District Transportation Manager explained that the suggested reduction was not anticipated and asked that Councillor Mrs Flack provide a copy of her information so that it might be investigated.

In answer to a question from the representative of Margaret Roding, the District Transportation Manager explained that 20 mph limits near schools would have to form a part of school zones or longer speed restriction areas so that they could be enforced. The representative for Takeley added that Parish Councils had been informed by the Essex Association of Local Councils that there was now a precedent for the setting of 20 mph limits in identified roads.

I. **POLICE REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed Acting Inspector Brewer who explained that Inspector Harman was engaged on call-out. There had been no more fatal collisions in Dunmow since the last report. Casualty figures for the whole year had reduced by 7.5%. The Christmas Anti-Drink/Driving Campaign had been successful. There had been a slight increase in the number of positive tests but the overall number of people tested was reduced. Eleven tests had been positive and 17 arrests had been made. In January the Police had targeted goods vehicles and February would bring a campaign to enforce rear seatbelt law.

In answer to a question from Councillor Mrs S Flack Acting Inspector Brewer confirmed that working would continue during the night at the junction 8 roadworks. The District Transportation Manager outlined the roadworks which would be undertaken at junction 8 and explained that this was an interim scheme which would endure till the new Airport junction was constructed in 3 years time.

In answer to a question from the representative of High Roding Acting Inspector Brewer explained that provision of concealed cameras was part of a programme which would take place across the whole county.

In answer to a question from the Chairman Sergeant J Sones explained that parking on the pavement was not necessarily an offence for all vehicles although parking in a dangerous position might make that sort of parking prosecutable in any event. It was necessary to assess each case on its merits and best to ask the local police station for assistance. Members referred to parking problems at Hatfield Heath and in the layby on the A120 by "The Green Man".

I. **DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION MANAGER'S REPORT**

Accident Remedial Sites

The District Transportation Manager informed the meeting that the following new accident remedial sites had been identified:

- 1 B1841 Walden Road - 400m south of Yardley Hill Lane, Thaxted at Proud's Bridge.
- 2 B1383 Stansted Road/Forest Hall Road, Stansted within Birchanger parish.
- 3 B1057 Duck End (bend near Duck End Ford) Stebbing.
- 4 A1060 Chelmsford Road, 400 yards on the Leaden Roding side of the Gossetts, Margaret Roding.
- 5 B1057 Dunmow Road, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile on the Bardfield side of Lindsell.

"Safer Journeys to School"

The District Transportation Manager informed the meeting that the Leaden Roding scheme had been let and works would start soon with a trial mini-roundabout for congestion relief. A scheme was also being progressed at Hatfield Heath where there would be a school zone with a sign on the A150.

Redirection of Lorries - proposals by East Herts District Council

The representative for Great Hallingbury expressed concern about a proposal to restrict lorry movement in Bishops Stortford by re-routing it through Great Hallingbury. The District Transportation Manager stated that the Transportation Department would respond to the District Council in due course but that there were four

separate proposals for ways of restricting lorry movement in Bishops Stortford. Sergeant Sones added that the traffic management unit had been asked to respond to these proposals.

Roadworks and signing at Great Easton

The representative for Great Easton asked for the 30 mph signs to be moved a few metres since the weight limit restriction sign obscured them. He also drew attention to the road works near Duton Hill where the entry to the main road from a side road was blind to the traffic lights on the main road. He asked that the 40 mph limit be extended down the hill. The District Transportation Manager assured him that if problems arose from the road works the provision for Duton Hill traffic from the side road would be reviewed. As regards extension of the speed limit, it had been decided not to extend it beyond Snow Hill because the road was not built up, but this would be reviewed at a future date. If necessary a three phase system of lights would be installed.

Councillor Mrs S Flack complained that the garage lights in Great Easton were very intrusive and distracting to motorists. In answer to a question from the representative of High Roding the District Transportation Manager said that he knew of no restriction on the placing of halogen lights near main roads, but that if a road safety issue arose the Transportation Department should be informed.

I. ROAD SURFACE - TAKELEY STREET

The representative for Takeley complained about the quantity of loose chippings on the road surface at Takeley Street. The chippings were being struck up by cars and represented a hazard to pedestrians. The District Transportation Manager agreed that the dressing had not been 100% satisfactory and explained that the contractor was sweeping chippings from the surface. This situation should not continue for more than a month. The surface would have to be renewed if it was not sound by the end of the winter.

I. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT TAKELEY - FOUR ASHES

The representative from Takeley informed the meeting that he felt there was a siting problem with the traffic lights here - the Dunmow traffic had difficulty in seeing the lights and was braking late. The District Transportation Manager stated that the signals had been examined by the Traffic Engineer who considered that they were in the optimum position. There should be no problem if motorists drove with the right attention.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.