

**SAFFRON WALDEN LOCAL ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD AT
7.30 PM ON 21 FEBRUARY 2001 AT COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN**

Present:- In the Chair – Mrs C A Bayley – Saffron Walden Town Council.
Mr C Jenner – Elmdon and Wenden Loft Parish Council
Mr P H Fentem – Great Chesterford Parish Council
Mr A Thomas – Hempstead Parish Council
Mr D Richardson – Little Chesterford Parish Council
Mr P Lawson – Radwinter Parish Council
Mr P Hughes – The Sampfords Parish Council
Councillor R C Dean – Uttlesford District Council
Mr P Hardy – Area Manager, Essex County Transportation and
Operational Services Department
P C Saunders – Essex Police
Mrs R Johnson – Road Safety Officer, Uttlesford District Council
Mrs C Roberts – Secretary, Uttlesford District Council

SW70 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W Bowker,
Mrs A V Kent, Mr D Boatman, Miss K Barwood and Mrs B Ryan.

SW71 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, it was proposed by
Councillor R C Dean and seconded by Mr A Thomas that Mrs C A Bayley be
elected Chairman for the meeting.

RESOLVED that Mrs C A Bayley be elected Chairman for the meeting.

SW72 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November
2000 be received confirmed and signed as a correct record.

SW73 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute SW63 (i) - Cycle Path to Audley End Station

The Area Manager informed the meeting that a bid had been made for this
scheme to be placed in next year's Capital Programme. In answer to a
question from the representative of the Sampfords he added that the whole
scheme would be revised. There was as yet no plan for the whole of the path.
The representative of Radwinter asked whether the scheme would be

cheaper if it used the existing footpath from the A11 to the Station. The Area Manager agreed that it would but suggested that this might not be the right solution. It was necessary for the route to be safe and for the bikes to cross the main road in some way.

RESOLVED that an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to reconsider this matter.

(ii) Minute SW63 (ii) – Variable Mandatory Speed Limits Near Schools

The Secretary informed the meeting that no reply had yet been received from DETR despite inquiries. A reply was expected in the next week or two.

RESOLVED that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

(iii) Minute SW66 – Casualty Figures

In answer to a question from the representative of the Sampfords, the Secretary agreed to check the accuracy of the number of deaths of motorcyclists.

(iv) Minute SW68 – Traffic Calming at Radwinter

Further reports were made by the Hempstead and Radwinter representatives about dangerous incidents occurring due to the unsatisfactory traffic calming installations at Radwinter.

RESOLVED that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

SW74 SECRETARY'S REPORT

(i) Dates for further meetings

RESOLVED that the next meetings of the Committee be held on Wednesday 13 June and Wednesday 12 September 2001 subject to the dates of the Highways Sub-Committee being fixed as expected for 11 July and 18 October.

(ii) Speed Limits and Traffic Problems at Takeley

The Secretary reported receipt of two letters about traffic problems in Takeley. A letter from Marion Selwood annexed to the agenda and a letter from Claire Waring were circulated. In answer to a question from the Chairman the Area Manager explained the measures being taken to resolve traffic problems in the vicinity of Takeley and the A120 corridor. It was noted that this matter had been considered at length by the Dunmow Local Road Safety Advisory

Committee at its meeting on 19 February 2001. A member commented nevertheless that it would be useful if all the incidents were investigated.

SW75 ROAD SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

The Road Safety Officer added to her report by giving details of progress towards the Safer Journeys to School objectives at nine Essex Primary Schools. She referred also to the Adult Driver Education Courses which would be starting in a few weeks and which were particularly useful because most accidents were caused by inappropriate use of speed for road conditions, an error which the Driver Education Courses were intended to minimise. She explained the Speed Commitment Scheme which was planned for May to enhance public perception of speeding as anti-social. She referred to an initiative to encourage designation of a non-drinking driver when intending drinkers travelled by car.

Members discussed ways of controlling inappropriate speed. The representative for Hempstead informed the meeting that speed limit reductions had been refused for the road around Hempstead and that motor bike speeds there were extremely fast.

P C Saunders informed the meeting that whilst the hypothecation process applied only to 30-40 mph areas, Inspector Harman planned to target motor bikes in April – May using laser cameras on de-restricted roads. The number of deaths of motor cyclists was disproportionately high compared to deaths of car drivers.

Mr Thomas added that national figures for equine casualties had risen steeply.

P C Saunders pointed out that there was public reluctance to become involved in Court cases. Although the public might report drivers, evidence was necessary to make speeding unacceptable.

SW76 POLICE REPORT

P C Saunders informed the meeting that Inspector Harman was planning campaigns targeting speed in February, seat belts in March and April, and motor bikes as the weather grew warmer. He informed the meeting about accident figures as follows:-

The Braintree Division's general total of fatalities was reduced compared with the previous year but there had been a major increase in the serious injury collision figures. Saffron Walden showed an increase in serious/fatal accidents of 15% whereas the Dunmow figures had remained constant.

P C Saunders answered questions about the anti-drink driving campaign and control of speeding. He explained that there was a 10 year speed reduction policy and that currently the aim was to reduce threshold speeds by 1-2 mph.

SW77 AREA MANAGER'S REPORT

The Area Manager reported on accident remedial sites identified by the Department since the last meeting. A scheme design was currently being completed for the following accident remedial sites:-

- B1383/B130 Station Road, Wendens Ambo
- Wenden Road/Beechy Ride, Saffron Walden
- Woodside, Green Road, North of B1383 Hatfield Broad Oak
- A120 Dunmow Road/Hope End, Great Canfield
- B1383 Dunmow Road N/O Broad Street, Hatfield Broad Oak

He updated the meeting about safer journeys to school schemes at the Katherine Semar School and Clavering and about progress towards further speed camera sites.

The representative of Great Chesterford asked about the possibility of Parish Councils commissioning their own speed checks. P C Saunders stressed that there were strict criteria to be complied with arising from hypothecation before a camera site could be agreed. The Area Manager explained however that it was possible to commission an Essex County Highways Speed Check across the road in a village at little expense. He added that the rules governing the hypothecation scheme were intended to prevent speed related accidents rather than to enforce speed limits.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.