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**SAFFRON WALDEN LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
held on 9 JANUARY 2002 at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm**

Present:- In the Chair - Councillor W Bowker – Uttlesford District Council
Mr J Boughton –Elsenham
Councillor R C Dean – Uttlesford District Council
Mrs C J Jenner – Elmdon and Wenden Lofts
Mrs A Kent – Birchanger
Mr P Lawson – Radwinter
Mrs M F Macdonald – Wendens Ambo
Mr A Thomas – Hempstead
Mr P Hughes – The Sampfords
Mr D Richardson – Little Chesterford

Officers in attendance:- Mr P Hardy – Area Manager, Essex County
Transportation and Operational Services Department
Mrs R Johnson – Road Safety Officer
Mrs C Roberts – Secretary
Sergeant J Sones – Essex Police Traffic Management Unit

SW112 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Inspector M Harman, Mr D Boatman, Mrs A Smith, Mrs B Ryan and Councillor Mrs C A Bayley.

SW113 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2001 be received confirmed and signed as a correct record.

SW114 SEASONAL GREETING

Chairman wished members of the committee a happy and prosperous New Year.

SW115 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute SW96 (iii) – Ashdon Road/Harvey Way, Saffron Walden

Councillor Dean informed the meeting that the vegetation still required trimming back. It was noted that the Secretary had sent a letter to Essex County Transport and Operational Services, and Mr Hardy assured the meeting that he would resolve the problem.

(ii) Minute SW96 – Cycle Path to Audley End Station

The Secretary introduced Mrs M F Macdonald the representative for Wendens Ambo who wished to speak on this subject. Mrs Macdonald outlined the experience of the Parish Council with respect to the proposal to create a cycle path to Audley End Station, stressing that necessary consultation had not taken place. She informed the meeting that apologies had now been received from the Area Manager and Mr Sanders of the Essex County Council, but added that no survey had been carried out by the Essex County Council on the numbers of bicycles at the station to assess need. The Parish Council was concerned that a great deal of red tarmac would be needed to create the cycle path as planned and it would involve the destruction of a bank classified as a special site for wildlife and the reduction of carriageways which were already bearing excessive traffic loads. Many of the parishioners were opposed to the cycle path and felt it was not needed. She requested more consultation on the scheme as a whole. Phase 2 for which finance was available, was unsatisfactory in as much as cyclists going right to Newport were not provided for. She added that a reliable bus service to the station would improve matters, by reducing the number of cars. The current scheme for Phase 1, however, would be very damaging to Wendens Ambo village if it were allowed to proceed unaltered.

The Area Manager offered his personal apologies for the lack of consultation, which had been caused by a mix up at the office whilst he was on annual leave. He had put back work on the scheme to at least April 2002 and was meeting the parish council on 28 January to discuss the scheme. If feelings ran high it would be re-submitted to the appropriate Uttlesford District Council committee. He had offered a site visit to the Wendens Ambo Parish Council but it was likely that more people could be met at an evening meeting. There was a total of £150,000 in the programme for the whole scheme, namely, phases I and II. Members discussed earlier attempts to establish the best route for the cycle path and it was suggested that this matter be reconsidered at the next meeting in context with all relevant previous minutes.

The Chairman referred to an enquiry he had made to Mr Hardy about possible new speed limits on the B183 and asking for the accident statistics for the previous two or three years. He added that any cycle crossing would necessitate a speed limit. Councillor R C Dean commented that previous suggestions for a white line dividing cycles from other traffic had been thought inadequate.

RESOLVED that this subject be placed on the agenda for discussion at the meeting on 27 February 2002.

(iii) Minute SW96 – Radwinter Traffic Calming

In answer to a question the Chairman informed the meeting that he had not yet received copy correspondence from Parishes who had endeavoured to obtain speed control measures.

(iv) Minute SW98 – Equines Awareness Campaign

Mr A Thomas of Hempstead thanked the Road Safety Officer for the recent commencement of an equine awareness campaign which he hoped would continue for a long time.

(v) Minute SW100 – Accident Remedial Sites

Area Manager agreed to check whether the reference to 'B1054 Hempstead Road junction with Water Lane Hempstead' should be amended to read Radwinter.

(vi) Minute SW101 – Speed Traffic Problems

The Area Manager offered to make the presentation about the process of reaction to speed traffic problems, either there and then, or at the next meeting. Members agreed that it would be best presented to the next meeting.

SW116 SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary reported that no matter had arisen since the last meeting.

SW117 ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT

The Road Safety Officer informed the meeting that there had been no accidents involving children since the last meeting and that she felt the road safety work was improving the situation in this respect. There were delays with the works connected with 'Safer Journeys to School' but the two walking buses were working well. There had been valuable interaction with parents as regards child's seat fitting and the Motorwise initiative had been a great success and was to be continued.

In answer to a question from the representative of the Sampfords she agreed that there was a problem of horses on the road and limited visibility. The representative of Hempstead congratulated her on the horse safety campaign.

SW118 POLICE REPORT

Sergeant John Sones presented the report from Inspector Mark Harman about serious injury and fatal collision statistics in the Braintree Division from November 2001. Members commented about the policy of marking speed cameras more conspicuously. It was accepted that the objective was to slow traffic rather than to catch drivers. The representative for Radwinter drew to the attention of the Committee the merits of the Police Website which was highly informative.

SW119 **AREA MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr Hardy reported that there had been one new accident remedial site reported to the department since the last meeting, at

- **B184 High Street junction with George Street, Saffron Walden**

A scheme design had been completed for the following accident remedial sites:

- **B1383 London Road/ Pond Cross Farm Newport**
- **B1052 Common Hill, Church Street junction, Saffron Walden**

The proposals for the following site had been ordered with May Gurney:

- **B1054 Hempstead Road junction with Water Lane Hempstead**
- **B1383/B1039 Station Road Wendens Ambo**

'Safer Journeys to School Initiative'

Katherine Semar School – School Zone

An order had been placed for the introduction of the speed cushions outside the school and associated signing.

The proposed waiting restriction for Ross Close/Plantation Close had been completed.

Clavering Primary School – School Zone/30 mph speed limit

The revised 30 mph speed limit for Stortford Road, Pelham Road and High Street had been completed.

The proposed school zone had been installed in Stortford Road and the new signs/microtimers would be operational shortly.

Mobile Safety Camera Sites

It was likely that any new sites would not be introduced until after April 2002. Four more potential sites had been put forward.

The representative for Radwinter congratulated the Essex County Council on the road gritting which had been much improved in the current year and Mr Hardy explained that changed methods had achieved this. The Road Safety Officer added that the sandbox placed near Littlebury Green was most helpful and Mr Hardy added that these were normally placed where requested. The Committee offered its compliments to the Essex County Council Highways Department for the way it had carried out these services to the public in the recent bad weather.

ROADS AT ELMDON AND WENDEN LOFTS

The representative for Elmdon and Wenden Lofts voiced his Parish Council's concern about mud and ice on roads and footpaths causing skidding. He also asked whether any development had occurred as regards the chicken lorries using Duddenhoe End, Lower Pond Street and Newlands End to travel to Rockells Farm. Mr Hardy explained that neither Arkesden or Duddenhoe End welcomed the traffic and since all relevant lanes were of a protected nature the status quo remained. He had made enquiries from the Planning Authorities about the protected lanes.

Mr Jenner also commented on the useful system where by telephone reports could be made of treacherous places on gritting routes.

WENDENS AMBO/ WHITE LINES AND CATS EYES

Mrs Macdonald asked that white lines be painted and cat eyes replaced on roads. The Area Manager explained that this could not be undertaken until the road was dry though cats eyes had been replaced in some places.

BIRCHANGER – FOOTPATHS

Mrs A Kent drew attention to footpaths at Birchanger which had become impassable because of lorries clipping the bank.

ELSENHAM – PARKING AND CONGESTION

Mr Broughton informed the meeting that problems had developed involving lorries going to industrial sites due to double parking and bottle necks. The Area Manager explained that the current scheme had been finished but that it would be reviewed.

PARKING BAYS IN SAFFRON WALDEN

Councillor W Bowker informed the meeting that Councillor Mrs Bayley had put forward for discussion the matter of parking bays in Saffron Walden and he would place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.33 pm.