

**SAFFRON WALDEN LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON
11 SEPTEMBER 2002 AT COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON
WALDEN AT 7.30 PM**

Present:- Councillor W F Bowker – In the Chair (Uttlesford District Council).
Miss K Barwood – Arkesden.
Councillor R C Dean – Uttlesford District Council.
Mr P T Hughes – The Sampfords.
Mr C Jenner – Elmdon & Wenden Lofts.
Mrs A V Kent – Birchanger.
Mrs M F McDonald – Wendens Ambo.
Mr D Richardson – Little Chesterford.
Mrs A Smith – Newport.
Mr A Thomas – Hempstead.

Officers in Attendance:- Mrs R Johnson – Road Safety Officer
Mr A Playle – Essex Police Traffic Management Unit,
Mrs C Roberts – Secretary
Mr C Stoneham – Essex County Council TOPS.

SW149 **11 SEPTEMBER**

At the invitation of the Chairman, all Members and officers stood for a few moments silence in memory of those who had perished one year ago during the terrible events in the United States of America.

SW150 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs C A Bayley
Inspector Mark Harman and Mr D Boatman.

SW151 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2002 be received, confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the amendment of the words “Top Lane, Birchanger” in Minute SW146, to read “Tot Lane, Birchanger.

SW152 **BUSINESS ARISING**

(i) **Minute 140 – Junction of Ashdon Road and Harvey Way**

Councillor Dean emphasised that he did not wish to have the trees cut down, merely to lop lower branches so that the drivers of vehicles on Ashdon Road would have better view when turning left into Harvey Way.

Members asked whether the owner of the trees had been approached and Chris Stoneham agreed to investigate this.

(ii) **Cycle Path to Audley End Station**

The Chairman of the Committee explained that, following consideration of the proposed scheme by the Environment and Transport Committee, it had been decided, in the light of local objections, that this scheme should not go ahead for the time being. It had been felt that the proposed one-way traffic routing would increase rather than alleviate dangers. It was a matter of regret that even one cyclepath could not be installed under the overall scheme. The money was to be spent on other measures to improve facilities for cyclists. It appeared that the old track bed linking Wendens Ambo with Saffron Walden had been returned to private hands and would be too expensive to recover.

Mrs M McDonald circulated copies of the statement she had made to the Environment and Transport Committee and explained that the Parish Council thought that the one-way routing proposed would endanger life. They wanted a purpose built cycle path to protect cyclists and pedestrians. The Parish Council found the numbers contained in the survey implausible, the usual figure being about 20 cyclists. They thought that secure storage near the front of buildings would be more likely to encourage cycling than storage at the back.

The Chairman of the Committee stressed that the £150,000 was still earmarked for the cycle path. Chris Stoneham added that cycling groups were being consulted about facilities to be provided at the station and at the Saffron Walden County High School.

Members noted that ideally a purpose built cycle surface should be provided with low lights since pedestrians were also to use the route.

The Chairman of the Committee emphasised that it was hoped that something by way of a cycle path would be provided in the future. The original plan had been a good one. Another area for activity might be looking at possible ways to obtain land. The Members of the Group were strongly in favour of making an approach to a landowner with a view to progressing the route.

RESOLVED

- 1 that the Environment and Transport Committee be informed that the current proposal is an inadequate one due to road safety problems arising from the one-way system proposed,
- 2 that an approach be made to a local landowner to establish whether the route may be progressed off the public highway.

(iii) **Submission of Minutes to a District Council Committee**

In answer to a question, the Secretary informed Members about the decision of the Environment and Transport Committee regarding presentation of Minutes of the Advisory Committee to an Uttlesford District Council Committee. Members noted the response of the Environment and Transport Committee and the Chairman and Councillor R C Dean undertook to raise the matter at Council.

SW153 **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Committee considered a report from the Secretary giving details of draft waiting restriction proposals for Ashdon Road in the vicinity of Harvey Way and a proposal to extend the 30 mph speed limit at Royston Road, Wendens Ambo.

SW154 **ROAD SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Road Safety Officer referred to the large number of children for whom road and general safety courses had been provided in the course of the year. She mentioned Motorwise, Crucial Crew and cycling training, both at school and as a holiday course. She thanked the Committee for its efforts to achieve a cycle path to Audley End.

Ladies evenings and Driver Awareness evenings were anticipated in the next year. Members expressed interest in the Crucial Crew events and in Motorwise. In answer to questions, the Road Safety Officer explained the circumstances affecting the attendance of Saffron Walden County High School at Motorwise and assured Members that it was likely that they would attend in 2003.

RESOLVED that invitations to attend the Advisory Committee's meetings, be sent to Newport Grammar School and Stansted Mountfitchet School with a reminder to Saffron Walden County High School.

SW155 **POLICE REPORT**

Alan Playle presented the report by Inspector Mark Harman on road collisions in the Braintree Division 2002/03 and explained that the current year's fatalities figures were much better than the previous year. It should not be ignored, however, that in Britain as a whole, there were 3,500 road deaths per annum. He undertook to obtain any available figures on the numbers of fatalities caused by speed and by other causes.

SW156 **AREA TRANSPORTATION MANAGER'S REPORT**

Accident Remedial Sites

There had been one new accident remedial site reported since the last meeting.

- **B1383/B1052 Sparrows End Hill junction, Newport.**

The current position with the accident remedial sites reported at the last meeting was:-

- **B1383 Cambridge Road/Bury Water Lane junction, Newport** – an order had been placed for the remedial measures.
- **B1053 Walden Road/Stocking Green Road, Radwinter** – an estimate had been requested so that remedial measures could be ordered.
- **B1383 Cambridge Road/B1051/Bentfield Road junction, Stansted** - a design was being prepared for the proposals.

- **Tot Lane junction with Forrest Hall Lane, Birchanger** – an estimate had been requested so that remedial measures could be ordered.

Audley End Cycleway

The Uttlesford District Council Environment and Transport Committee recommended that the scheme did not go ahead and that the money was spent providing cycling facilities at the station. Consultation with cycling groups would take place to see what facilities they would like introduced.

‘Safer Journeys to School Initiative’

Three new schools from the District had been included within the Initiative for 2002/03:-

- St Mary’s CE Primary School, Castle Street, Saffron Walden
- Thaxted Primary School
- St Thomas More RC School, South Road, Saffron Walden

An initial meeting had taken place with each school and arrangements had been made for the schools to undertake their travel surveys. A further meeting would take place with each school next week to discuss the results of the travel surveys.

Mobile Safety Camera Sites

Two new mobile safety camera sites had been selected. A meeting would be held with each Parish Council prior to introduction of the mobile cameras to agree location of the permanent camera signs so that approval could be sought from DTLR.

- B1383 Cambridge/Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford (30 mph limit)
- A1060 Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath

Other Items

Minute SW96 – Ashdon Road/Harvey Way junction, Saffron Walden

Informal consultation to extend waiting restrictions for Harvey Way at the junction with Ashdon Road was completed and the formal consultation process was under way.

The site was to be investigated and the conifer trees inspected by the County Arboricultural Officer. Clarification of ownership would be established and, if privately owned, the required work will be taken up with the relevant landowner.

Prouds Bridge

Mr P Hughes referred to Prouds Bridge between Saffron Walden and Thaxted where two cars had recently left the road coming towards Saffron Walden with damage to signs and the bridge. Chris Stoneham undertook to check that this had been reported.

SW157 **AUDLEY END STATION KIOSK**

A Member of the Committee expressed concern about an application for a license to sell alcohol from a kiosk immediately outside Audley End Station.

SW158 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 6 November 2002.
Councillor Mrs C Cant asked that her apologies for absence from this meeting be presented.

The meeting ended at 8.52 pm.