

**SAFFRON WALDEN LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 10  
DECEMBER 2003 at 8.00pm**

Present:- Councillor W F Bowker – (Uttlesford District Council).  
Mr K Nicholas – Ashdon,  
Mr A Thomas – Hempstead Parish Council.  
Mrs M F McDonald – Wendens Ambo Parish Council  
Mrs L Sanders – Littlebury Parish Council  
Mr D Smith – Radwinter Parish Council

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 Transportation and  
Operational Services Department.

SW199 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Inspector M Harman and Mrs A Kent.

SW200 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2003 were received, confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the name of Kevin Nicholas in the list of those present, and the amendment of the last sentence in Minute SW196 to read:-

“Kevin Nicholas shared an article he had read about a solution used in Northamptonshire whereby a database of all motorists was kept and those found to exceed speed limits more than a fixed number of times were visited by a member of the local Police.”

SW201 **BUSINESS ARISING**

At the commencement of the meeting the Secretary had circulated, for information, copy correspondence received that day from the Essex County Council Schools Service about the changes they had decided to make to the minimum distances from school which qualify pupils for free transport and about charges for transport to nearest denominational schools.

SW202 **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

(i) **Minute No SW183 – Consideration of minutes by District Council Committee**

Members were informed that whilst there was nothing to prevent the Advisory Committee from approaching the Scrutiny Committee, there was no formal link between these two committees, and that the Scrutiny Committee had no

powers relevant to this request. Members agreed that an approach be made by their Chairman to the Chair of the Environment and Transport Committee. Direct.

**(ii) Minute No SW190 – Cycle racks**

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the Essex County Council which explained that, of the original allocation for the Saffron Walden/Audley End cycle route, £20,000 had been transferred to the present financial year to be spent on cycle parking facilities at Audley End Station, the Council Offices and the Saffron Walden County High School. The remainder had been re-allocated for cycling schemes elsewhere in Essex.

Lizzie Sandars questioned whether children were allowed to bike to school at the High School and Rose Johnson confirmed that a few did. Chris Stoneham added that the School had no cycle facilities at all and was keen to have them, but Rose Johnson informed the meeting that although the School's Bursar had said a bid was being put together for a Safer Journeys to School project which could incorporate such things in its travel study, no more had been heard from the School on the subject.

Lizzie Sandars pointed out that the promotion of walking and cycling to school would be much encouraged if the School would provide an adequate number of substantial lockers at useful positions in the School.. The lack of an assured secure well-placed locker meant that children were being asked to carry heavy bags of books to and from school and throughout the school day which was undesirable for the children and also worsened the volume of car travel to school and its environmental consequences.

David Smith confirmed that neither lockers nor safer journeys to school had appeared on the agenda for the School's governors recently and said that he would ask for them to be discussed. He described a problem of transporting large musical instruments which similarly could result in car journeys rather than use of the school bus, and Rose Johnson undertook to contact the Passenger Transport Department of the Essex County Council about this matter.

**(iii) Minute No SW190 – Cycle path to Audley End**

Chris Stoneham confirmed that a new application for funds would have to be made if the scheme for the cycle route to Audley End were to be progressed.

The Chairman reported that following from the last meeting of the Advisory Committee, he and Peter Riding (Chair of the Uttlesford Local Agenda 21 Transport Working Group) had visited the agent for the Audley End Estate to explore whether they could progress the Audley End cycle route. The agent had been sympathetic to their representations but had explained that due to legal obligations under a trust any land transfer would have to be for a fair price. The Transport Forum on 13<sup>th</sup> January would be considering a draft plan of the land which might form the route. Chris Stoneham confirmed that he would be able to attend this meeting.

SW203

### **SPARROWS END HILL NEWPORT**

The Chairman reported that the interim proposals for this junction had been considered by the Newport Parish Council which was not in favour of them.

Chris Stoneham explained that the main aspect of the interim measures was to instal a proper refuge with illuminated bollards at the junction, an additional sign on the refuge, and trimming of the vegetation with relocation of the signage on the B1383 to improve visibility. The first stage of the feasibility study will be available in January, regarding the option of a new roundabout or a right hand turn and a funding bid was being made for the new financial year. Consultation would take place with both parish councils once plans were available.

Marion McDonald stressed that Mouchels should consult and meet with local people who often had greater experience of the local roads and the accidents which had occurred on them.

SW204

### **POLICE REPORT**

Alan Playle circulated copies of Inspector Harman's road traffic report and explained that although Inspector Harman had intended to be present at the meeting, he had been called away by work.

He then reported that the statistics of road fatalities and serious injuries within the local area had increased slightly when compared with the last year, but that the previous year had been exceptionally good.

He also circulated useful diagrams showing accident causation, location and driver age. Alcohol impairment, carelessness/recklessness and excess speed for the conditions were flagged as the main causes of road accidents in Essex. The most common locations were particular "A" roads and the most common driver age group was 16-21.

It was noted that there was still a problem of theft of signs, and that winter joggers and cyclists were about in clothing which was not high visibility. Alan Playle said that the four cycling fatalities this year had all occurred on "A" roads.

Members asked for Audley End Station and Saffron Walden Golf Club to be targeted in the forthcoming drink drive campaign.

SW205

### **ROAD SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Road Safety Officer told the meeting that funds had been obtained for promotion of road safety plays, and "Why did the chicken?" had been shown to four hundred year sevens at the Saffron Walden County High School, Newport Grammar and Stansted Mountfitchet School and would be shown in more schools in the New Year.

The “Be safe be seen” and general road safety campaign was being pursued in the schools, but it was difficult to make the high visibility message “cool”. Members made suggestions that designer label logos be made for young people in adhesive high visibility material, and that schools should be encouraged to require high visibility articles of uniform. It was decided that the Secretary should ask schools to send a letter to parents stressing “Be safe be seen” and road safety generally at this time of year.

The Road Safety Officer informed the meeting that the letter to schools promoting Safer Journeys to School had yielded safer journeys initiatives from several new schools. Meantime walking ‘buses, particularly the Thaxted one, were going from strength to strength.

The anti-drink/driving campaign was in preparation for Christmas and teams would be distributing leaflets at supermarket car parks.

SW206

### **SCHOOL TRANSPORT – ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL**

At the invitation of the Chairman Mrs, Hall the Headmistress of St Thomas More School, gave an interesting presentation on the way in which the School was dealing with problems of traffic congestion in the road outside the School. Members were grateful for this insight into the conflicting demands on road space outside a school.

SW207

### **AREA TRANSPORTATION MANAGER’S REPORT**

#### **Accident Remedial Sites:**

There had been no new accident remedial sites reported to the department since the last meeting.

The current position with the previous accident remedial site reported at the last meeting was:

- **B184 Walden Road junction with Jackson’s Lane, Great Chesterford** – An estimate for the introduction of the agreed measures had been requested from the contractor.
- **Chaters Hill junction with Ashdon Road / Highfields, Saffron Walden** – A design brief had been placed with the contractor who was currently working on the proposals.

#### **‘Safer Journeys to School Initiative’**

A meeting had taken place with the three new schools that had joined the initiative; they were Wimbish, Manuden & Radwinter Primary Schools. Each school would be undertaking a school travel survey to establish how far and in what direction the children travelled to their respective schools.

The current schools from the District included within the Initiative had now agreed their engineering measures; the position with these proposals was as follows:

**St. Mary's C.E. Primary School, Castle Street, Saffron Walden:**

- An estimate had been requested for a new footway link within Caton's Lane.
- The proposed 20-mph speed limit had been approved for Castle Street and arrangements had been made to advertise the proposal.

**Thaxted Primary School:**

- Some of the new signs for the School zone had been introduced while the proposed flashing amber lights had been ordered. A number of objections had been received to the additional waiting restrictions for the 'walking bus' route, although the majority of objections had been resolved one objection still had not been resolved and was delaying the introduction of the measures. The pedestrian guard railings outside the entrance to the school had been completed.

**St Thomas More RC School, South Road, Saffron Walden:**

- The design of a Zebra crossing for Peaslands Road had been completed and the advert for the proposal had commenced however a further objection had been received and this would need to be reported to the next Environment and Transport Committee. The design for the traffic calming proposed for South Road in the vicinity of the school had been commenced and a preliminary design sent to the County's Passenger Transport section for their comments due to the road forming part of a bus route.

**Other Items:**

**Bus Stop Improvement Programme**

Following a Public Transport Customer Satisfaction Survey undertaken by the County's Passenger Transport section a pilot scheme had been undertaken in Rochford and Brentwood last year involving the replacement of old bus stop poles, flags, timetable cases and where necessary hard standing on non Quality Bus Partnership routes. In addition, a database had been created for these bus routes so the bus stops could be monitored and so that it could be identified when future maintenance work was required and reported to either the bus operator, Passenger Transport or the local Area Office.

Owing to the success of the pilot scheme approval had been granted to extend the programme to Uttlesford. Starting in the New Year this process would be carried out initially in Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden and then the A1060 route followed by the remaining villages within the District.

SW208

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be 11 February 2003.

The meeting ended at 9.28 pm.

