

**TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
HIGH STREET GREAT DUNMOW at 7.30 pm on 21 JUNE 2004**

Present: Councillor W F Bowker – Chairman  
Councillors C M Dean, R F Freeman, D W Gregory,  
B M Hughes, J E Menell, G Sell and A M Wattebot

Officers in attendance: M Cox, J Mitchell, J Pine and P Hardy (Essex  
County Council)

**TH1 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Prior to the meeting, Councillors M A Foley and S V Schneider and Mr Sullivan from Hatfield Heath Parish Council made representations concerning item 4 – The Locally Determined Budget Programme. A copy of their comments is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

**TH2 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E C Abrahams and K R Artus.

**TH3 PROPOSED SPEED TABLES – ROSEACRES TAKELEY**

The Committee was advised of an objection that had been received in response to the publication of the proposed speed reduction scheme for Roseacres, Takeley. The scheme involved speed tables and signs and had been prepared in association with a street lighting scheme funded by a Section 278 Agreement in association with the St Valery Development. The measures would provide an effective speed reducing feature on the approach to the school and the proposals were fully supported by the Parish Council, District Council, County Councillor and the Chief Constable. The Area Highway Manager added that work was also planned to improve the road surface at Roseacres.

RESOLVED that arrangements be made to introduce the two speed tables as published and described in the schedule in accordance with the County Council's Standard Order Making Procedure.

**TH4 PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS – STATION ROAD, HIGH STREET  
ELSENHAM**

The Committee was advised of objections, which had been received in response to the publication of waiting restrictions for Station Road and High Street, Elsenham. The measures had been prepared in response to ongoing commuter parking problems that occurred along Station Road and caused congestion along this section of highway. The measures for the High Street were due to visibility concerns on the approach to the zebra crossing and

vehicles exiting the junction of Hall Road. The proposals were fully supported by the Parish and District Councils, the County Councillor and the Chief Constable. The cost of implementing the road markings and signs would be approximately £1800 and would be funded from a Section 106 Agreement.

Mr Gibson, from Hailes Wood, Elsenham, spoke to the Committee about the proposed waiting restrictions in Station Road. Whilst he did not object to the waiting restrictions in themselves, he commented that cars would be forced to move elsewhere and drivers were likely to park in the surrounding streets.

Councillor Freeman agreed that implementing any waiting restrictions would have consequences, and the Council should be prepared to take the next steps and, if necessary, introduce Residents Parking or two hour parking limits.

RESOLVED that arrangements be made to introduce the waiting restrictions in Station Road and High Street Elsenham as described in the schedule and in accordance with the County Council's Standard Order Making Procedure.

TH5

#### **LOCALLY DETERMINED BUDGET PROGRAMME 2003/04 – 2006/07**

The Area Highway Manager gave details of the Locally Determined Programme. He explained that it was a three year rolling programme with an additional year added annually and approved by the relevant committee. The schemes in the additional year would be taken from the reserve list, scored using the agreed formula and prioritised and would include all new requests. The Area Manager had been authorised to make minor changes to the programme by bringing forward and putting back schemes where necessary.

The Committee was informed of the progress of the schemes in the 2003/04 programme and asked to approve the programme for 2006/07. There was a significant new element which was to fund the pilot study for variable message signs during 2004/05. Early indications were that these signs were very popular and funding had been included in future years programmes at a similar level in the expectation that their use would continue. Members agreed that these signs were effective and asked if initial data from the trial sites could be provided at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the proposed additional years programme for 2006/07 be approved.

TH6

#### **SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME**

*Councillor W F Bowker declared a personal non prejudicial interest in this item as a member of the Uttlesford Area Access Group.*

The Committee considered recommendations from the Saffron Walden Town Centre Traffic Management Working Group. The Environment and Transport Committee on 2 March 2004 had asked the Group to look at the feasibility of additional Blue Badge spaces within the controlled zone, whether to dedicate

the Rose and Crown car park to Blue Badge holders on Market days and to look at the feasibility/options for pedestrianisation/semi-pedestrianisation of King Street and Market Place.

The Group's favoured option for additional Blue Badge spaces was to use the two existing taxi bays on the east side of Market Street. One replacement bay would be relocated either immediately to the south of the existing ones or to a position in the southern part of the High Street. In relation to the Rose and Crown car park, it was felt that extra Blue Badge spaces would not be as convenient here as others in and around the controlled zone. With regards to pedestrianisation, the Working Group had informally looked at some initial options, though a feasibility study would be required for which money was not currently available. A bid for funding had been put to Uttlesford's Futures on 21 July.

The Chairman said that the Access Group had been disappointed at the small number of additional Blue Badge spaces. Officers replied that the situation would continue to be assessed and it was hoped that after 1 October when decriminalisation of parking enforcement was implemented there would be better enforcement of the existing disabled spaces in Market Square and King Street.

RESOLVED that

- 1 Essex County Council be asked to provide two Blue Badge spaces on the existing taxi bay in Market Street, with either a single taxi bay relocated immediately to the south or to a position in the High Street.
- 2 The proposal to allocate the Rose and Crown car park for Blue Badge holders should not be proceeded with.

TH7

## **UTTLESFORD CYCLE NETWORK PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE**

At the meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee on 13 January 2004, Members had endorsed the principle of two cycleway schemes proposed for Great Dunmow, to review the plan and to report to a future meeting of the committee.

The Plan had now been reviewed in the light of objective P9 of the Quality of Life Corporate Plan, to support measures to discourage the use of the car in favour of supporting the use of public transport, cycling and walking. Two actions related to cycling, P9.3, to create a network of safe cycle routes and quiet lanes and P9.4, to create an effective cycle track between Saffron Walden and Audley End by 3 June 2004. Progress had been made in developing the two Great Dunmow cycleways and they had been included in the County Council's capital programme for 2004/05. Work was also planned on the setting up of National Cycle Network route 16 running from Bishop's Stortford to Witham via Great Dunmow and Braintree. With regards to the Saffron Walden to Audley End cycleway a previous scheme from the County Council had not been supported by the local community and it had been dropped from the County Council's Capital programme.

The Cycle Network Plan contained a number of proposals that had been subject to an initial survey for feasibility, but had not been examined in detail nor acquired necessary budget approval. Officers would prepare a report on a suggested prioritisation programme at a future meeting of the committee. In the meantime Members were asked to roll the plan forward until 2009. Essex County Council hoped to implement one proposal within the plan for each of the next few years.

The Committee then discussed the cycleway from Audley End Station to Saffron Walden. Councillor Menell said that this proposal had been under discussion for many years and felt it would be helpful to ask a representative from Audley End Estates to attend the meeting to discuss some possible route options. She moved and it was seconded that "Mr White, the Estate Manager, Audley End Estates be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee."

Other members considered it would be more useful to look again at the County's original proposal and other possible options.

The motion by Councillor Menell was then put to the vote and was lost.

RESOLVED that

- 1 The County Council, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, be asked to revisit the exiting scheme and consider alternative proposals for a cycleway from Audley End station to Saffron Walden.
- 2 The Uttlesford Cycle Network Plan be rolled forward until 2009.

TH8

#### **LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE FOR ESSEX – PROGRESS REPORT**

Members were advised of progress that was being made with the preparation of the Local Service Agreement. The Agreement was being drawn up by one to one sessions between County and District officers as required, but mainly via a joint working group comprised of one officer from each district and the County Project Management Team. The report set out the aims of the new agreement, issues that had been discussed so far and areas that officers felt needed further clarification from the County Council.

RESOLVED that the Committee endorse the points set out in the report for forthcoming direct and one to one meetings with the County Council.

TH9

#### **FORWARD PROGRAMME 2004/05**

The Committee were advised of topics that were likely to be considered at forthcoming meetings of the Committee this financial year.

RESOLVED that the provisional timetable be noted.

**TH10 DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT TASK GROUP**

The Committee received the Minutes of the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement Task Group held on 12 May 2004

**i) DPE6 – Chipside Parking Software Suite**

RESOLVED that Council Standing Order KK41(b) be suspended to enable a contract to be entered into with Chipside to provide the enforcement system in order to implement Decriminalised Parking Enforcement.

**ii) DPE7 – National Adjudication Parking Service**

RESOLVED that the Committee enter into an agreement with the National Parking Adjudication Service and that Councillor Hibbs be appointed to serve on the Joint Committee.

The Committee further agreed that a presentation on Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement be arranged prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

**TH11 UTTLESFORD TRANSPORT FORUM 13 APRIL 2004**

The Committee received the Minutes of the Uttlesford Transport Forum held on 13 April 2004.

**TH12 LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committees held on 2 and 7 June 2004 would be circulated with the Agenda for the next meeting.

*The Chairman agreed to the consideration of the following items on the grounds of urgency as Members required the information before the next meeting of the Committee.*

**TH13 THAXTED BUS STOP**

The Area Highways Manager answered questions relating to the relocation of the bus stop at Thaxted.

**TH14 LETTER FROM HIGHWAY AGENCY**

The Committee was informed that a letter re the A120 trunking, that should have been distributed to properties within 100 metres of the A120, had been circulated more widely. This had caused considerable concern to some residents and the matter would be taken up with the Highway Agency.

TH15      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would now be held on Wednesday 8 September at 7.30 p.m. at the Council Offices Saffron Walden.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING – TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE  
21 JUNE 2004**

The following representations were made regarding item 4, Local Determined Budget Programme 2003/04 to 2006/07.

**Councillor M A Foley**

Councillor Foley referred to the speed reduction measures that were planned for Newbiggen Street and Bardfield Road Thaxted and for Radley End. These were included in the 2004/05 programme but road safety at the sites were now becoming a major issue and he asked whether it would be possible to move these schemes forward in the programme.

**Councillor S V Schneider**

Councillor Schneider asked for an update on Hempstead Parish Council's footway proposal and the extension of the speed limit in the village. Also the progress of the speed limit extensions at Great Sampford.

**Mr Sullivan – Hatfield Heath Parish Council**

Mr Sullivan asked the Committee to support the Parish Council's proposal for a 30 mph speed limit through the village.