

**TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE held at LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 16 JUNE 2005**

Present:- Councillor G Sell – Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, C M Dean, B M Hughes, J E Menell
and A M Wattebot.

Also present:- Peter Fuller-Lewis – Dunmow Road Safety Advisory
Committee.

Officers in attendance:- M Cox, J G Pine and A Stewart and Chris
Stoneham (Essex County Council).

TH1 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Prior to the meeting Alison Midgley from Hempstead Parish Council spoke to the Committee about road safety issues in the village. A summary of her comments is attached as an appendix to the Minutes.

TH2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K R Artus, W F Bowker M A Gaylor and D W Gregory.

The Chairman declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 as a trustee of Birchanger Wood.

TH3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2005 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

TH4 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute TH50(i) – Audley End Station to Saffron Walden Cycle Way and feasibility of development of an integrated transport package for Audley End Station

Councillor Menell reported that Wendens Ambo Parish Council was still concerned about the design of the Sparrows End roundabout. In particular, the proximity of the pavement to the carriageway and the adequacy of the width of the road. Chris Stoneham replied that there were no problems with the turning movements as these had been checked at the design stage. The concerns at the street lighting had only recently been highlighted and it was not possible to amend the scheme at this stage.

(ii) Minute TH50 (ii) – Fly-parking around Stansted Airport

The Committee was informed that to date there had been 130 responses to the questionnaire. Officers would analyse the data and then convene a meeting of the working group to discuss the way forward.

(iii) Minute TH50 (iv) – Statement by member of the public

The Committee asked to be advised of the response made to Mr and Mrs Morgan at the next meeting of the Committee.

(iv) Minute TH54 – Local Road Safety Advisory Committees

Councillor C M Dean said that an increasing number of lorries appeared to be coming off the A120 at the airport roundabout and then using Bury Lodge Lane, Church Road and High Lane. These roads were wholly inappropriate for this type of traffic and officers agreed to look into this.

TH5

LETTER TO CHAIRMAN FROM COUNCILLOR HIBBS

The Committee considered a copy of a letter that Councillor Hibbs had sent to the Chairman, which was to be raised with Essex County Council for a response at the appropriate time.

The letter referred to three matters of concern, surface water drainage in Saffron Walden High Street, parking restrictions in Little Larchmount and at the junction of Borough Lane/Debden Road/Mount Pleasant Road and consultation by the County Council on parking orders relating to decriminalisation.

The Committee expressed concern at what appeared to be the lack of consultation by County Council on the proposed parking restrictions in Little Larchmount. Objections to these parking restrictions would now be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 8 September. Councillor Dean asked for clarification on the making of traffic regulation orders. Mr Stoneham confirmed that the County Council would continue to make the orders in consultation with the District Council.

RESOLVED that the letter be forwarded to Paul Hardy at the Area Highway Office for a reply.

TH6

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2 2006/07 – 2010/11 – CONSULTATION

The Committee was given details of Hertfordshire's LTP2 which was currently on public consultation. The County would be reporting the outcome of the consultation to its Members on 21 June and was able to take Uttlesford's comments for oral presentation at the meeting.

The Plan focused on five priorities; tackling congestion, improving accessibility for everyone, making roads safer, improving air quality and improving the quality of life in the county. Aspects that had relevance to Uttlesford, was the County's consultation on its rail and bus strategies. and the proposed schemes for major government funding, two of which were the dualling of the A120 by-pass around Bishop's Stortford and a Little Hadham A120 by-pass. Members were concerned at the possible take up of land from Birchanger

Wood involved in the Bishop Stortford bypass scheme and commented that any such proposal would need to be fully justified.

RESOLVED that

- 1 Members give their general support for the priorities set out in Hertfordshire's new Local Transport Plan (LTP2) consultation.
- 2 Members' concerns be forwarded to Hertfordshire County Council in relation to the possibility of additional land being taken from Birchanger Wood for the dualling of the A120 around Bishop's Stortford.

TH7

ESSEX LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2006 – 2001

The Chairman agreed to the consideration of this item on the grounds of urgency as the consultation period would close before the next meeting of the Committee.

Officers had just received the first draft of the Essex Local Transport Plan and representations had to be submitted before 24 June 2005. A copy of the summary paper was circulated for Members' comments. It was noted that in the minutes of the Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committee comments had been made on the strategy about "yellow bus" school transport and the implications for funding resulting from the extension of District Councils' duties. Members asked that these comments be included in the response to the County

RESOLVED that any comments be forwarded to the Policy and Development Control Liaison Officer before 22 June 2005 in order for a response to be sent to the County Council.

Members expressed concern at the short time scale that had been given for submitting responses.

TH8

DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT TASK GROUP

The Committee received the Minutes of the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement Task Group held on 10 May 2005.

Members were informed that an experienced officer had now been recruited to the one year temporary post, which would hopefully help the staffing situation in the section. It was clear that the remit of the Task Group had changed over the past year and the relationship between the Task Group and the Transport and Highways Committee needed to be clarified.

RESOLVED that

- 1 Members receive a report at the next meeting of the Committee on options for the role of the Decriminalisation Task Group.

- 2 Funding be made available for a one year temporary post to assist with the review.

TH9

PARKING – STRATEGIC POLICY REVIEW

The Committee received a report which updated Members on the work being undertaken by the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement Task Group to review parking arrangements in Uttlesford. The objective of the review was to establish detailed policy against which parking could be provided now and in the future

The Group had identified 13 areas that should be investigated. These areas were considered to be urgent priorities as they had serious implications or a clear policy was required to enable more effective and efficient management of the services. It was recommended that these priorities be given immediate consideration and reports be provided with findings and associated policy recommendations to the September and November meetings of the Committee. Some of the issues would take longer to resolve, such as the full implications of the Traffic Management Act, and these would be reported back to the committee at an appropriate time.

The Task Group had looked at the safer journeys to school initiative and considered that in order to encourage the introduction of scheme the Council should seek to provide both on and off street parking in places where the initiative could be implemented. It had been suggested that the authority to provide these parking spaces should be delegated to officers.

RESOLVED that

- 1 The Committee agrees to the priorities of the Task Group for further immediate consideration.
- 2 Officers be given delegated authority to provide relevant and appropriate parking spaces for schools involved in the safer journeys to school initiative and local ward members be informed of the changes

TH10

UTTLESFORD TRANSPORT FORUM

The Committee received the Minutes of the Uttlesford Transport Forum held on 20 April 2005.

TH11

SAFFRON WALDEN LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committee held on 2 March 2005.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm. Page 4

STATEMENT BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC**Alison Midgley – Hempstead Parish Council**

Alison Midgley was the parish council's representative for road safety and she spoke to the committee about 2 issues of concern in the village. Traffic volumes had increased substantially and the village was being used as a rat run to the airport. There had been 2 fatal accidents in the village. The village was in a dip and although there was a 30mph limit in the centre cars travelled far too fast on the approach. The parish council requested a 40mph limit on these approaches.

The second request was for a footpath through the village. Plans had been drawn up some 30 years ago but although it was still on the list of footway schemes it had not yet been implemented.

Mrs Midgley hoped that these schemes could be brought forward in the Locally Determined Programme and asked the Committee to bear these requests in mind when considering this item at the next meeting.