

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES – 13 JANUARY 2020 6.00pm

UDC COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN

Chairman:	Councillor Simon Walsh (ECC Member)
Panel Members:	Councillors Susan Barker (ECC Member), Ray Gooding (ECC Member), John Moran (ECC Member)– Geof Driscoll (UDC Member), Rod Jones (UDC Member) and G Sell (UDC Member)
Also Present:	Councillor Deryk Eke (UDC Member – Portfolio Holder for Transport); Terry Frostick, Clare Griffiths and Tony Puddick.
Officers:	Essex Highways – Rissa Long, Highway Liaison Officer
Secretariat:	Essex Highways – Sonia Church, Highway Liaison Manager Ben Ferguson – UDC Democratic Services Officer

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the Panel and introductions were made.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence and Declarations of interest:</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Asker.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting:</p> <p>Minutes of meeting held on 16th September 2019 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendment to minute 5, paragraph 6 (addition in bold):</p> <p><i>Councillor Jones said that further down the road a lit bollard had been damaged and was no longer functional, due to the fact that three vehicles had driven straight over it. The Chairman said that there were a number of lit bollards on refuge points that were also in the same state.</i></p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of the previous meeting:</p> <p>In response to a question relating to the Rangers' scheme LUTT 19-06-10, the Panel were informed that the hedge in question was not a matter for the Highways Panel. The Highways Liaison Officer said</p>	



	<p>the request had been logged with the Highways Inspector and she would try to get an update for the Panel.</p>	
5.	<p>Public Questions (10 minutes):</p> <p>Clare Griffiths, Head Teacher at St. Mary's Primary School, Great Dunmow, spoke on the traffic issues affecting St. Mary's at the beginning and end of the school day. She said the school had attempted to impose safeguarding measures but some parents were ignoring these instructions. If nothing was done, the situation would only deteriorate as the student body was expanding due to the need to build another school in the town. Measures such as a 20mph zone, an extension of the 'yellow zig-zags' and official signage were requested. The issues were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Severe traffic/parking issues were occurring on High Stile, owing to parents dropping/collecting their children from school. Some parents were ignoring the traffic calming and safeguarding measures and dropping their children in restricted zones.• There was no through road and therefore logjams formed, leading to frayed tempers and dangerous driving.• A child had been knocked over in the past year, demonstrating the level of risk the school was facing.• An alternative 'back entrance' on Chequers Lane had been implemented by the school but required a crossing and signage to make safe. <p>Tony Puddick, resident of High Stile, also spoke on the traffic issues affecting the school. As a resident, he said he had suffered the congestion issue for decades and the root cause was simply that High Stile was not suited to coping with such a large volume of traffic. He said he had much sympathy for Mrs Griffiths, who had done her utmost to resolve the problem, but a radical solution needed to be implemented to help residents, who suffered verbal and physical abuse from "selfish" parents who ignored signage and showed little care for the children who were subject to this dangerous driving. He asked the Panel to prevent school traffic from entering High Stile.</p> <p>Cllr Day, Ward Member for Great Dunmow, said he fully supported the Head Teacher and asked the Panel to consider appointing a Crossing Control Officer to assist the children crossing. He said children's safety had to be the Panel's priority.</p> <p>Councillor Gooding said the County had experienced difficulty in recruiting Crossing Control Officers and they were by no means a perfect solution. He said closing the road at the relevant times through a bollard system could be an option.</p>	

	<p>The Highways Liaison Officer said safety measures were in validation and engineers were looking for potential solutions to the problem.</p> <p>The Chair said the Panel would continue to look at the issues facing the school and would do what they could to improve the situation.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes 2019/20</p> <p>Councillor Jones asked for an update in relation to Item 5. Members were informed that the 50mph limit had been amended and engineers were looking at redesigning signage to improve visibility. Councillor Barker said the proposed Waste Depot currently going through the planning process could affect these works.</p> <p>Members were informed that Item 6 would be delayed due to objections and legal process.</p> <p>In relation to Item 10, Councillor Barker said she would raise the matter of Rangers being unable to work on this section of the road owing to the 60mph speed limit. She said traffic management would be arranged if necessary.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer said the engineers were not confident that a solution could be provided in relation to Item 11 due to utilities and the narrowness of the road. Councillor Moran agreed to speak to Councillor Eke about the scheme outside of the meeting.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer agreed to send costs to Councillor Jones in relation to Item 18.</p> <p>The markings or “junction linings” would be improved for Item 25.</p> <p>Item 30 was on track and funding could be agreed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The legal process had been extended in relation to Item 31.</p> <p>In response to a question relating to Item 36, Members were told that the “gateway” scheme was proposing updated signage at the entrance to Saffron Walden.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that the budget would be the same as last year, subject to ECC’s Full Council approval.</p> <p><u>Safer Roads</u></p>	



Item 1 – Casualty reduction measures on the B184 – was obligatory and funding would be provided once costs had been confirmed.

Traffic Management

Validation had concluded in relation to Item 1 and had found that the current speed limit was appropriate and there were no viable traffic calming measures to implement. Councillor Barker said there were problems in Aythorpe Roding and it was not good enough to say there was nothing that could be done, information needed to be provided to the public to explain why no measures could be introduced. The Highways Liaison Manager said that it is the intention that the Essex Highways website would be updated to include additional information on the status of validations and the general public would be able to view the progress of each scheme, including comments made by engineers.

Members discussed the Traffic Management schemes outlined in the report, with particular attention paid to those schemes which had proceeded past the design stage and were ready to implement.

Funding was agreed for the following schemes:

- Item 8 - Saffron Walden market amendments
- Item 10 - Silver Street, Stansted - Gateway sign
- Item 11 - Stansted Mountfitchet - Signage review
- Item 19 - Sawbridgeworth Road junction with Grinstead Lane Little Hallingbury - Safety measures
- Item 28 - Audley End Road, Audley End, Saffron Walden - Pedestrian crossing improvements
- Item 29 - Bolford Street, Thaxted - 40mph buffer
- Item 30 - Cambridge Road, Newport - 40mph buffer speed limit
- Item 31 - Cambridge Road, Quendon - 40mph buffer speed limit
- Item 32 - Chapel Hill, Berden - Safety improvements
- Item 34 - Duck End, Stebbing - Signage review
- Item 35 - Dunmow Road, Great Easton
- Item 36 - Langley Lower Green - Speed Limit
- Item 38 - Rands Road, High Roding - 30mph speed limit extension
- Item 39 - Rosemary Lane junction with North Street, Great Dunmow - Mini roundabout deflection
- Item 40 - Stortford Road, Leaden Roding - Speed limit extension
- Item 41 - Windmill Hill, Saffron Walden - Gateway improvements
- Item 46 - Museum Street, Saffron Walden - Lining

	<p>Members agreed to remove the following scheme as it was not viable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 15 - Walden Road, Hadstock - Footway <p><u>Footways</u></p> <p>Members agreed to remove the following schemes as they were not viable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 3 - Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden – Footway improvements Item 4 - Stansted Road, Elsenham -Footway widening <p><u>Cycling</u></p> <p>Councillor Eke said he was disappointed that there was no recommendation to provide funding towards cycling schemes. He said the stipulation that all cycle paths had to be of a certain width was ridiculous as it could not be implemented in Uttlesford due to the medieval nature of its towns and villages. Councillor Moran said he was happy to have a discussion with Councillor Eke but there were two issues preventing the development of cycling schemes in Uttlesford. These were the specified width of cycle paths coupled with a limited budget. He said Cabinet Members were working across the County to resolve the criteria problems and funding could be provided in future years.</p> <p>It was agreed to remove the following scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 1 - Battle ditches, Saffron Walden - Cycle path – As this proposed cycle path would not have connected into a larger network, it was agreed to remove it from the Schemes Awaiting Funding list so this was not in isolation. 	
9.	<p>Report on Revenue Spend (electronically only)</p> <p>To be circulated after the meeting.</p>	
10.	<p>Report on S106 (electronically only)</p> <p>To be circulated after the meeting.</p>	
11.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Eke to meet with the Highways Liaison Officer regarding a crossing for Saffron Walden County High School. Members were encouraged to report any Highway issues on the website as evidence was required to progress any scheme. A training day was proposed for District Councillors. 	

12.	Date of the Next meeting Monday 9th March 2020 6pm.	

The meeting ended at 7.40pm.