

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
MINUTES – 8 JUNE 2020 14:00 HRS
UDC COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN**

Chairman:	Councillor Simon Walsh (ECC Member)
Panel Members:	Councillors Susan Barker (ECC Member), John Moran (ECC Member), Ray Gooding (ECC Member), Geof Driscoll (UDC Member), Deryk Eke (UDC Member) and Rod Jones (UDC Member).
Also Present:	Peter Boshier (for part of Item 7)
Officers:	Essex Highways – Rissa Long, Highway Liaison Officer Essex Highways – Sonia Church, Highway Liaison Manager
Secretariat:	Chris Gibson – UDC Democratic Services Officer

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: The Chair welcomed the Panel and introductions were made.	
2.	Apologies for Absence and Declarations of interest: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sell (UDC Member) and Barrie Barnes (Parish Representative).	
3.	Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes of meeting held on 13th January 2020 were agreed as correct record.	
4.	Matters Arising from Minutes of the previous meeting: In relation to Item 7 relating to traffic flow on the B1256 Braintree Road in Great Dunmow, the Highways Liaison Officer confirmed that no 50mph speed limit had been agreed and that she would be looking at signage and lining and would keep a watching brief. In relation to Item 8 Cycling, Councillor Eke reported that there was no update in respect of the stipulation that all cycle paths had to be of a certain width.	
5.	Report on Funded Schemes 2019/20 and 2020/21 The Highway Liaison Officer said that £228.5k had to date been allocated to commissioned schemes and that £16.5k remained to be allocated.	

	<p>Councillor Moran thanked the Highway Liaison Officer for ensuring the recent completion of Schemes 1 and 5 of Funded Schemes 2019-20.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer explained that all estimated completion dates for Funded Schemes 2020-21 were currently shown as Q4 but these would be amended throughout the year, once programmed.</p> <p>Councillor Jones raised item number 1 relating to Funded Schemes 2020-21 in respect of casualty reduction measures in Great Dunmow, particularly to review horse and rider drop kerbs. The Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that she would be having further discussions during the week with colleagues.</p> <p>It was highlighted that item number 10 relating to pedestrian guard rails at a school should be expedited before Q4.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that item number 19 would now be funded by S106 monies and that objections had been received in respect of item numbers 23 and 24 in respect of buffer speed limits in Newport and Quendon. Councillor Gooding stated that he would liaise further with Quendon and Rickling Parish Council and Councillor Moran said he would continue to monitor the situation.</p> <p>Members agreed to fund the Audley End speed limit and the measures identified for the B256 in Great Dunmow subject to the conclusion of the design work currently in progress.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>Questions were raised about item number 19 in respect of Audley End speed limit arrangements. Weight restrictions were explained and Councillor Moran agreed to look at signage following concerns expressed by Councillor Eke.</p> <p>Specific concerns were expressed about item number 9 in respect of Birchanger Lane and the nearby school. Children had been using an alleyway from the school to then cross the road, without any school crossing patrol. The Highway Liaison Manager stated that she would revisit this case and look at possible signage but the “20 plenty” signs could not be used on adjacent roads. Councillor Driscoll asked that she notify the Parish Council if she intended to visit the area.</p> <p>Councillor Barker asked what was happening to the Great Canfield Byway 3. The Highway Liaison Officer indicated that the works were with the Public Right of Way Team and she would check the current position.</p> <p>Councillor Jones stated that he was pleased to see item number 3 in respect of Public Rights of Way at the Cherry Gardens footbridge on the list. The Highway Liaison Officer indicated that design work was likely to be expensive. Councillor Jones suggested that an approach</p>	

	<p>be made to “Friends of the Flitch Way” for possible funding.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that the Priority 2 list could bring in other schemes and that she would re-circulate the list.</p> <p>The S106 form circulated captures s106 funded schemes being progressed by Essex Highways in this financial year and includes designs of Ongar Road in Great Dunmow and the implementation of gateways on Windmill Hill and zebra crossings on Ashdon Road and Peaslands Road, all in Saffron Walden.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager stated that Temporary measures Phase 1 emergency Covid works would be taking place to ensure social distancing arrangements were in place in High Streets and that all design engineers would be prioritising these arrangements. She said that any current schemes around High Streets were likely to be affected. Semi-permanent Phase 2 works would follow.</p> <p>Concern was expressed in respect of arrangements in Saffron Walden town centre for potentially displaced blue badge holders. Councillor Moran suggested that arrangements currently in force on Tuesdays and Saturdays could be extended.</p> <p>There was some discussion in respect of revised arrangements for Great Dunmow as to whether the Town Council had sent an email requesting a one way traffic system. The Highway Liaison Manager agreed that she would look at the status of the re-surfacing works. She also stated that any possible escalations should involve contact with Councillor Bentley.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Councillor Driscoll raised the following issues:</p> <p>Great Canfield Byway 3. He suggested that it needed dry winter weather or possible winter closure. Councillor Jones supported the general principle of winter closure for some byways and Councillor Barker said she would circulate guidelines for winter byways.</p> <p>Great Hallingbury. He requested upgrading the VAS signs. The Highway Liaison Officer agreed to review.</p> <p>Hatfield Broad Oak warning road signs at a series of bends.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer stated that first report signs were on the line and that numbers were to be passed.</p> <p>Bramley Hollow temporary buffer zone of 40mph. He stated that the buffer zone was 50 yards less than required and that the brow of the hill was dangerous. The Highway Liaison Officer stated that this scheme had been agreed 18 months ago.</p> <p>Councillor Eke raised the following issues:</p>	

	<p>A crossing in Newport Road opposite the County High School.</p> <p>Pedestrian improvements in Church Street, Saffron Walden. Councillor Moran stated that the Town Council would be updated that evening and reminded members of protocols.</p> <p>Reference to the £2billion available from the Government in respect of improved walking and cycling facilities.</p> <p>Councillor Gooding asked whether there had been any recent instances reported of speeding in Wicken Bonhunt. The Highway Liaison Officer was not aware of any recent instances but stated that she would continue to liaise with Councillor Gooding on the matter.</p> <p>Councillor Moran asked about item 1 of the Passenger Transport Schemes awaiting funding in respect of progress on the Ross Close bus shelter. The Highway Liaison Manager stated that the contract for bus stop works had originally been due to be awarded in August 2020 but that this was likely to be delayed because of the Covid virus but that there was currently no funding available for this scheme.</p> <p>The television item about rural cycling that had been on “Countryfile” was highlighted to members.</p> <p>Peter Boshier was admitted to the meeting and raised his concerns about the number of motor bikes that speed through the Rodings, often on a Sunday morning between 8.30 and 10.00. The bikers are thought to usually all meet up at Finchingfield. The advice given by the Committee was to get the police more involved either on-line or by phoning the non emergency police line of 101. Suggestions were also made to keep diaries and to involve as many local people as possible in contacting the police.</p>	
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>To be confirmed.</p>	

Meeting closed at 3.30