

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
MINUTES – 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 18:00 HRS
VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

Chairman:	Councillor Ray Gooding (ECC Member)
Panel Members:	Councillors Susan Barker (ECC Member), Paul Gadd (ECC Member), Martin Foley (ECC Member), Garry LeCount (UDC Member), Geoffrey Sell (UDC Member).
Also Present:	Councillor Danielle Frost (Great Dunmow Town Council)
Officers:	Essex Highways – Rissa Long, Highway Liaison Officer Essex Highways – Sonia Church, Highway Liaison Manager
Secretariat:	UDC – Clare Edwards – Democratic Services Officer UDC - Chloe Fiddy - Climate Change Project Officer

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Panel.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Driscoll and Councillor Jones.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were received.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting:</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting:</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the £200k budget from Uttlesford District Council (UDC) which remained unresolved.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer confirmed that the money would need to be received by the 28th of March 2022 in order to be considered for next year's schemes.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager said that if the money was not paid to Essex County Council (ECC) then it could not be considered.</p>	

	<p>The Chair said that a working group needed to be set up to resolve the issue outside of the meeting.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager confirmed that there were some resource issues which prevented adding further schemes this late in the year.</p> <p>In response to a query from the Climate Change Project Officer, regarding extra workstreams relating to Active Travel Measures. The Highway Liaison Manager said that not all the workstreams would come through the Highways Panel and those that did would need to go through Councillor Gadd in order to be approved. She suggested that a separate meeting took place with both the Highway's Officers, the Climate Change Project Officer and Councillor Gadd.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Mark Bissell a Councillor from Hatfield Heath spoke about the flooding issues along Stortford Road and in particular the issue at Haddocks ditch, where after several problems it was discovered that the neighbour's drain did not exist. He said there was not the support to get these issues properly resolved.</p> <p>Councillor Barker said that the flooding issues were being dealt with through the Surface Water Alleviation Scheme, as it was too large to go through the Highways Panel, it would involve creating a new drainage system nearest to the Heath. This did not resolve the particular issue at Haddocks, but it would be referred back to Enforcement, and the Water Course Engineer. Councillor Barker said she would follow this up.</p> <p>Mark Bissell also asked about scheme items 12 and 19 which related to Hatfield Heath. He was very keen that this work was completed and said he thought a flat painted roundabout would speed up the completion and cost less.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that all options would be considered however the flat style of mini roundabout did not have as much impact on motorists. She said that the schemes would be completed for viability by the end of the year.</p> <p>He also raised speed signs and other traffic calming measures by the school. The Highway Liaison Officer said that speed surveys were being re-done after the impact of Covid and it would be considered for funding in the next financial year.</p> <p>Councillor Barker said that the impact of the new 7a junction of the M11 was unknown, however, residents were concerned that there would be more traffic and she asked if these works could be carried out sooner rather than later.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>VAS Presentation</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager gave an overview of a new proposal whereby Parishes would be able to purchase Vehicular Activated Signs (VAS) and Speed Indicator Devices (SID) for their districts. The Local</p>	

	<p>Highways Panel would continue to fund signs where there was a speeding issue with speeds consistently above the speed limit by 10mph.</p> <p>She said that some signs needed replacing but they could not fund all the signs going forward and therefore the Parishes would have the option to pay for the replacement if it did not fit the ECC criteria.</p> <p>The cost would include purchasing, installing, maintaining and insuring the signs.</p> <p>A new web page was being developed for applications, information and required criteria. She agreed to circulate the presentation to the Panel by the end of September. The website would be ready by the middle of October.</p> <p>ECC would have ultimate responsibility for everything on the network, and therefore the signs would be logged as an asset on the ECC register. The electrical testing would be through ECC every 5 years, and they would make them safe following an accident or other damage. If they were not maintained correctly, they would be removed from the network.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Sell, the Highway Liaison Manager said it would cost the Parish between £2.5k and £5k which was less than the cost if it went through the Highways Panel. The reduction in cost was because the Parish would carry out some of the work normally done by Highways, including a full survey, design and consultation.</p> <p>The Climate Change Project Officer asked for clarification of the 70 metres criteria. The Highway Liaison Manager said the signs had to be within a minimum of 70 metres from the initial speed sign.</p> <p>Further to a question from Councillor Foley, the Highway Liaison Manager said that the current network of signs would continue to be maintained up to the value of £1k. If the maintenance cost was greater than this, then they would need to be replaced.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes</p> <p>Councillor Barker agreed to send a map through to the Highway Liaison Officer to show the best place for the signs to be located regarding item 5, Bishops Green, High Easter.</p> <p>The Chair said that there were further speeding concerns at Ugley Green which related to item 9. The Highway Liaison Officer said that any new additions would need to go through as a new scheme.</p> <p>The Chair raised items 11 and 25, Quendon Village Traffic Calming, the Highway Liaison Officer said that these had been delayed due to resourcing issues. She would share the details with the relevant parties once they could be taken forward. She said the police had been there recently to carrying out enforcement work. These were priority schemes.</p>	

<p>8.</p>	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said the cut off for new schemes was December 2021.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Manager said that they were in the process of recruiting Highway Engineers.</p> <p>The Chair said it was important to identify at the beginning of next year if there was still a shortage of resource as this would affect the number of schemes for the year regardless of monies available.</p> <p>The Highway Liaison Officer said that there were already a couple of big value schemes that were in the design phase this year, for example the mini roundabout at the Stortford Road junction, Hatfield Heath which would cost in the region of £80k and the mini roundabout realignment in Little Canfield.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Foley about item 37, at Thaxted, the Highway Liaison Officer said that if parking restrictions were being considered in conjunction with the 20mph speed limit then it would make sense to consider them both within the same scheme, although it would normally be a Parking Partnership issue. She said that no formal application had come forward yet from the Parish.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Sell, the Highway Liaison Officer said that some of the items would drop off the list if they did not meet the ECC criteria or if there was not an engineering solution. The design and feasibility stage was undertaken first for this reason and therefore schemes tended not to be funded in the same year because it was difficult to know what they would cost.</p> <p>She confirmed that double yellow lines came under the Parking Partnership unless they related to an ongoing scheme and it was therefore easier for the whole process to be dealt with by Highways.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Further to a question from Councillor Gadd, the Highway Liaison Officer said that schemes that were not viable showed as 'red' on the list. They were left on the list, usually for two meetings, to enable Members to see the update, they were then removed. If they were viable, they were shown as green.</p> <p>The application for a scheme was filled out by the Parish or District Councillor and forwarded onto the relevant County Councillor. If agreed it was then sent onto the Highway Liaison Officer. The application was then shown on the 'schemes awaiting funding' list until it was validated and it then appeared as 'red' or 'green' on the list depending on its viability.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Monday 17th January 2022 at 6pm Monday 28th March 2022 at 6pm</p>	

Meeting closed at 7:20pm