

Minutes

Braintree District Local Highways Panel

22nd November 2012

(Comprising representatives of:-

Essex County Council
Braintree District Council
Braintree Association of Local Councils)

Present:-

Councillor D Finch (Chairman)
Councillor J Abbott
Councillor M Banthorpe
Councillor J Bendall
Councillor M Fincken
Councillor A Hayward
Councillor M Lager
Councillor R Mitchell
Councillor R Walters

Essex County Council
Braintree District Council
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Braintree Association of Local Councils
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Officers

Alan Lindsay – Essex County Council,
Peter Rose - Essex County Council,
Paul Partridge – Braintree District Council,
Alison Webb – Braintree District Council.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Baugh – Essex County Council and Councillor J Pike – Essex County Council.

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor J E Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to Rivenhall as he was a member of Rivenhall Parish Council.

Councillor M J Banthorpe declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6a – Schemes for consideration by the Panel as he was a Board Member of Greenfields Community Housing.

Councillor J Bendall declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to Earls Colne as he was a Member of Earls Colne Parish Council.

Councillor M C M Lager declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters sponsored by Braintree District Council or Witham Town Council as he was a Member of both Authorities.

Councillor R G Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6a – Schemes for Consideration by the Panel and, in particular, Scheme IT031 – Inworth Road, Feering as he was a resident of Inworth Road, Feering.

2 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of Braintree District Local Highways Panel held on 10th September 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Reference was made to schemes which had been considered at the last meeting and, in particular, those which had been deferred for more information.

DECISION:

- (1) That the following scheme be approved in principle, including the installation of traffic signals, subject to the cost of the scheme being reported to the next meeting of the Panel:-
IT859 Oak Road, Rivenhall – Traffic signals and footpath.
- (2) That the Chairman of the Panel be requested to consult with Councillor D Louis, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation on the possible authorisation of the following scheme on the basis of a 7.5t weight restriction, at Oak Road, Rivenhall or Henry Dixon Road, Rivenhall
- (3) That, for clarity and monitoring purposes, all schemes recommended by the Panel for approval be included on an 'Approved Schemes' list with details of cost, progress and anticipated completion dates, and only removed once the scheme(s) have been completed.
- (4) That all schemes, including new schemes submitted for validation, be given a unique reference to ensure that the progress of the scheme may be monitored more accurately.
- (5) That a list of 'completed schemes' be created.

3 **QUESTION TIME**

There were six statements made. Details of the people who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these minutes.

Principally, these minutes are a record of decisions made by the Panel and, where appropriate, the reasons for those decisions.

4 **SCHEMES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PANEL**

DECISION:-

- (1) That the following schemes be recommended for approval:-

Small Works

Great Maplestead – Speed Survey

Cost - £500

Henny Back Road (junction with Moat Lane), Lamarsh – unsuitable for HGVs

Cost - £1,000

Mill Lane/Shryres Corner, Colne Engaine – Bend ahead sign
 Cost - £1,000
 Parknall Road/Church Road, Gosfield – Horse and rider signs
 Cost - £1,000
 Church End, Panfield – wild animals warning triangle
 Cost - £1,000
 Birdbrook Road (junction with Chapel End Way), Stambourne – Give way
 warning triangle
 Cost - £1,000
 Audley End, Gestingthorpe – Speed survey
 Cost - £500
 Village of Liston – Speed survey
 Cost - £500

Improvement Schemes

BRA09 Drury Lane and Church Lane, Ridgewell – Speed indicator devices
 Cost - £6000
 IT037 Newland Street/Maldon Road junction, Witham – Congestion
 improvements (investigation)
 Cost - £10,000
 IT862 Castle Hedingham to A131 Bulmer – 7.5 tonne weight limit revision
 Cost - £5,000
 BRA02 Ashen Road – 7.5 tonne weight limit
 Cost - £5,000
 BRA05 Rickstones Road, Rivenhall – verge/bank cut back (investigation)
 Cost - £3,000
 BRA06 North-East residential area, Halstead – Speed reduction survey
 Cost - £200
 BRA07 Colne Road, Coggeshall – Speed bumps
 Cost - £10,000
 BRA11 Church Road, Twinstead – Children in road/20mph signage
 Cost - £2,000
 21 Guithavon Valley/Mill Lane, Witham – Removal of Centre line
 Cost - £5,000
 22 Guithavon Valley/Mill Lane, Witham – New roundabout sign
 Cost - £3,000
 23 Faulkbourne Road, Witham – 40mph speed limit
 Cost - £10,000
 24 Coggeshall Road (between Curds Road and village gateway), Earls Colne –
 40mph speed limit
 Cost - £6,000

Bus Stop/Route Improvements

1. Bus stop ID 15002009COLN, Upper Holt Street, Earls Colne – metal
 shelter (duplicate of scheme 8)
13. Bus stop ID 27007008, The Kennels, Halstead Road, Earls Colne – metal
 shelter
 Cost – total for both schemes (1 and 13) £8,000 (metal shelters).
2. New bus stop on Witham Road near the junction of Meadow Way –
 wooden shelter
 Cost - £10,000

3. Bus stop ID 15003900801, Honeysuckle Way, Witham – Installation of raised kerbs
Cost - £3,500
4. Bus stop ID 150003900804, Pennyroyal Crescent/Bramble Road, Witham – Installation of raised kerbs
Cost - £3,500

- (2) That the following scheme be recommended for approval, in principle:-

Improvement Schemes

IT031 Inworth Road, Feering – Extension of existing footway
Cost - £120,000

- (3) That the following scheme be investigated further for implementation either as 'road widening', or the provision of a 'parking bay' and a report submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

Improvement Schemes

IT820 School Road, Silver End – Road widening, or parking bay
Cost - £150,000 estimate

- (4) That those schemes in each category which have a 'red' rating be transferred to a separate list on the basis that they are unlikely to be recommended for approval.

5 **JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS – SOUTH STREET/FAIRFIELD ROAD, BRAINTREE**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on proposed improvements to the junction of South Street and Fairfield Road, Braintree to relieve congestion, improve passenger transport access and support regeneration. It was proposed that the improvements should be implemented in two phases: Phase 1 – demolition of 75 and 77 South Street, Braintree and Phase 2 – widening of the junction and removal of traffic lights. It was estimated that the scheme would cost £200,000.

DECISION: That proposed improvements to the junction of South Street and Fairfield Road, Braintree be recommended for approval.

6 **SCHEMES APPROVED BY THE PANEL**

DECISION: That the Schedule of Schemes recommended for approval at previous meetings of the Panel be noted.

7 **HIGHWAY RANGERS – DEVOLUTION OF BUDGET TO PARISH COUNCILS**

INFORMATION: Further to a reference made at the last meeting of the Panel, consideration was given to the possibility of part of the Rangers budget being devolved to Parish Councils. However, it was noted that Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, Councillor D Louis, had indicated that it was for him to determine how the budget should be spent.

DECISION: That all Parish/Town Councils in the District be requested to identify potential schemes to be recommended to the Cabinet Member for Highways and

Transportation for implementation should any funding in the budget for 2012/13 remain unallocated.

(Action by: Paul Partridge).

8 **SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS**

DECISION: That the Schedule of Schemes to be funded by Section 106 Agreement contributions be noted.

9 **SNOW CLEARING EQUIPMENT**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on the proposed purchase of equipment to enable Braintree District Council to support Essex County Council's responsibility for snow clearance.

The equipment would be available for use throughout the District and could be adapted for use all year round.

DECISION: That capital funding of £3,120 for the purchase of a pedestrian controlled mechanical unit with a snow plough be recommended for approval.

10 **NEXT MEETING**

DECISION:

- (1) That the next meeting of the Panel be retained as 17th January 2013.
- (2) That information updates be provided to Members of the Panel via e-mail prior to the next meeting.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 8.25pm.

Councillor D M Finch
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

22ND NOVEMBER 2012

(Summary of Statements made during Public Question Time)

1. Statement by Ms L Butcher, Greenfields Community Housing relating to parking at School Road, Silver End.
(The Chairman stated that Essex County Council Officers would be requested to provide drawings for this scheme as promised previously and that a progress report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel).
2. Statement by Mrs J Claydon, Braintree District Council relating to John Ray Park, Braintree – Cycleway.
3. Statement by Councillor R G Mitchell, Braintree District Council Ward Member for Kelvedon and Feering relating to improved signage in the vicinity of the Fire Brigade HQ, off-slip road, North bound A12, Kelvedon.
(The Chairman stated that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Panel).
4. Statement by Councillor R Wright, Braintree District Council Ward Member for Bradwell, Silver End and Rivenhall and Member of Rivenhall Parish Council relating to a proposed vehicle weight restriction and traffic signals/footpath provision at Oak Road, Rivenhall.
(These matters were dealt with under Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting (Minute 2 refers)).
5. Statement by Councillor Ashford, Silver End Parish Council relating to Schemes IT858 – Zebra crossing, Boars Tye Road, Silver End and IT854 Boars Tye Road, Silver End – footway extension.
(The Chairman stated that Scheme IT858 had an amber rating and was against policy as the road was on the strategic network. Essex County Council Officers were requested to write to Councillor Ashford to explain. Regarding Scheme IT854, the Chairman indicated that the Panel had indicated that further investigation was required.
6. Statement by Councillor I Sparks, Vice-Chairman of Earls Colne Parish Council relating to bus shelters at Upper Holt Street and Halstead Road, Earls Colne.