

LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL – LOCALISM SCHEMES

Portfolio Area: Enterprise and Culture; Environment and Sustainability
Report Presented by: Paul Munson, Head of District Development

Background Papers: Report to Local Committee 10.3.09; Essex Localism Manual
Corporate Implications: Please refer to table at end of report
Options:

1. To put forward suggestions for inclusion in the schedule of localism schemes to be considered by the Local Highways Panel
2. Not to put forward any suggestions
3. To set up a sub-group for Braintree and Bocking to agree priorities for the Highways Rangers

Risks: The level of funding available to the Local Highways Panel is not yet known but is unlikely to be sufficient to take forward all suggested schemes.

Executive Summary

The Braintree Local Highways Panel will be considering priorities for localism schemes at its next meeting. These schemes include footways, pedestrian crossings, traffic management schemes and other small scale improvements. The Committee is requested to put forward suggestions to the Local Highways Panel for consideration.

As part of the localism agenda a highways ranger service to carry out minor highway works is also being established. Parish and Town Councils will be asked to identify priorities for highways rangers' work. For Braintree Town it is suggested that a sub-group of Braintree and Bocking ward members is set up for this purpose.

Decision

1. To put forward schemes to the Local Highways Panel for inclusion in the Localism Scheme Programme.
2. To establish a sub-group to put forward priorities for the Highways Rangers to deal with in Braintree town.

LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL - POSSIBLE FUTURE LOCALISM SCHEMES

1. The establishment of the Local Highways Panel was reported to this Committee on 10th March 2009 and Cllrs Walsh (or Cllr Mann) and Lady Newton were appointed to represent this Committee on the Panel. The Panel held its first meeting on 16th July 2009. One of the functions of the Panel is to determine priorities for localism schemes

across the District (these are schemes that formerly formed the locally determined programme). The list of localism schemes is compiled by ECC's Area Highways Manager from suggestions put forward by local members and Parish Councils. The type of schemes that are appropriate for inclusion in this list are footways, pedestrian crossings, traffic management schemes and other small-scale improvements. At its next meeting the Panel will be considering possible future schemes for inclusion in the programme for 2010/11 onwards. The level of funding that will be available is not yet known. A schedule of schemes that have been put forward so far across the District is attached at Appendix 1. The Committee is invited to put forward additional suggestions for inclusion on this list for consideration by the Local Highways Panel.

2. As part of the Localism Agenda a Highways Ranger service is also being established. This is a dedicated gang of two men, funded by ECC, to work within the District undertaking minor highway works that can be carried out with hand tools. It is intended that the bulk of the works will be identified through Parish or Town Councils. The County Council will then put together a programme of work based on the Parish Council priorities. For Braintree Town it is suggested that a sub-group of the Local Committee is set up comprising all ward members for Braintree and Bocking to determine the priorities.

Corporate Implications			
Financial:	The localism programme is financed by ECC		
Legal:	None		
Equalities & Diversity:	None		
Customer Impact:	The improvements will be of benefit to local residents and businesses		
Environment & Climate Change:	Impact depends on nature of scheme e.g. footway improvements may encourage more people to walk		
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Local Committees	✓	Partners
	Public		Staff
Key Decision:	No		
Public/Private Report:	Public		
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Possible Future Localism Schemes

WITHAM			
New Footway		Funding	Possible Future Scheme?
B1019 from Wickham Bishops Road to Ulting Road Hatfield Peveral - Southern side of carriageway	Widen existing footway	£45,000	Yes
Pinkham Drive to Howbridge Road, Witham	Extension of existing footway	£10,000	Yes
Inworth Road, Feering	Extension of existing footway	£150,000	Yes
		£205,000	
Pedestrian Crossing Facilities			
Spa Road, Witham	Crossing with central island	£40,000	Yes
High Street, Kelvedon	Zebra crossing	£45,000	Yes
Feering Hill, Feering	Zebra crossing	£65,000	Yes
Station Road, Kelvedon	Zebra crossing	£45,000	Yes
		£195,000	
Miscellaneous Schemes			
Silver End - Various locations	Gateway signs	£20,000	Yes
Various locations	Road Closures for charity events	£1,300	Yes
Various locations	VAS sign face	£5,000	Yes
		£26,300	
HALSTEAD			
New Footway		Funding	Possible Future Scheme?
Stambourne Road, Ridgewell from existing footway up to houses - STAGE 1	Extension of existing footway	£40,000	Yes
Stambourne Road, Ridgewell from Stage 1 past all the properties - STAGE 2	Extension of existing footway	£65,000	Yes
Blois Road, Steeple Bumpstead including the removal of BT post	Extension of existing footway	£60,000	Yes
Church Lane, Bulmer	New Footway	£20,000	Yes
		£185,000	
Pedestrian Crossing Facilities			
Swan Street, Sible Hedingham	Zebra crossing	£45,000	Yes
Gt Yeldham Road, Sible Hedingham	Zebra crossing	£45,000	Yes
Colchester Road, Bures O/S number 44 and prow 77	Controlled crossing	£135,000	Yes
		£225,000	
Miscellaneous Schemes			
A1124 Colchester Road Halstead	Remove BT/EDF pole	£60,000	Yes
Between Hill Road and Hawkwood Road Sible Hedingham	Adopt footway	£2,000	Yes
A1017 Gt Yeldham opposite oak tree	Harden surface and install footway	£40,000	Yes

Various locations	Road Closures for charity events	£1,300	Yes
Various locations	VAS sign face	£5,000	Yes
Toppesfield	30mph limit	£5,000	Yes
Sible Hedingham	Reduction in extent of 7.5T weight limit	£35,000	Yes
		£148,300	

BRAINTREE

New Footway		Funding	Possible Future Scheme?
New Street, Braintree	Widen existing footway	£45,000	Yes
B1053 Broad Road, Braintree	Extension of existing footway	£45,000	Yes
		£90,000	

Pedestrian Crossing Facilities

Crossing Road jct Coggeshall and jct Marlborough Road, Braintree	Install new signals with pedestrian phase	£350,000	Yes
London Road 85m south of Godlings Way, Braintree	Zebra crossing	£65,000	Yes
Crossing Road vicinity of Beckers Green Road and Stubbs Road	Zebra controlled crossing	£135,000	Yes
		£550,000	

Miscellaneous Schemes

Church End Shalford	Gateway Signs	£15,000	Yes
Railway Street, Braintree	Temporary turn off traffic lights	£5,000	Yes
Coldnailhurst Avenue junction Queens Road	New Roundabout	£65,000	Yes
Church Street junction Bovington Road	Pram Crossing and central island	£20,000	Yes
Various locations	Road Closures for charity events	£1,300	Yes
Various locations	VAS sign face	£5,000	Yes
B1018 vicinity of Wyevale roundabout	Design Highway Alignment Improvement	£30,000	Yes

Minutes

Braintree District Local Highways Panel

16th July 2009

Present:-

Councillor G Butland
B Cutmore
Councillor R Elliston
P Evans
Councillor S E Hicks
R Jamieson
Ms J Martyn
P Munson
Councillor Lady Newton
S Pandya
P Partridge
Councillor Mrs J A Pell
Councillor S M Walsh
Councillor R G Walters
Councillor Ms A Wood

Apologies were received from Councillors R J Bolton, Dr R L Evans and N R H O Harley.

Prior to the start of the meeting there was a training session on highway matters.

1 Appointment of Chairman

DECISION: That Councillor N R H O Harley be appointed Chairman of the Braintree District Local Highways Panel for the remainder of the 2009-10 Civic Year.

2 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

DECISION: That Councillor R Elliston be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Braintree District Local Highways Panel for the remainder of the 2009-10 Civic Year.
In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Elliston took the Chair for this meeting.

3 Introduction to Localism and the Role of the Panel

INFORMATON: Consideration was given to a presentation and report on Essex County Council's Localism initiative and the Terms of Reference of the Braintree District Local Highways Panel.

In the context of highways and transportation, localism meant engaging with the local community such that they were sufficiently empowered to shape and influence policy, to set priorities, to agree funding and programmes, and ultimately to oversee performance. Whilst Essex County Council would continue to develop the strategic programme of work, the Local Highways Panel would represent the views of local representatives and influence the priority of highway work.

The following representatives had been appointed to the Panel:-

Councillor G Butland - Leader of the Council
Councillor R G Walters - Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability
Councillor S M Walsh - Braintree Local Committee
Councillor Lady Newton - Braintree Local Committee
Councillor R J Bolton - Halstead Local Committee
Councillor N R H O Harley - Halstead Local Committee
Councillor Dr R L Evans - Witham Local Committee
Councillor R Elliston - Witham Local Committee
To be appointed - Halstead Town Council
Councillor S E Hicks - Witham Town Council
Councillor Ms A Wood - Braintree Association of Local Councils
To be appointed - Braintree Association of Local Councils
Mr B Cutmore - Braintree District Business Council
Mr P Evans - Braintree District Business Council

DECISION: That the Terms of Reference of the Braintree District Local Highways Panel be endorsed, subject to the minutes of meetings of the Panel being circulated to Members of the Panel within **10** days of the meeting.

4 Essex County Council – Planned Schemes and Maintenance Initiatives for 2009-10

INFORMATION: Members of the Panel were advised that it had been necessary to determine a significant proportion of the highway schemes for the District for the financial year 2009-10. Details of these, together with future schemes were circulated to Members of the Panel as follows:

Appendix A – 2009-10 Maintenance Schemes
Appendix B – Non-maintenance schemes (eg. Integrated Transport Schemes from the Local Transport Plan for 2009-10 excluding Localism)
Appendix C – Localism Schemes for 2009-10 approved by the Local Committees
Appendix D – Possible schemes for future years to be funded from the Localism budget
Appendix E - 2010-11 Maintenance Schemes (funding not allocated)

It was noted that, at the discretion of the Panel, other schemes could be added to the list contained in Appendix D and that it would be necessary to determine the priority of these schemes. Any schemes which the Panel wished to put forward for inclusion in the 2010-11 maintenance programme (Appendix E) would be subject to discussion and assessment. Suggested schemes would be discussed at the next meeting of the Panel.

DECISION: That the report be noted.

5 Highway Rangers

INFORMATION: As part of the Localism initiative, it was proposed to introduce Highway Rangers. The Rangers would work within the District as a dedicated team undertaking minor works that could be carried out manually with hand tools. It was proposed that tasks would be identified by Parish Councils via Parish Cluster meetings or via the Town Clerk for Halstead and Witham Town Councils. Special arrangements would be made for Braintree town. Essex County Council would pay for the District Council to employ a team comprising two men, plant and materials. The team would work jointly with the District Council's Clean Team and the initiative would run for a six month trial period.

DECISION: That the proposed Highway Rangers service be supported and Braintree Local Committee requested to appoint a Member/Members to be the point of contact for Braintree town.

6 Arrangements and Topics for Future Meetings

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a list of topics which it was suggested could form the basis of future training sessions for Members of the Panel. These were listed on page 26 of the Agenda. It was proposed that 'speed strategy' should be added to these.

DECISION: That the topics be noted, but the arrangements for delivering training be agreed at a future meeting of the Panel.

7 Dates of Next Meetings

DECISION: That dates for future meetings of the Panel be arranged and notified to Members of the Panel. The start time is to be 6.00pm. It was suggested that meetings should be arranged for October and February to follow meetings of the Local Committees.

The meeting commenced at 5.15pm and closed at 6.30pm.

Councillor R Elliston

(Vice-Chairman)