Minutes
Braintree District
Local Highways Panel
17th November 2011

Present:-

Ms B Baker Braintree District Business Council
Councillor J Bendall Braintree Association of Local Councils
Councillor J Burlo Braintree Association of Local Councils
Mrs E Dash Braintree District Council
Councillor M J Fincken Braintree District Council
Councillor J A Pell Halstead Town Council
Councillor D E A Rice Braintree District Council
Councillor W Rose Braintree District Council
J Simmons Essex County Council
Ms R Tanfield Essex County Council

Councillor J E Abbott (Braintree District Council), Councillor L Shepherd (Braintree District Council) and Councillor R Wright (Braintree District Council) were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J C Goodman, Councillor Lady Newton and Councillor R G Walters.

8 MINUTES

DECISION: The Minutes of the meeting of the Braintree District Local Highways Panel held on 7th July 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

As discussed at a previous meeting, it was agreed that ‘Question Time’ should be a standard item on the Panel’s Agenda in future and that notice of the publication of Agenda and Minutes should be sent by E-Mail to Parish and Town Councils in the District.  

Action by Alison Webb

9 QUESTION TIME

INFORMATION: There were five questions asked/statements made. Details of these and the people who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

10 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAY SCHEMES AND UPDATE REPORT FOR 2011/12

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a progress report on the programme of highway works for 2011/12; localism schemes; and the Highway Rangers service.
Additional updated information was also circulated at the meeting. In considering the budget for localism schemes, it was noted that expenditure of the remaining budget of £51,275 for 2011/12 had been committed.

With respect to future areas of work, the Panel had regard to a Reserve List of Localism schemes, which was attached at Appendix B to the report and it was noted that Essex County Council Officers would be investigating whether these schemes were still current and valid. A report would be presented to the Panel’s next meeting on all the schemes to enable Members to prioritise a programme of work for 2012/13. It was reported that the following new requests had been received and were being investigated:

Church Road, Rivenhall – Revision to Parking Restrictions
Railway Bridge, Oak Road, Rivenhall – Signal Controlled One-way System
Newland Street, junction with The Grove, Witham – Changes to pedestrian crossing
Hatfield Road, Terling – Speed Control measures
Middleton Road/Allen’s Hill, Middleton – Pedestrian Signs
Boars Tye Road, Silver End – Zebra crossing
Boars Tye Road, Silver End – Footway extension
Drury Lane/Church Lane, Ridgewell – Extension of footway

The procedure to be followed by applicants wishing to submit proposed Localism schemes was attached at Appendix C to the report, together with a flow chart illustrating the process. Consideration was also given to a report on work recently undertaken by the Highway Rangers. A letter had been sent to the Clerks of all Town and Parish Councils in order to promote the work which the Rangers could undertake.

In discussing this report, it was noted that Essex County Council would be entering into a partnership arrangement with Jacobs Ringway for the provision of highway works with effect from April 2012.

In discussing this item, Members of the Panel raised the following issues for investigation by Essex County Council Officers:-

Mill Park Drive, Braintree – Parking and use of footbridge
Halstead – White lining and parking restrictions
List of outstanding schemes put forward by Councillor Bendall at the last meeting of the Panel
Slurry seal works referred to in Appendix C circulated at the last meeting
Alphamstone and Lamarsh - Heavy Goods Vehicle scheme
Doctors’ Surgery, Halstead - Damaged beacon at zebra crossing
Skitts Hill, Braintree – On-street parking/single file traffic/displaced vehicles from Driberg Way Industrial Estate.
White Horse Avenue, Halstead – Parking on greensward
New Properties at Tidings Hill, Halstead – Unauthorised parking to the front
Halstead Town Centre – Speeding
Century Drive, Braintree – Parking and possible extension of yellow line road markings
Station Road, Witham – Second access to Easton Road car park
Signage – Repair, replacement and removal
Spa Road, Witham – Speed camera sign facing the wrong direction
Marks Farm, Braintree – Congestion relief and cycle lane
Witham – Issues raised via E-Mail by Witham Town Council Clerk.
Gershwin Boulevard - Adoption of road

DECISION: That the report be noted and a more detailed report on the programme of work for 2012/13 be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.
DATE OF NEXT MEETING

DECISION: It was noted that the next meeting of the Braintree District Local Highways Panel would take place on 2\textsuperscript{nd} February 2012 at Causeway House, Braintree starting at 6.00pm and that the meeting scheduled for 8\textsuperscript{th} December 2011 had been cancelled.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.00pm.

Councillor M J Fincken
(Chairman)
Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

1. Statement/Question by Councillor J E Abbott, Braintree District Councillor for Bradwell, Rivenhall and Silver End Ward and Chairman of Rivenhall Parish Council

Church Road, Rivenhall - Revision to Parking Restrictions
Councillor Abbott indicated that this was not a new scheme and he sought clarification on how it was to be dealt with as the Parking Partnership had confirmed that it was the Highways Panel’s responsibility.

Oak Road, Rivenhall – 7.5 tonne weight limit
Councillor Abbott indicated that Rivenhall Parish Council had applied for a grant for this scheme and, should this be successful, he queried what Essex County Council’s procedure would be.

2. Question by Eleanor Dash, Planning Policy Manager, Braintree District Council for Councillor C Gibson, Braintree District Councillor for Braintree East Ward

Eleanor Dash referred to a written question submitted recently by Councillor Gibson regarding Cressing Road, Braintree. Councillor Gibson had queried what action would be taken to improve highway safety following recent fatalities.

3. Statement/Question by Councillor L Shepherd, Braintree District Councillor for Braintree Central Ward

Manor Street, Braintree
Councillor Shepherd queried whether the proprietors of businesses in Manor Street would be permitted to park their vehicles in the street during the day.

Market Square, Braintree
Councillor Shepherd referred to the standard of workmanship following repairs to cobblestones and she queried whether such work was supervised.