Minutes

Braintree District
Local Highways Panel

2nd February 2012

Present:-

Mrs E Dash Braintree District Council
Councillor M J Fincken (Chairman) Braintree District Council
Councillor J C Goodman Witham Town Council
P Partridge Braintree District Council
Councillor J A Pell Halstead Town Council
Councillor D E A Rice Braintree District Council
J Simmons Essex County Council
Mrs R Tanfield Essex County Council
Councillor R G Walters Braintree District Council

Braintree District Councillors J E Abbott, J S Allen, P R Barlow, A V E Everard (from 7.20pm) and Councillor R Wright were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Ms B Baker, Councillor J Bendall, Councillor Lady Newton and Councillor W Rose.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Councillor J E Abbott declared a personal interest in Item 5 - Essex County Council Highway Schemes and Update Report for 2011/12, as Chairman of Rivenhall Parish Council.

Councillor J A Pell declared a personal interest in Item 5 - Essex County Council Highway Schemes and Update Report for 2011/12, in particular Localism Schemes – Reserve list, Appendices B and C, Scheme15: A1017 Yeldham Road, Sible Hedingham - Zebra Crossing, as her grandchildren attended Sible Hedingham Primary School.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors remained in the meeting.

13 MINUTES

DECISION: The Minutes of the meeting of the Braintree District Local Highways Panel held on 17th November 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14 QUESTION TIME

INFORMATION: One question was asked. Details of this and the person who spoke at the meeting are contained in Appendix A to these Minutes.
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAY SCHEMES AND UPDATE REPORT FOR 2011/12

Councillor J E Abbott, District Ward Councillor for Bradwell, Silver End and Rivenhall, and Chairman of Rivenhall Parish Council was invited by the Chairman to speak on this item in respect of issues affecting Rivenhall, Rivenhall End and Silver End.

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a progress report on the programme of highway works for 2011/12; Localism Schemes; and the Highway Rangers’ service.

Members of the Panel were advised that Essex County Council had selected Ringway Jacobs Limited as its service provider and partner to deliver highway services across the County with effect from April 2012.

The programme of planned maintenance work for 2011/12, including traffic management and collision site improvements, was set out at Appendix A to the report. All schemes had been completed apart from bus stop improvements at (Lidl) Rayne Road, Braintree which had been deferred to 2012/13.

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 and progress on these schemes was reported as follows:-

Church Green, Cressing – Bollards: Awaiting a response from Cressing Parish Council on the need for bollards.
Stambourne Road, Ridgewell – Extension of existing footway: Completed (Stage 1).
Colchester Road, Bures – Controlled crossing: Design of crossing in progress.
Bridge Street, Bures – Pram Crossing: Completed.
Marlborough Road/ Mountbatten Road, Braintree - Widening of footway and adjustment to road humps at school: Completed.
Bures Road, White Colne – Signing and lining works: Completed.

With respect to future areas of work, the Panel had regard to the Localism Schemes - Reserve List, which was attached at Appendix B to the report. The 43 schemes had been reviewed by Essex County Council Officers and a summary of each was attached at Appendix C. Members were requested to determine whether the schemes should be retained for possible funding in 2012/13 and the following decisions were made:-

1. B1019 Wickham Bishops Road to Ulting Road, Hatfield Peverel – Widen existing footway on Southern side. Estimated cost - £45,000. Retain
2. B1023 Inworth Road, Feering – Extension of existing footpath. Estimated cost - £150,000. Retain on the proviso that Feering Parch Council contributes (some land in private ownership)
3. Church Road (Ranulph Way to Church), Hatfield Peverel – New footway. Estimated Cost - £20,000 (without any additional land costs). Retain (clarify land ownership)
4. Boars Tye Road, Silver End - Footway extension. Estimated cost - £50,000. Retain
5. Spa Road, Witham - Pedestrian Crossing with Central Island. Estimated cost - £40,000. Retain (Refer to Witham Town Council for comment / survey work, including speed data analysis, to be undertaken to determine the type of crossing required)


7. Station Road, Kelvedon - Zebra crossing/crossing point. Estimated cost - £45,000. Remove (investigate the provision of a zebra crossing/crossing point on the High Street between No. 33 and the Labour Club).

8. Boars Tye Road, Silver End – Zebra Crossing. Estimated cost - £65,000. Retain

9. Stambourne Road, Ridgewell – Stage 2 new footway (extension to Stage 1). Estimated Stage 2 Cost - £65,000. Retain

10. The Causeway, Toppesfield – Footway adjacent to carriageway. Estimated cost - £35,000. Retain

11. B1508 Colchester Road, Bures (Millennium footbridge to link up with O/s The Boat House) – Extension of existing footway. Estimated cost - £135,000. Retain (more information required / query cost)

12. Oak Road Railway Bridge, Rivenhall - Signal controlled One-way System and pedestrian guard rail. Estimated cost - £60,000. Retain as priority. (Note: Listed incorrectly in Appendix B under Halstead)

13. B1508 Colchester Road, O/s 44 and Public Right of Way 77, Bures – Controlled Crossing. Estimated cost - £135,000. Retain

14. Swan Street, Sible Hedingham – Upgrade to Zebra Crossing. Estimated cost - £45,000. Remove

15. A1017 Yeldham Road, Sible Hedingham – Zebra Crossing. Estimated cost - £45,000. Retain

16. High Street, Great Yeldham - request for a controlled crossing. Estimated cost - £135,000. Remove

17. A1017 Church Road j/w Bridge Street, Great Yeldham – Harden surface/install Footway. Estimated cost – £45,000. Remove

18. A1124 Colchester Road, near junction with Mallows Field, Halstead – Removal of BT/EDF distribution pole. Estimated cost - £60,000. Remove


20. Station Hill, Bures – Widen footway/build out. Estimated cost - £60,000. Retain


22. New Street, Braintree – Widen existing footway. Estimated cost - £45,000. Retain (Senior Engineer to do an observational survey and recommend possible solutions)

A note received from Brenda Baker, the Chairman of Braintree Chamber of Trade, setting out her views on this site was read to Members of the Panel. A copy is attached at Appendix B to these Minutes.
23. Cressing Road (vicinity of Beckers Green Road and Stubbs Lane) Braintree - Controlled Crossing. Estimated cost - £135,000. Retain


25. Church Street junction with Bovingdon Road, Braintree – Pram Crossing/Central Refuge Island. Estimated cost - £20,000. Remove (not a suitable location)

26. Coldnailhurst Avenue junction with Queens Road, Braintree – New Roundabout. Estimated cost - £65,000. Remove

27. Clockhouse Way (Between Nos. 5 to 10), Braintree – Bring up section of road to adoptable standard with street lights. Estimated cost - £60,000. Remove

28. B1018, Braintree Road (near Hoppit House/The Shrubbery), Cressing – Bend improvement scheme. Estimated cost - £205,539. Retain

29. Various Locations, Cressing – Speed reduction measures. Estimated cost - £25,000. Retain (breakdown costs for each)


32. B1019 Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel – Internally illuminated Zebra Crossing Poles. Estimated cost - £12,000. Remove

33. Oak Road, Rivenhall – 7.5 Tonne Weight Limit. Estimated cost £5,000. Retain


35. Trews Gardens, Kelvedon – Keep Clear Road Markings. Estimated cost - £1,000. Remove

36. A1017 High Street (North of the junction with Toppesfield Road), Great Yeldham – Extension of existing footway. Estimated cost - £15,000. Remove

37. High Street, Halstead – Re-align carriageway outside W H Smith. Estimated cost - £17,500. Remove


42. Middleton Road/Allen’s Hill, Middleton – Signs to show pedestrians in the road. Estimated cost - £2,000. Retain


Consideration was also given to a schedule of work recently undertaken by the Highway Rangers, and an update on the Winter gritting regime/monitoring of salt bins.

Members of the Panel were reminded to report defects to the highway network, such as potholes, to Essex County Council via the web site at www.essex.gov.uk/highwayfaultreporting; by E-Mail to highwayenquiriesmid@essex.gov.uk; or by telephone to 0845 603 7631.

DECISION:

(1) That Localism Schemes for 2012/13 be retained/removed as indicated in paragraph nos. 1 to 43 above.

(2) That the report be noted.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, LINES AND SIGNS

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to an update report on requests received by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) for new Traffic Regulation Orders (on-street parking restrictions) to be introduced in the Braintree District.

The NEPP had been established to bring together all matters relating to on-street parking, which could be implemented under the Traffic Management Act 2004. This included parking enforcement, maintenance of parking signs and lines; and regulations relating to waiting restrictions. The Partnership Joint Committee was now responsible for parking issues across North Essex, and Colchester Borough Council, as the lead authority, would deliver the work.

It was proposed that requests for new Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) should be assessed against a prioritisation methodology to determine which should be implemented first, as there were significant costs in both creating a new Order and enforcing it.

Requests for new TROs in the Braintree District were set out in the report. Of these, schemes at ‘Brise Close, Braintree - Introduction of restriction to deter commuter parking’ and ‘Manor Street, Braintree - Review of existing TROs and proposed business permits’ had already been agreed and were being progressed.

Members of the Panel welcomed the proposed introduction of parking restrictions at Brise Close, Braintree which sought to overcome parking issues related to Dribberg Way Industrial Estate, Braintree. However, as raised at the last meeting of the Panel, it was stated that vehicles were now being parked on Skitts Hill, Braintree and, on occasions driven on the footpath. This was dangerous to road users and pedestrians. Members suggested that the whole area should be reviewed.

Action by: Jon Simmons/Rosa Tanfield

Members noted that if a decision was taken to proceed with a TRO, there would be a period of statutory consultation prior to implementation which could take between 6-12 months.
Members of the Highways Panel were invited to comment on the TRO requests received in order that their views could be reported to the NEPP Joint Committee Sub-Group meeting on 8th March 2012 via Braintree District Councillor Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Environment.

It was reported that a petition would be handed to the NEPP in early February 2012 regarding commuter parking on the Moat Farm Estate, Witham and that Councillor Schmitt, together with the Head of Operations and a representative of the NEPP, had agreed to meet with local Ward Members to discuss this particular issue in more detail.

**DECISION:** The report was noted.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**INFORMATION:** The following issues were raised:-

**Bishops Avenue/Chapel Hill/Cressing Road, Braintree – Road Safety.** The Chairman referred to a note which he had received from Councillor Gibson (Braintree East Ward). The note recommended changes to the road layout at Chapel Hill as suggested by the Braintree South Neighbourhood Action Panel following consultation with local residents. A copy of the note is attached to these Minutes at Appendix C.

**DECISION:** It was agreed that Officers should investigate this matter and report back to the next meeting of the Panel.

**Action by:** Jon Simmons/Rosa Tanfield

**Masefield Road, Braintree – Damage to Greensward.** Councillor Rice (Braintree South Ward) reported that the greensward at Masefield Road, Braintree was being churned up and bollards knocked down, particularly by large vehicles mounting the kerb. Whilst it was noted that Essex County Council was unable to take enforcement action against such use, further damage could be averted by laying concrete and hardening the surface.

**DECISION:** It was agreed that Officers should investigate this matter in liaison with Councillor Rice.

**Action by:** Jon Simmons/Rosa Tanfield

**Bocking Church Street, Braintree - Parking Restrictions.** Councillor Everard (Bocking North Ward) referred to blockages in Bocking Church Street caused by buses not being able to access the bus stop near to the Primary School due to vehicles being parked along the road. This led to vehicles being driven along the footpath. Councillor Everard queried if bollards could be installed to prevent this.

**DECISION:** It was agreed that Officers should investigate this matter and report back to a future meeting of the Panel.

**Action by:** Jon Simmons/Rosa Tanfield

**Updates on Previously Reported Queries.** Councillor Pell (Halstead Trinity Ward) referred to issues which had been raised at the last meeting, as set out in Minute 10, and she expressed concern that there had not been a follow-up report on these. Whilst it was noted that the Officers had reported back direct to the Councillors who had raised the issues, it was agreed that in future a brief outcome report should be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.
DECISION: It was agreed that Officers should submit a brief outcome report to the next meeting of the Panel on issues raised by Councillors at the previous meeting.

Action by: Jon Simmons/Rosa Tanfield

Participation at Meetings by Non-Members of the Panel. In response to a query, Members of the Panel agreed that people attending meetings of the Panel, who were not Members of it, should be able to speak at the time specific matters were being discussed rather than during Question Time, provided that this was properly managed by the Chairman.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

DECISION: It was noted that the dates of future meetings of the Braintree District Local Highways Panel would be set as part of the District Council’s Timetable of Meetings for 2012/2013 and that details of these would be circulated to Members of the Panel.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 8.00pm.

Councillor M J Fincken
(Chairman)
APPENDIX A
BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
2ND FEBRUARY 2012
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

1. Question by Councillor R Wright, Braintree District Councillor for Bradwell, Rivenhall and Silver End Ward

Church Road, Rivenhall - Revision to Parking Restrictions
Councillor Wright stated that this scheme had been agreed and ready to implement three years ago, but had been referred back to Essex County Council by the Parking Partnership. Councillor Wright sought clarification on how it was to be dealt with.

Answer: Mr J Simmons, Essex County Council, stated that the County Council was working with the Parking Partnership on this scheme and that the Partnership would be responsible for implementing it.