

# Role of the Highway Authority in the Braintree District – Planning

Neil Jones, Principal Planner,  
Development Management

Matthew Bradley, Strategic  
Development Manager (North)

Martin Mason, Strategic  
Development Engineer



# Planning & The Highway Authority

- Highway and transportation issues are significant issues in the Planning system
- ECC have an important role supporting BDC in our role as the Local Planning Authority
- Producing evidence to support the development of the new Local Plan and providing advice on allocation sites and required mitigation



# Development Management & Highway Authority

- The Highway Authority are a statutory consultee on a wide range of planning applications – from a householder creating a dropped kerb to access their property to major residential development
- Consult the HA when;
- development likely to result in a material increase in the volume or change in the character of traffic entering or leaving the highway
- the formation, laying out or alteration of any means of access to a highway (other than a trunk road)



# ECC Highways and Transportation Function

- **Transportation and Smarter Travel**
- Integrated Passenger Transport Unit
- Future Transport & Network Development
- Essex Highways Commissioning
- **Essex Highways (Ringway Jacobs)** – Maintenance, prowl, asset management, highways liaison officers (LHP), design, etc.
- Jacobs – transportation models, studies, infrastructure design



# Transportation and Smarter Travel Team

- **Strategic Development**
- Transportation Planning and Infrastructure
- Sustainable Travel
- Rail Engagement – Branch Lines



# (Highway Authority)

- **Strategic Development Team** provide the consultation response on behalf of the Highway Authority to planning applications for the twelve Essex Districts
- Team of 17 Officers & Engineers look at approximately 5000 planning applications a year
- Highway advice including highway safety, capacity and accessibility
- Liaising with different ECC teams in compiling response – incl. Public Rights of Way; Development Management (Implementation); Network Assurance; Highway Records, Passenger Transport.
- Also sustainable transportation advice, including public transport, walking and cycling, travel planning



# Assessment of Planning Applications

- Site visit for all proposals
- Local Plan/National Planning Policy Framework
- Highways DM Policies
- Site history
- Accident History
- Sustainable Travel Considerations
- Transport Assessment/Statement as necessary



# Information required with the Planning Application

- **Transport Assessment** : a comprehensive document that sets out transport issues and mitigation measures relating to a proposal. Would include capacity assessment of surrounding junctions. (more than 50 dwellings).
- **Transport Statement**: simplified version of a TA for a proposal that does not require submission of full TA, access drawings, statement of traffic volumes etc.
- Usual suite of planning drawings including plans showing layout of development





# Considerations

- To protect the safety and efficiency of the highway network
- To promote the use of sustainable travel
- To secure appropriate mitigation to the highway network
- Seek, where possible and justified, financial contributions towards major schemes as well as securing physical works from developers to enable the delivery of new highway infrastructure as a result of development.



# NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework

- NPPF introduced by Government in March 2012, and introduced concept of a '***presumption in favour of sustainable development***'

From a highway viewpoint it suggests:

- Sustainable transport options have been taken up where they exist
- Safe and suitable access for all people
- Development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are **severe**



# Promoting Sustainable/Active Travel

- Strong drive away from dependence on the car
- Travel Plans for developments of 250 dwellings or above
- Travel Info Packs for all other developments.
- Pedestrian and cycle access e.g. new infrastructure or connections
- Access by public transport and quality of bus infrastructure and new/extended bus services
- Public Rights of Way



# Examples of Sustainable Travel improvements

- Forest Road, Witham
- Lodge Farm, Witham



# It doesn't stop with the planning application ...

- Providing evidence for Appeals. Highway Officers would act as an expert witness on highway matters. It is essential to have good highway evidence not just opinion.
- Negotiating terms of S106 agreements
- Advice / comment on applications to discharge planning conditions;
- Initiating highway works secured through Planning;
- Adoption of new public highway;
- Development / review of Highway standards (e.g. parking standards and design of roads);



# Braintree DC & Essex CC Working Together

- BDC paying for additional ECC Officer support
- Co-location arrangements
- Pre-Application advice



# Braintree Local Highway Panel

- LHP are responsible for making recommendations and setting priorities for highway schemes
- Planning Officers have recently started to attend the Braintree District Highway Panel meeting
- Identified as another opportunity for District Planning Officers to develop a better understanding of local priorities and to link up Planning related highway works with the work of the Panel



# Questions?



Essex County Council

