

BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES - 27th January 2022 4.00pm

Virtual Meeting (not held in public)

Chairman:	Councillor C Siddall (Chairman) (ECC)
Panel Members:	<p>Councillor G Butland (ECC) Councillor T Cunningham (ECC) Councillor R Playle (ECC) Councillor P Thorogood (ECC)</p> <p>Councillor Mrs M Cunningham (BDC) Councillor P Euesden (BDC) Councillor Mrs S Wilson (BDC)</p> <p>Councillor J Bendall (BALC) Councillor D Gronland (BALC) Councillor P Rawlinson (BALC) Councillor Mrs S Simpson (BALC)</p>
Officers:	<p>Charlotte O’Connell - Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways Justin Styles - Design Manager, Essex Highways</p> <p>Also in Attendance:-</p> <p>Corinne Foster – Governance and Members Officer (BDC) Lisa Hinman - Area Manager (North Essex Parking Partnership) Neil Jones – Principal Planner (BDC) Param Kaur-Kingston - Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways Jon Simmons - Senior Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways</p>
Secretariat:	<p>Alison Webb – Governance and Members Officer (BDC)</p> <p>(ECC - Essex County Council) (BDC - Braintree District Council) (BALC - Braintree Association of Local Councils)</p>

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: Councillor C Siddall welcomed everyone to the meeting.	

	<p>In particular, Councillor Siddall welcomed Justin Styles - Design Manager, Essex Highways who had taken over from David Gollop.</p> <p>Councillor Siddall invited Justin Styles to introduce himself.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Public Questions:</p> <p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint (ECC); Councillor D Louis (ECC); Councillor P Schwier (ECC); and Councillor R van Dulken (BDC).</p> <p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>There were no interests declared.</p> <p>Public Questions:</p> <p>The meeting was not held in public. No questions were asked, or statements made.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes:</p> <p>The Minutes of the meetings of Braintree Local Highways Panel held on 30th September 2021 and 15th December 2021 were approved as a correct record.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 30th September 2021:</p> <p><u>Minute 6 - 'Funded Schemes 2021/22'</u></p> <p>Reference was made to scheme LBRA173006 – Zebra crossing, South of Stubbs Lane, Cressing Road, Braintree to which objections had been submitted. It was reported that Councillor P Thorogood had decided that this scheme should be cancelled. In the circumstances, a sum of £81,000 had been returned to the Panel's capital budget. It was anticipated that alternative proposals would be submitted to Essex Highways for consideration. Councillor P Thorogood, Essex County Councillor for Braintree Eastern Division, was requested to advise the parents who had asked for the crossing that the scheme had been cancelled.</p> <p>Action By: Councillor P Thorogood, Essex County Councillor for Braintree Eastern Division, to advise the</p>	<p>Cllr P Thorogood</p>

	<p>parents who had asked for the crossing that the scheme had been cancelled.</p>	
5.	<p>Funded Schemes 2021/22:</p> <p>Consideration was given to a report on the Panel’s Funded Schemes for 2021/22, which had been recommended for approval. The report provided an update on the current position of all schemes in the 2021/22 programme of work.</p> <p>Members of the Panel were reminded that funding of £407,789 had originally been allocated to Braintree Local Highways Panel for the year 2021/22. Subsequently, a further £200,000 had been allocated making a total of £607,789 available for expenditure in 2021/22.</p> <p>It was reported that £399,500 of the Panel’s budget had been allocated to various schemes within the programme of work and that £7,500 had been allocated specifically to safer roads schemes, making a total commitment of £407,000.</p> <p>In discussing this Item, reference was made to scheme LBRA173006 – Zebra crossing, South of Stubbs Lane, Cressing Road, Braintree, which Councillor P Thorogood had agreed to cancel following the receipt of objections. Therefore, a sum of £81,000 was available for re-allocation and expenditure in 2021/22. (Minute 4 - Matters Arising refers also).</p> <p>DECISION: That the report and the cancellation of the following scheme be noted:-</p> <p>LBRA173006 – Zebra crossing, South of Stubbs Lane, Cressing Road, Braintree Estimated Cost:- £81,000 Reason for Cancellation:- Decision by Councillor P Thorogood following the receipt of objections.</p>	
6.	<p>Schemes Awaiting Funding:</p> <p>Consideration was given to a ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’ report, which included details of requests received for funding from the Panel’s budget. Members of the Panel were advised that the report was for information only and that a decision about which schemes should be recommended for inclusion in the Panel’s programme of work would be made at the Panel’s meeting to be held in March 2022. The total value of unallocated schemes on the potential schemes list was £387,000. Members were reminded to send details of their top three priority schemes to Charlotte O’Connell - Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways.</p>	

	<p>Members were advised, that following discussion at the Panel's meeting on 30th September 2021, Essex Highways had implemented a new process which enabled Parish, Town and District Councils to request, purchase and erect Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and/or Speed Indicator Devices (SID) under a licence arrangement if there was a perceived speeding problem. Any such requests would be determined by Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport. Previously, the Local Highways Panel had considered such requests, which could only be recommended for approval if a speed survey had identified a significant speeding problem. In the circumstances, all VAS/SID schemes on the 'Schemes Awaiting Funding' list had been categorised as 'red' as they did not meet Essex County Council's policy and it was proposed that they should be removed. However, it was noted that Councils could ask the Panel to consider a VAS and/or SID request as previously if preferred.</p> <p>In discussing this Item, reference was made to Minute 7 - 'Schemes Awaiting Funding' of the Panel's meeting held on 28th January 2021 when Members had been advised that scheme reference LBRA152064 - signalised crossing, A131, Panners roundabout adj. to Hungry Horse Public House, Great Notley, Estimated Cost - £440,500 would be removed from the list of potential schemes as it was a project for possible capital funding. The Panel had acknowledged the removal of the scheme on this basis. However, following an enquiry by Councillor G Butland in December 2021, Essex County Council had advised him that Essex Highways was not aware of the scheme, that there was no budget for it, and that its status should be queried via the Local Highways Panel. Councillor Butland expressed concern that the roundabout continued to be a very dangerous area in terms of highway safety and he requested that a report be prepared before the next meeting of the Panel detailing the current circumstances of the scheme.</p> <p>Justin Styles - Design Manager, Essex Highways and Charlotte O'Connell - Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways indicated that they had recently been made aware of this scheme and that they would investigate it.</p> <p>DECISION: That the 'Schemes Awaiting Funding' report be noted.</p> <p>Action By: Justin Styles - Design Manager, Essex Highways to investigate the current status of scheme LBRA152064 - signalised crossing, A131, Panners roundabout adj. to Hungry Horse Public House, Great</p>	<p>(J Styles - DM)</p>
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	<p>Notley and to submit a report to Councillor G Butland, copied to all members of Braintree Local Highways Panel, prior to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p><u>Braintree Local Highways Panel – Scheme Flowchart</u></p> <p>It was requested that a flowchart illustrating the process and timeframe for submitting, validating, determining and implementing a scheme request via the Highways Panel should be prepared and circulated to Members of the Panel.</p> <p>Action By: Charlotte O’Connell - Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways to prepare a flowchart showing the process and timeframe for submitting, validating, determining and implementing a scheme request via the Highways Panel and to send this to all Members of the Panel prior to the next meeting.</p>	<p>(C O’Connell - HLO)</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 31st March 2022 and that the start time of the meeting was to be agreed.</p> <p>It was anticipated that the meeting would be held at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree ‘in person’.</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 4.29pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councillor C Siddall (Chairman)</p>	