

BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES - 15th December 2021 4.30pm

Extraordinary Virtual Meeting (not held in public)

Chairman:	Councillor C Siddall (Chairman)	(ECC)
Panel Members:	Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint	(ECC)
	Councillor G Butland	(ECC)
	Councillor T Cunningham	(ECC)
	Councillor P Schwier	(ECC)
	Councillor P Thorogood	(ECC)
	Councillor Mrs M Cunningham	(BDC)
	Councillor P Euesden	(BDC)
	Councillor R van Dulken	(BDC)
	Councillor Mrs S Wilson	(BDC)
	Councillor J Bendall	(BALC)
	Also in Attendance:-	
	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	(BDC)
Officers:	Thomas Eng – Project Officer, Essex Highways	
	David Gollop – Design Manager, Essex Highways	
	Charlotte O’Connell - Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways	
	Also in Attendance:-	
	Neil Jones – Principal Planner (BDC)	
	(ECC - Essex County Council)	
	(BDC - Braintree District Council)	
	(BALC - Braintree Association of Local Councils)	

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

<p>2.</p>	<p>Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Gronland (BALC), Councillor R Playle (ECC) and Councillor P Rawlinson (BALC).</p> <p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>The following interests were declared:-</p> <p>Councillor J Bendall, Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint, Councillor G Butland, Councillor T Cunningham, Councillor P Schwier, Councillor C Siddall, Councillor R van Dulken and Councillor Mrs S Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Items 3, 4 and 5 – Earls Colne to Kelvedon Cycleway as Messrs Eric and Malcolm Hobbs, the owners of Earls Colne Airfield, were known to them.</p> <p>Councillor Siddall also declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same Agenda Items as he used existing cycle paths in the area on a regular basis.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Earls Colne to Kelvedon Cycleway:</p> <p>Councillors were advised that this extraordinary meeting of Braintree Local Highways Panel had been called to consider the proposed cycleway to be provided between Earls Colne and Kelvedon. In particular, the Panel was requested to consider the feasibility of providing the stretch of the cycleway running from Earls Colne to Coggeshall, which would be used for leisure purposes and would not be lit. This route would start from an existing Public Right of Way in Earls Colne, travelling through privately owned land at Earls Colne Airfield Business Park and Marks Hall Estate, Coggeshall and end by linking to another Public Right of Way to the North of Coggeshall village via the existing A120 underpass. Members were reminded that the Panel had previously indicated its support for the cycleway and it had been agreed that an estimated cost should be obtained for the proposal. Some funding was also available via a Section 106 Agreement.</p> <p>It was proposed that ‘Sustrans’, an independent sustainable transport organisation, should be appointed to undertake a feasibility study and to recommend options for the Earls Colne to Coggeshall stretch of the cycleway. An initial proposal submitted by ‘Sustrans’ was attached to the Agenda. This indicated how ‘Sustrans’ could implement the whole scheme over three phases and the cost of doing so. The phases</p>	

	<p>included the provision of a site survey and route options; a specification for the preferred route; and supervision of on-site construction. A Technical Report published by Essex Highways regarding the proposed cycle route was also attached to the Agenda.</p> <p>It was noted that if funding did not become available for the construction of the entire route, those parts of the cycleway running through the Marks Hall Estate and Earls Colne Airfield could be provided independently. However, it was also acknowledged that construction of the cycleway at the Airfield was dependent on commercial development, which had been granted planning permission subject to a Section 106 Agreement, being built.</p> <p>It was reported that the recommendation arising from this extraordinary meeting of the Panel would be passed to Councillor L Scott (Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport) for approval. It was also suggested that as Members of the Panel had declared Non-Pecuniary Interests regarding the ownership of Earls Colne Airfield these should be brought to the attention of Councillor Scott to ensure that the scheme could proceed without complication.</p> <p>Members of the Panel expressed their continued support for this scheme which would provide a safer route for cyclists and improve access to both the Marks Hall Estate and Earls Colne Airfield. The scheme would be one of the first of its kind in a rural area and an example of how cycleways could be provided by Essex Highways working in partnership with other organisations. It was anticipated that the scheme could set a precedent for other schemes, including those linking rural areas to urban areas.</p> <p>Members of the Panel were reminded that at their meeting on 24th June 2021 it had been recommended that the balance of the Panel's budget for 2021/22 should be allocated to cycling initiatives identified by Braintree District Council and Essex County Council working together with voluntary cycling organisations and that this should include the allocation of funding for the proposed cycleway between Earls Colne and Coggeshall. It was therefore proposed that 'Sustrans' should be engaged to carry out phase 1 of their project at an estimated cost of £23,148.00.</p> <p>It was reported that Councillor Scott, Mr K Radley (Essex County Council's Cycling Development Officer) and Braintree District Council Officers had been briefed about the scheme and its possible impact on other proposals. It was agreed that</p>	
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	<p>Councillor F Ricci, Braintree District Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, should also be consulted if this had not been done already.</p> <p>DECISION: That it be recommended to Councillor L Scott (Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport) that a sum of £25,000.00 is allocated from Braintree Local Highways Panel's budget for 2021/22 to appoint 'Sustrans' to undertake a feasibility study, including a site survey and route options, into the provision of a cycleway between Earls Colne and Coggeshall as part of the overall cycleway proposed between Earls Colne and Kelvedon. The published study shall be reported to Braintree Local Highways Panel for consideration and to enable the Panel to recommend if the scheme should proceed to the next stage.</p> <p>Action By:-</p> <p>David Gollop to advise Councillor L Scott (Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport) about the Non-Pecuniary Interests declared by Members of Braintree Local Highways Panel regarding the ownership of Earls Colne Airfield.</p> <p>David Gollop to ensure that Councillor F Ricci, Braintree District Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, has been consulted about the proposed cycleway between Earls Colne and Kelvedon.</p>	<p>D Gollop Design Manager</p> <p>D Gollop Design Manager</p>
8.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
	<p>Councillor Siddall thanked everyone for attending this extraordinary meeting of the Panel and he wished them all a Happy Christmas.</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 4.30pm and closed at 5.22pm.</p> <p>Councillor C Siddall (Chairman)</p>	