

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR HARBOROUGH
HELD AT THE HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES ON
WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT

County Councillors	District Councillors
Mr W Liquorish (Chairman)	Mr S Charlish
Dr R K A Feltham	Mrs B Johnson
Mr S J Galton	
Mr G A Hart	
Dr S Hill	
Mrs R Page	
Mr B Pain	

The following also attended the meeting:

County Officers present: K Notman, I Vears, R Hook, D R Bradbury

District Officers present:

Gas Alliance: P Lynch, P Martin

022. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to the meeting. He introduced Mr Paul Lynch and Mr Paul Martin from the Gas Alliance who will update Members on the works undertaken in the area.

023. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Burrell DC and Mr Spendlove-Mason DC. Apology for absence was also received from Mr W Griffiths.

024. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

025. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr B Pain CC declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 12, High Street Taxi Rank, Market Harborough TRO.

026. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 1st July 2009 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting, subject to the following amendment.

Change minute 388 from 'Mrs Johnson stated that she had sent a question to the county on its policy on footways with distinctive features' to:

'Mrs Johnson stated that she had sent a question to the county on its policy on footways and the retention of distinctive features such as granite sets.'

Dr R K A Feltham CC updated Members on minute item 384, the Fleckney Road/Warwick Road bridge. Both Parish Councils have agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue with Network Rail, David Wilson Homes, Members and Parish Councillors. Dr Feltham suggested that it would be useful for a county officer to attend. The Parish Council would also like to see rumble strips at the junction. However, officers have confirmed that this is inappropriate. Dr Feltham asked that a letter be sent to the Parish Councils outlining the reasons behind the decision.

027. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE ON ISSUES CONSIDERED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman asked for any questions.

6c) Possible improvements to roundabouts in Harborough District

Dr S Hill CC confirmed that the roundabout at Lutterworth which contained the Frank Whittle memorial replica aeroplane was at present not sponsored. Mrs Notman explained that the county was seeking sponsorship.

6d) Traffic issues in Main Street, Broughton Astley

The Chairman confirmed that the 4 local District Councillors have arranged a meeting to take place on the 17th September to discuss these issues with county officers.

6f) Customer service standards of response

Mr S J Galton CC thanked officers for the paper and confirmed that he found it very helpful especially on the technology involved and the arrangements to contact officers. He understood the problems that have arisen with the use of different systems. However, he highlighted paragraph 7, which suggested that minor issues go through the customer service centre. He went on to say that usually by the time an issue gets to an elected Member, it was clearly a problem with residents looking to get help with any unsatisfactory outcomes. He was concerned that if Member queries were entered into the customer service centre then it would be difficult to get feedback on the issues. Mr Galton also explained that urgent issues need to be raised immediately with the appropriate officer.

Mrs Notman confirmed that when queries are raised with the customer service centre a reference number is allocated on the system, which is given to the person calling. This reference can be used to provide feedback on any issue. She went on to agree with Mr Galton on urgent issues.

Mr G A Hart CC explained that he has asked all of his parish clerks to get reference numbers if they ring with enquiries. This enables them to obtain updates on their issues.

Mrs Notman confirmed that any emails sent to Southern Division are looked at daily.

Dr Feltham commented that this was an excellent report and asked if this could be sent to all the Parish Councils in the District.

Mr Vears explained the merits of logging enquiries onto the customer service centre in that issues for his team can be extracted immediately and sent to him rather than being sent on from Croft.

Mr Pain was concerned that constituents have brought issues into the District Council to be told it was not their responsibility but the county's. he asked what could be done to join both councils together in dealing with issues.

Mrs Notman confirmed that she had regular meetings with the Customer Service Centre where this issue can be discussed.

028. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 36

There were no outstanding petitions.

029. GAS ALLIANCE – VERBAL UPDATE

Mr Lynch brought Members up to date with the history behind the work being undertaken in Market Harborough. He explained that the Gas Alliance are mandated to change all the existing pipes over the next 30 years to new plastic ones. The system at present is safe but there was a requirement to make it safer still. He confirmed that regular meetings were undertaken with highway officers to co-ordinate the work. The work is programmed to finish in March 2010. Mr Lynch handed out maps to Members showing the extent of the work being undertaken.

Mr Pain was concerned that vulnerable users should not be without gas in the winter. Mr Lynch agreed and explained that letters are sent out to inform customers when their gas would be switched off. Vulnerable users are not at risk and if they are concerned, they should contact the Gas Alliance and mobile heating and cooking facilities would be provided.

Mr Lynch explained that the majority of work had been undertaken in Lubenham. Mrs Johnson was concerned how complaints that she had received with the finishing of the work could be conveyed to the Gas Alliance. Mr Lynch explained that there was a 24-hour contact phone number on every site where work was being undertaken.

Mrs Johnson was concerned that granite sets had been removed in Fairfax Road and replaced by concrete kerbs. Mr Lynch stated that this had been raised by highway officers at a recent meeting. The granite sets would be reinstated.

Mrs R Page CC highlighted concerns raised at Lutterworth's 'have your say' meeting. These include

- no lights on barriers
- barriers not tied together
- no coherent working
- vans parked causing problems
- work in town affecting trade
- utilities ripping up new tarmac roads and not re-instating back to the previous standard.

Mr Lynch in reply confirmed that all re-instatements met the standard laid down in the New Roads and Street Works Act. He asked if any specific areas of concern could be brought to his attention. Mr Lynch went on to say that he would be happy to come to Lutterworth to discuss any issues.

Members asked that the minutes reflect contact details.

Paul Lynch 0116 257 4540
 0116 257 4570
 Mobile 07801 924932
Email: paul.lynch@amec.com
Website: www.gasalliance.com

030. REDUCING THE IMPACT OF TRAFFIC (RIOT) SCHEMES

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management on reducing the impact of traffic schemes assessment scheme. The report was presented by Mr Vears with a copy filed with the minutes. Mr Vears explained that this was the second time that this report had been brought to the Forum. The report explained what the county does and how requests for schemes are addressed under the RIOT system. He explained that since the scheme commenced, 500 requests had been received. Mr Vears asked that Members be aware that any investigations undertaken initially costs about £200 per scheme.

In reply to a question from Mrs Page, Mr Vears confirmed that a request for a scheme Woodland Avenue and Back Lane, Claybrook Magna was being submitted for a RIOT assessment.

Mr Vears explained that work is being undertaken as part of LTP2 to address congestion. This involves increasing public transport and trying to encourage people to cycle or walk. He agreed to ask officers at County Hall to send a copy of the report on traffic issues in Market Harborough presented to the Forum on 13th June 2007 to Mr Pain.

Mr Vears explained the assessment system. Initially there is a credibility check (speed readings) which if a scheme passes it will then move onto a full assessment. This will include aspects of the community such as:

- speed
- schools in the area
- residential old peoples homes
- frontages of shops

If a scheme meets this criteria then a full cost benefit is undertaken.

Mr S Charlish DC explained that at the recent rural 'have your say' meeting, residents of Drayton were concerned with aspects of safety. There were lots of children in the village with no pavements along Main Street and the new development in the village.

Mr Hook confirmed that the new development that had just been adopted has no pavements because the design of the development is a shared service. He agreed to investigate Main Street and speak to Mr Charlish.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted;
- ii) that a copy of the report traffic issues in Market Harborough be sent to Mr Pain; and
- iii) that officers investigate the lack of pavements Main Street Drayton and speak to Mr Charlish.

031. TRAIN STATION PARKING IN MARKET HARBOROUGH

The Forum considered a report by the Parking Services Manager of Harborough District Council on train station parking in Market Harborough. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes.

Members asked that a chairman's update come to the next meeting on the charging structure in the car park. Dr Feltham explained that there was a differentiation between regular and irregular users.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Parking Services Manager of Harborough District Council be noted; and
- ii) that a Chairman's update come to the next meeting on the charging structure at the station car park.

032. UPDATE ON 2009/10 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMMES

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management on the 2009/10 maintenance and improvements programmes. The report was introduced by Mr Hook with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Hart was concerned that the county did not publicise when work was delayed because of planned statutory undertakers' work.

In reply, Mr Hook agreed to take this on board but cautioned that officers had to be certain of the commitment of statutory undertakers to undertake their works before confirming when a scheme would take place.

Dr Feltham congratulated officers on resurfacing work in Kibworth.

Mrs Page commented that work done in Dunton Bassett was also excellent; she asked what had happened to the cobblestones that had been discovered when the tarmac in Dunton Bassett had been removed.

Mr Hook in reply, confirmed that the cobblestones were stored ready to be used in areas that had similar materials.

In reply to a question from Dr Hill on bus shelters, Mr Vears stated that when bus shelters are designed Parish Councillors are asked what style of shelter should be used. It was for the local community to decide on the appropriate design.

Mrs Johnson was pleased to hear the comments made on storage and reuse of materials such as granite sets and cobblestones. She hoped that they would not just be used in conservation areas. Mrs Notman explained that conservation areas do enjoy a high profile, but that the materials were not for exclusive use in conservation areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted.

033. PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS – CURRENT POSITION

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management on the current position of the TRO programme. The report was introduced by Mrs Notman with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Notman confirmed that this was a standard report and with the approval of the Chairman asked for questions.

Mr Hook confirmed that the works order for the Main Street Scraftoft scheme had been ordered with a predicted start date for the scheme of approximately 5 weeks time. He also confirmed that detritus would be removed before the scheme commenced.

Mr Vears confirmed that the Airfield TRO should be completed within the next 2 months.

Mrs Notman confirmed that the Burnmill Road TRO would be advertised in October.

Mr Pain stated that when he signed off the Abbey Street TRO he was under the impression that there had been no objections. Mr Hook agreed to provide details of the present position of the objections to Mr Pain.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted; and
- ii) that officers provide details of the present position of the objections to the Abbey Street TRO to Mr Pain.

034. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management on the on-going action statement. The report was introduced by Mrs Notman with a copy filed with the minutes. Mr Vears agreed to ask officers at County Hall to contact Mr Galton by email to confirm why the report on the A47 had been delayed to the meeting on 26th May 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted; and
- ii) that officers provides details on the reasons why the A47 report has been delayed to May 2010 for Mr Galton.

035. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- Mr Hook agreed to write to the Lutterworth Town Council explaining the reason why bollards and grass grids are not appropriate for the Leicester Road grass verges.
- Mrs Page handed in questions from the Lutterworth 'have your say' Forum. Mr Hook and Mr Vears agreed to respond to the question from Mrs Page.

036. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

037. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 8th December 2009. He also asked Members to note the dates of the 4 meetings arranged for 2010.

038. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked Members and officers for their attendance at the meeting.

16 September 2009

Chairman

6.00 – 7.30 p.m.

Date