

<MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR HARBOROUGH
HELD AT THE HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES ON
WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 2010 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT

County Councillors	District Councillors
Mr W Liquorish (Chairman)	Mrs A Burrell
Dr R K A Feltham	Mr S Charlish
Mr G A Hart	Mr C Holyoak
Dr S Hill	Mrs B Johnson
Mrs R Page	Mr G D Spendlove-Mason
Mr B Pain	

The following also attended the meeting:

County Officers present: K Notman, G Payne, P Sheard, M Wilson, K Cook
R Hook, D R Bradbury

District Officers present: N Proudfoot

055. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to the meeting. He also welcomed Mr and Mrs Brinklow who were attending to present a petition and Mr Proudfoot from the District Council.

056. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S J Galton CC and Mr P E K Fuchs DC.

057. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

058. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

059. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 8th December 2009 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting, subject to the following amendment.

Minute item 049 3rd line: amend Mrs Howe to Mr Howe.

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

The Chairman asked if Members had any questions on the updates in the papers.

061. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 36

A petition with 155 signatures from Mr and Mrs C D Brinklow will be presented. The petition requests a footpath – Ullesthorpe village to Ullesthorpe Garden Centre and the enforcement of a 50 mph speed limit

The Chairman asked Mr Brinklow to present the petition. Mr Brinklow thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak. He explained that after an accident had occurred just over a year ago where a 17 year old boy was killed, his wife raised the petition. This is a dangerous stretch of road with vehicles building up their speeds approaching from Lutterworth. Drivers travel at speeds in excess of the 50mph speed limit and encounter limited visibility on the stretch of road. Pedestrians also walk up to the garden centre which does not have a footpath. Mr Brinklow asked officers to consider the petition.

The Chairman confirmed the protocol behind petitions in that the Lead Petitioner and Local Member would be informed of the outcome of investigations within a six month window. A report will come to a future Forum meeting.

062. MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (VAS) TRIAL OUTCOME

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the mobile vehicle activated signs trial. The report was introduced by Mr Wilson with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Wilson took Members through the report highlighting the types of signs that were now being introduced. He went on to say that parishes can purchase the units (or share the costs with neighbouring parishes) subject to approval of the site by the County Council.

Mr Wilson explained that an important part of the trial was the siting of the units. At present, Mr Wilson was in the process of purchasing units in order for Parish Councils to see what they would be using. Mr Wilson confirmed that the County Council was also trialling signs that showed drivers their actual speeds. Mr S Charlish DC was concerned that parishes which could not raise a precept would miss out on the chance to use the mobile signs.

Mr Wilson confirmed that the County Council would not contribute towards the cost of the signs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport was noted.

063. STREET LIGHTING ENERGY REDUCTION PROJECT

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the street lighting energy reduction project. The report was introduced by Mr Cook with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Cook explained that the County Council's Cabinet had approved the implementation of the project. This project will reduce the levels of street lighting in the county by implementing the following measures.

- dimming of approximately 2000 lights (250w) on main routes between 2200 hrs and 0700 hrs
- switching off permanently 1000 lights in rural areas or on roads where houses have no frontage

- part night lighting to switch off up to 40000 lights between 2400 hrs and 0530 hrs in residential streets.

It was estimated that these measures would deliver annual savings up to £700k and also deliver a reduction of up to 3000 tonnes of carbon per annum.

Mr G A Hart CC welcomed the report but asked if officers would look to reduce costs to parishes where they own the lights. In effect these parishes pay twice through council tax and direct payments. Mr Cook agreed to look at this as the trial progressed. Mr Cook explained to Members what the term 'houses with no frontage' was.

Mrs R Page CC was a little sceptical that crime would not increase when lights were switched off. Mr Cook confirmed that studies undertaken in other counties confirmed that crime had not risen. The police were also comfortable with the trial.

Members were concerned that full consultation should take place in areas that would have lights permanently switched off. Mr Cook confirmed that consultation with the emergency services would take place. He also explained that there would be monitoring taking place over a 3-year period. Lights could be re-commissioned if problems arose.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport was noted.

064. BACKGROUND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP3)

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the development of the third Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP3). The report was introduced by Mr Sheard with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Sheard explained that LTP3 will have 2 non-overlapping plans, one for Leicester City and one for the rest of the county. He highlighted the five goals behind LTP.

- support economic growth
- reduce carbon emissions
- contribute to better safety, security and health
- promote equality of opportunity
- improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment

The guidance from Central Government stresses that LTP3 should be based on robust evidence and will have 2 stands.

- A longer term plan to 2026: aligning with the strategic planning system and the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Shorter term implementation plans

Once the evidence based work has been completed, work will concentrate on the development of the longer term transport strategy with a wide ranging consultation exercise during the summer 2010.

After this, the county will develop its delivery plan which will again be consulted on in the autumn 2010. LTP3 needs to be legally in place by 01/04/2011. Members will be kept up to date during the summer/autumn rounds of Highways Forums.

Mr Sheard confirmed that LTP3 was not about named major schemes. The County Council needs to concentrate on how it deals with a situation of decreasing funds, increased housing growth and climate change problems. Priorities will have to be set to try to deliver within these constraints. A clear business case based on evidence is required before schemes can go forward.

Mrs Page was disappointed that the City Council had not been able to join in with the County Council in the production of LTP3. She asked if there was a political change in the city, could it still be possible to work on one plan. Mr Sheard, in reply, confirmed that the County Council's choice would have been to produce one plan. However officers from both councils were working together to try to produce similar long term delivery plans. Mr Sheard stated that he could not comment on any political change affecting LTP3.

Mr Sheard explained that progressing a Lutterworth Bypass was difficult, because part of the problem was heavy goods vehicles affecting Lutterworth over a wide area. This would require a wider study. In future the County Council will have problems with progressing large individual schemes.

Mr B Pain CC stated that with the current economic decline, wouldn't the County Council be better to consider current problems rather than looking at long term growth. In reply, Mr Sheard explained that the development of transport was a vital element to increasing long term economic growth. The guidance for LTP3 comes from Central Government and if the economy does not grow then the County Council will receive decreased funding for many areas of work in the department.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport was noted.

065. 20MPH ZONES ACROSS WHOLE SETTLEMENTS – THE PORTSMOUTH EXPERIENCE

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the trial undertaken in Portsmouth of 20mph zones across whole settlements. The report was presented by Mr Payne with a copy filed with the minutes.

The Chairman asked if Members had any questions. Mr C Holyoak DC stressed the importance of 20mph zones around schools to try to solve parking problems. He explained that schools could fail the OFSTED inspection because of parking problems. In reply Mr Payne explained that the County Council was continuing to promote the 20mph zones through the school travel plan process.

Dr S Hill CC thanked Mr Payne for his report but was sceptical that 20mph zones, if implemented, would be successful if they were not enforced by the police. She agreed with Mr Holyoak on the problems of parking at schools throughout the county.

Mr Hart found the report interesting but commented that Portsmouth was a strange choice. He was pleased that the County Council was continuing its support to 20mph zones around schools.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport was noted.

066. UPDATE ON 2009/10 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMMES

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the 2009/10 maintenance and improvements programmes. The report was introduced by Mr Hook with a copy filed with the minutes. Mr Hook confirmed that this was a standard report and with the approval of the Chairman asked for questions.

Mr Hook brought Members up to date with the present position of the High Street, Harborough scheme that had been deferred due to planned utility works in the area.

Mr Hook agreed to ask officers at County Hall to speak to Mrs Johnson on the pelican renewal scheme Adam/Eve Junction A4304 Harborough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- ii) that officers speak to Mrs Johnson on the pelican renewal scheme A4304 Harborough

067. PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS – CURRENT POSITION

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the programme of traffic regulation orders.

The report was introduced by Mr Hook with a copy filed with the report. Mr Hook explained that this was a standard report and with the approval of the Chairman asked for questions.

Mr Hook agreed to investigate the communication breakdown with Mrs Page over the Greenacres Drive/Bitteswell Road TRO.

Mr Proudfoot agreed to look at increased enforcement around Ullesthorpe school and speak to Mrs Page.

Mr Blake congratulated officers on the Commons Car Park TRO and explained that the church had come to a compromise with objectors with the TRO going ahead once the objections had been removed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- ii) that officers look at increased enforcement around Ullesthorpe school.

068. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

The forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the on-going action statement. A copy of the report is to be filed with the minutes. The Chairman brought Members up to date with the one outstanding on-going action.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted.

069. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Mr Hart asked that the drainage scheme Saddington Road Fleckney be updated in the programme for 2010/11.

070. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED IS URGENT

There were no items.

071. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 26th May 2010 at 6.00pm.

072. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

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

10 March 2010

Chairman

6.00 – 7.10p.m.

Date