

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR HARBOROUGH  
HELD AT THE HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES ON  
WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT

| <b>County Councillors</b> | <b>District Councillors</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr W Liquorish (Chairman) | Mr D Beatty                 |
| Dr R K A Feltham          | Mr S Charlish               |
| Mr S J Galton             | Mr C Holyoak                |
| Mr G A Hart               | Mrs B Johnson               |
| Dr S Hill                 | Mr G D Spendlove-Mason      |
| Mrs R Page                |                             |

The following also attended the meeting:

County Officers present: I Drummond, K Notman, D Wright, D R Bradbury

District Officers present: N Proudfoot

088. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to the meeting. He also welcomed members of the public who were in attendance.

089. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apology for absence was received from Mr B Pain CC.

090. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

091. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

092. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

093. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman asked that the update be noted.

094. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no current petitions for presentation.

Mr Bradbury confirmed that a recent petition concerning parking problems Magnolia Drive / Acacia Drive / Spruce Walk Lutterworth has been received by the County Council's Chief Executives Department who will contact the Lead Petitioner and the Local Member. The petition will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

095. RESPONSE TO PETITION – BROUGHTON ASTLEY – STATION ROAD – REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport in response to the petition requesting a pedestrian crossing in Broughton Astley.

A copy of the report is filed with the minutes.

Mr G D Spendlove – Mason DC asked for clarification on the conclusions in the report justifying the pedestrian crossing and when the funding would be available.

In reply Mr Drummond confirmed that there is justification for the crossing but he could not give any guarantees when it would be in the capital programme. Future to be published programmes are dependant on the outcome of the governments spending review in October. A lot of work will need to be undertaken once the details of the review have been announced and it would probably be January 2011 before the 2011/12 programme is confirmed.

RECOMMENDATION

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

096. RESPONSE TO PETITION – FOR A FOOTPATH – ULLESTHORPE VILLAGE TO ULLESTHORPE GARDEN CENTRE AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF A 50MPH SPEED LIMIT

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on a petition requesting a footpath in Ullesthorpe. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes. Members asked that the report be noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

097. A47 ROAD SAFETY

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the A47 Road Safety. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes.

The Chairman agreed for two members of the public to speak on this issue

- Mr Peter Dolman Deputy Chairman of Skeffington PC.
- Mr Ian Lockyer a resident of Skeffington.

Mr Dolman thanked the Chairman for allowing him to speak.

Mr Dolman explained that the report made a compelling case for the refusal of a reduction in the speed limit. However the residents in the village believe that it is a disaster waiting to happen. Three school buses drop-off and pick-up children daily in the centre of the village with the sight lines being very poor. Children have great difficulty crossing the road. The bus companies are very concerned and support the reduction of the speed limit.

The problems encountered would be lessened if cars had their speeds reduced. It is essential that the speed limit is reduced from 50-40 mph.

Mr Lockyer was disappointed that he was here again to fight for a reduction in the speed limit after speaking to Members at the last meeting.

The junction in the village enabling cars to join the A47 is very dangerous. Mr Lockyer was disappointed that it would require a fatality in order to get a reduction in the speed limit.

Mr S J Galton CC was pleased that the issue had returned to the Forum after Members had asked for a review of the speed limit in Skeffington.

Mr Galton explained that the new method of assessing speed needs to be used in conjunction with the accompanying Traffic Advisory Leaflet 2/06. When you read the document it is not as clear as the report indicates. The assessment also includes quality of life as a measurement with the parameters being expanded to include:

- HGV flow
- Horse riding activities

The A47 is well used by HGV's, and Horse riders. Had the road not been the responsibility of the Highways Agency in 1997 then Skeffington would have got a 40 mph speed limit as part of the County Council's then policy.

Mr Galton confirmed that the police had not been happy to enforce the County Council's policy in 1997. He went on to say that the police are a consultee with the County Council being the decision maker for the traffic issues. He concluded that there needs to be a balance between the need to travel and the increased quality of life in Skeffington.

Mr Galton proposed that with the agreement of the Forum the Director of Environment and Transport be asked to reconsider the conclusions in the report under his delegated powers.

Mr D Beatty DC considered that the original signs in Skeffington indicating vehicles turning are better than the ones in use now which flash crossroads.

Dr S Hill CC commented on the use of statistics. She also stated that this was a dangerous stretch of road and supported the reduction of the speed limit to 40 mph.

Mr G A Hart CC commented on the difficulty of enforcing the limit, but stressed the need to have the correct speed limit for the right road. Dr R K A Feltham CC commented that people do have to get off the bus on the opposite side of the road which was dangerous to cross.

Mr Drummond brought Members up to date with the current improvements works being undertaken on the A47.

Mr Spendlove – Mason commented that various settlements on the A47 have differing speed limits. He supported the reduction of the speed limit in Skeffington, and commented that the majority of motorists do adhere to set speed limits.

Mrs R Page CC supported in principle a reduction in the speed limit but highlighted that enforcement responsibilities would lay with the police.

Mr Drummond explained that it was important that Members did not think that officers have not given this issue a great deal of thought. The department has used the current DfT guidance alongside the County Councils policy.

He went on to say that clearly Elected Members and members of the public feel strongly about the subject.

The message will go back that the Forum have asked that the Director review this issue along with the Cabinet Lead Member.

Mr Wright confirmed that the new speed assessment method did take account of issues such as HGV's, and Horse riders.

Mr S Charlish DC explained that along the A47 there are areas that have 30 mph and 40 mph because of safety issues. It is not unreasonable for residents of Skeffington to ask for a 40 mph speed limit.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- (ii) that the Director of Environment and Transport be asked to use his delegated powers to reconsider the conclusions in the report.

#### 098. ROAD SAFETY IN LEICESTERSHIRE - 2009

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on Road Safety in Leicestershire – 2009, a copy of the report is filed with the minutes. The Chairman confirmed that this was an annual report and asked for questions.

Dr Hill commented on table 3 of the report and the slow down in the reduction of casualties in rural areas as against the larger reduction in urban areas. She wondered if there were any obvious reasons.

Mr Drummond explained that it was difficult to identify particular reasons, clearly where there are more concentrated areas for accidents then officers are able to apply engineering methods. Where accidents are more spread out it is a case of treating these with behavioural methods.

There is a great deal of effort put in working with partners in informing the public. He highlighted the Scrutiny panel conclusions and recommendations in Appendix A of the report.

Dr Feltham congratulated officers on the work undertaken to reduce casualty figures over the period shown in the report. He went on to say that speed awareness courses and the community speedwatch initiative have improved the behaviour of motorists.

Mr Spendlove – Mason was concerned that if speed camera resources were reduced then accidents will increase. He was also concerned at the amount of signage on the roads.

Mr Drummond in reply confirmed that in July the grant provided by the Government for speed cameras had been cut. However the county has fewer speed cameras than neighbouring areas. It is the intention to continue to fund the existing speed cameras in the county for at least the next 3 years.

He went on to say that if you remove a sign you must first consider why it was put there in the first place. Officers are now being encouraged to take a more considered approach when the need to erect a sign arises.

The removal of signs can be costly because of the need to use expensive traffic management methods to protect the safety of the staff.

### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### 099. UPDATE ON 2010/11 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport updating Members on the 2010/11 maintenance and improvements programmes. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes.

The Chairman asked if Members had any comments on the report.

Mr Galton asked what the present position of the drainage scheme Uppingham Road Thurnby was. Mrs Notman confirmed that there was still some lining of the pipes to be completed. She also stated that the slurry sealing programme would be completed within the next 2 weeks.

Mrs Notman agreed to advise Mr Galton when the drainage investigation has been completed on the Scraftoft Lane Scraftoft scheme.

Mrs Notman agreed to ask officers to speak to Dr Hill on the current position of the drainage improvement scheme Burnmill Road Market Harborough.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted;
- (ii) that officers advise Mr Galton of the outcome of the investigations undertaken on the Uppingham Road Thurnby drainage scheme; and
- (iii) that officers speak to Dr Hill on the Burnmill Road Market Harborough drainage scheme.

#### 100. PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS – CURRENT POSITION

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the current position of the TRO programme. A copy is filed with the minutes.

In answer to a question from Mrs Page, Mrs Notman could not give any guarantee when the Station Road Lutterworth TRO would be in the programme.

Mrs Notman agreed to ask officers to speak to Mr Beatty on the Medbourne Road, Upper Leighs Farm bridge demolition scheme. She also agreed to ask officers to contact Dr Feltham on the developer funded TRO Albert Street, Kibworth Harcourt.

In answer to a question from Mrs B Johnson DC, Mrs Notman agreed to liaise with the press to ensure that road closure timings in press releases are co-ordinated with coverage in the newspaper of public notices.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted;
- (ii) that officers speak to Mr Beatty on the Medbourne Road, Upper Leighs Farm scheme;

- (iii) that officers speak to Dr Feltham on the Albert Street Kibworth Harcourt TRO; and
- (iv) that officers seek to co-ordinate the same information in press releases to that in the newspapers on timings of road closures.

101. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

There were no on-going actions.

102. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Members asked that the following items be considered for the next agenda.

- Report on the weed spraying contracts. To include, supervision details, specification, working methods and value for money.
- Report on the fundings of the Scrutiny Committee on winter maintenance.

103. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED IS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

104. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman asked Members to note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 6.00pm.

He also asked Members to note the dates of the meetings agreed for 2011.

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March        | 4.30pm |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June       | 6.00pm |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September | 6.00pm |

Members will be notified when the December 2011 meeting has been arranged.

105. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

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

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2010 | Chairman |
| 6.00pm – 7.30pm                 | Date     |