

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR HARBOROUGH
HELD AT THE HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES ON
WEDNESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2010 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT

County Councillors	District Councillors
Mr W Liquorish (Chairman)	Mr D Beaty
Dr R K A Feltham	Mrs A Burrell
Mr S J Galton	Mr R Dunton (substitute for Mrs B Johnson)
Dr S Hill	Mr C Holyoak
Mr B Pain	Mr G D Spendlove-Mason

The following also attended the meeting:

County Officers present: K Notman, C Howe, D R Bradbury

District Officers present: N Proudfoot

106. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G A Hart CC and Mrs R Page CC.

108. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

109. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

110. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 2010 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

111. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman asked if there were any questions with the item in the papers.

Mr S J Galton CC confirmed that the petitioners were unhappy with the outcome of the request of the Forum for the Director of Environment and Transport to review his decision on the speed limits in Skeffington.

Mr Galton confirmed that an e-mail had been received this afternoon by the petitioners from the Leader of the County Council Mr D R Parsons CC. In the e-mail Mr Parsons confirmed that he was unable to meet with the petitioners on site on the 20th December.

112. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

A petition with 52 signatures from Mr P Johnson-Howe will be presented. The petition requests residents' parking on Magnolia Drive, Acacia Avenue and Spruce Way Lutterworth.

The Chairman asked Mr Johnson-Howe to speak on the petition.

Mr Johnson-Howe thanked the Chairman and confirmed that originally he was going to present the petition, however a report in answer to the petition will be discussed later on the agenda. In regard to the report Mr Johnson-Howe commented on whether the conditions used to review the petition were general ones for guidance or whether they were 'set in stone'.

Mr Johnson-Howe explained the problems encountered by elderly residents having cars parked outside their homes by individuals using the local school. This prevented friends and carers from visiting the residents. Access is essential and something should be done to ease the suffering of the elderly.

113. RESPONSE TO PETITION – REQUESTING RESIDENTS' PARKING IN MAGNOLIA DRIVE, ACACIA AVENUE AND SPRUCE WAY LUTTERWORTH

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the petition, Magnolia Drive, Acacia Avenue and Spruce Way, Lutterworth. The report was introduced by Mr Howe with a copy filed with the minutes.

Members noted the report. Mr Howe confirmed that he would discuss the issue with Mr Johnson-Howe.

RECOMMENDATION

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

114. INFORMATION REPORT – WORKS WITHIN THE HIGHWAY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH ABNORMAL LOADS

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on works within the highway and responsibility for works associated with abnormal loads. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes. Members agreed to note the report

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

115. WEED CONTROL WITHIN THE HIGHWAY

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on weed control within the highway. The report was introduced by Mr Howe with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Howe took Members through the details of the report.

Mr Galton confirmed that he had requested the report after he had received comments from residents in his area on the poor treatment of weeds. Residents had witnessed workmen driving quad bikes along the pavement waving the weed control lance in a disorganised manner. He asked several questions:

- did the driving of quad bikes meet Health and Safety regulations;
- are the channels sprayed or only the weeds that have grown;
- are alleyways treated

Mr Galton was concerned that the job was getting done cheaply at the expense of an effective system.

In reply Mr Howe explained that a contact weedkiller is used as residual weedkillers were not permitted by the E.A. and therefore is only effective on weeds that are present. It is not effective to just spray the channels. He agreed to ask officers to contact Mr Galton to confirm Health and Safety aspects around the quad bikes and the treatment of footpaths through the jetties.

Mr D Beaty DC questioned whether the County Council needed to do the amount of weed spraying that it did.

Mrs Notman explained that the main reason to treat the weeds was to keep the fabric of the highway intact.

Mr Howe explained that the treatment of ragwort was part of the weed control contract.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- (ii) that officers discuss the following issues with Mr Galton:
 - Health and Safety aspects around the use of quad bikes
 - The treatment of weeds on footpaths in jitties

116. WINTER MAINTENANCE SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATE

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the outcomes of the review of the winter maintenance service by the County Councils' Scrutiny Panel. The report was introduced by Mrs Notman with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Notman explained that the report informs Members of the recommendations arrived at by the Scrutiny Panel. These are set out in Appendix A.

Mrs Notman went on to say that so far this winter the gritting crews have been out on 21 nights and undertaken 25 runs, there has also been some daytime gritting of other important routes. Farmers have also been called in to help plough roads in the North East of the county.

The weather forecast locally is for an on-going period of very cold weather with periodic snowfalls over the next few weeks.

Salt barns were topped up to about 15,000 tonnes at the beginning of the season (25% more than the 12,000 tonnes the county had at the beginning of the last season).

There are now about 10,000 tonnes left, which is a more resilient position than many of the neighbouring authorities, but arrangements have been made for a top up and 2,500 tonnes will be arriving shortly.

More formal arrangements have been agreed with most of the District Councils this season, including Harborough. Harborough have already been out gritting the agreed pedestrian routes and the local salt stock was topped up to 20 tonnes last Friday ready for any further snowfalls.

Parishes are continuing to contact the County Council about snow warden schemes and additional grit bins.

Mr B Pain CC commented on the excellence of the report and complimented the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel Mr Galton.

He called for the District Council to formulate a winter policy of its own.

Mrs Notman asked Mr R Dunton DC to contact officers at Croft to discuss possible locations of grit bins in his area.

Mr Proudfoot agreed to contact Dr R K A Feltham CC to discuss whether the District Council had funds set aside to treat the town area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted;
- (ii) that the District Council be asked to formulate a winter maintenance policy, and
- (iii) that officers discuss with Dr Feltham whether the District Council had funds to treat the town centre.

117. SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS - UPDATE

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on school travel plans. The report was introduced by Mrs Notman with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Notman confirmed that this was an annual update for Members. The County Council was well on the way to meeting the LTP target for 90% of all schools in Leicestershire to have completed a travel plan by 2010/11.

Mrs Notman explained that officers work closely with the schools and students to develop STPs.

Mrs Notman highlighted the appendices for Members:

- Appendix A – Schools which have developed a STP
- Appendix B – Schools working towards the development of a STP
- Appendix C – Schools that are not working towards a STP
- Appendix D – Schemes delivered and programmed for STP Schools

Mr Beaty confirmed that Bringhurst school are now developing a new STP. Times have changed necessitating a new plan.

Mr G D Spendlove-Mason DC highlighted problems at Leicester Grammar which have not been alleviated by the completion of a STP. Officers were asked to contact Mr Pain to discuss how STPs are monitored on whether they are successful or not.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport is noted; and
- (ii) that officers contact Mr Pain to discuss whether STPs are monitored on whether they are successful or not.

118. REDUCING THE IMPACT OF TRAFFIC (RIOT) SCHEMES ASSESSMENTS SYSTEM

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on reducing the impact of traffic schemes assessment system. The report was presented by Mrs Notman with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Notman explained to Members that this was a regular update on the current position of requests for traffic calming schemes. The status of the requested schemes are highlighted in Appendix A.

Mrs Notman drew Members attention to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report which states that because the County Council is at present developing LTP3 which defines transport policy beyond 2010 then at present the decision has been taken to temporarily cease assessing any new requests until after the LTP3 implementation strategy has been established.

Mr Galton agreed with the temporary cessation of assessing schemes but was concerned if the RIOT system was abandoned. This system provides residents with optimism that traffic calming schemes may be provided.

Officers were asked to provide a Chairman's update to the next meeting on how Parish Councils can contribute to schemes in order for them to be implemented.

Officers were asked to contact Mr Pain to discuss at what point schemes which have passed the credibility check move onto full assessment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted;
- (ii) that a Chairman's Update come to the next meeting explaining how Parish Council contributions to a RIOT scheme can move them towards implementation; and
- (iii) that officers contact Mr Pain to discuss how a RIOT scheme which has had a credibility check can be moved onto full assessment.

119. INFORMATION REPORT – SOUTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE STUDY

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the South West Leicestershire Study. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes. Members asked that the report be noted.

RECOMMENDATION

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

120. UPDATE ON 2010/11 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the 2010/11 maintenance and improvement programmes. The report was introduced by Mr Howe with a copy filed with the minutes.

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

Mr Howe agreed to contact Mr Galton with details of the underground boring to be undertaken on the Thurnby drainage scheme.

Mr Howe also agreed to discuss why the scheme at Newstead Avenue / Bennion Road Thurnby had been deferred.

Officers were asked to discuss the time-scale of the Farndon Fields Primary School 20mph school safety zone scheme with Mr Dunton.

Officers were also asked to contact Dr Feltham to discuss the Kibworth High School scheme.

Members asked that a paragraph be added to the next report on the B6047 scheme, informing the public what had been done.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted;
- (ii) that officers discuss the underground boring work re the drainage scheme at Thurnby with Mr Galton;
- (iii) that officers discuss why the Newstead Avenue/Bennion Road Thurnby scheme had been deferred with Mr Galton;
- (iv) that officers discuss the timescale of the Farndon Fields scheme with Mr Dunton;
- (v) that officers discuss the Kibworth High School scheme with Dr Feltham; and
- (vi) that a paragraph be added to the next report on the B6047 scheme informing the public what had been done.

121. 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 traffic regulations orders programme. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes. Members were asked to note the report.

RECOMMENDATION

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

122. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

There were no outstanding on-going actions.

123. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Mr Proudfoot asked that officers consider a request from the District Council to give delegated authority to Harborough District Council to remove unauthorised signs within the district. Officers were asked to meet and bring an update/report to the next meeting.

124. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED IS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

125. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman asked Members to note the date and time of the next meeting.

126. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked Members and officers for their attendance at the meeting. He also wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

15th December 2010

Chairman

6.00pm – 7.20pm

Date