

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR CHARNWOOD HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1 AT THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES ON TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 4.30PM

PRESENT

County Councillors	Borough Councillors
Cllr D Snartt (Chairman)	Cllr K Pacey
Cllr P G Lewis	Cllr J Bokor
Cllr C M Radford	Cllr G Parsons
Cllr R Shepherd	Cllr D Taylor
Cllr P C Osborne	Cllr J Sutherland
Cllr R Sharp	Cllr W Bebbington

The following also attended the meeting:

County officers present: I Vears, S Dann and S Merrigan

Borough officers present: L Hopwell

188. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to the meeting. He also welcomed the new Borough Member Cllr W Bebbington. The Chairman also welcomed Cllr P Osborne, the Lead Member for Highways and Transportation to this meeting.

189. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllrs Kershaw and Hunt and Borough Cllrs Capleton, Paling, Smidowicz and Williams.

190. URGENT ITEMS

There are no urgent items.

191. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

192. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th July 2016 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that all actions from these minutes were complete or in the process of being carried out.

193. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES194. a) Flooding in relation to new developments

The Forum considered an update by the Director of Environment and Transport regarding flooding in relation to new developments. This update was in response to a discussion at the last Highway Forum.

Mr Vears took Members through the update and stated his pleasure that following the comments from Members at the last Forum a decision had been made to consider the inclusion of a flood plan for all new developments if appropriate.

Cllr R Shepherd CC stated that Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet considered the report of the Council's Flooding Scrutiny Panel on 8th May 2014. The actions taken as a result included the following:

- Confirmation that the Borough Council is in touch with partners to share relevant information.
- Confirmation that GIS flood mapping information is updated at the earliest opportunity following receipt of amended maps from the Environment Agency.
- Confirmation that the Development Management Team will continue to make Severn Trent and the Environment Agency aware of flooding concerns where these are raised through planning applications.

The Chairman thanked Members for their contributions that resulted in this decision being taken.

Cllr P Lewis CC raised the issues at Valley Road and his concern that, although officers had agreed that a solution was in the process, he is still concerned that the research is not being done to avoid problems in the new developments. Cllr Lewis asked that thanks be recorded to Matt Archer for his professionalism when dealing with the constituents in Cllr Lewis's area.

Cllr C Radford CC asked who she needs to contact regarding her concerns in a nearby new housing development whereby ditches which were previously used for drainage were being filled. Mr Vears stated that Item 8 on the agenda would answer this question. Mr Vears added that during the planning process it is important that all the information available should be sent through. He confirmed that Leicestershire County Council are a consultee and can only give advice. Mr Vears suggested that Cllr Radford send the information to the County Council and also the Planning Committee, this should be done ideally at the beginning of the process.

RECOMMENDATION

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

195. b) Bridge collapse in Barrow – Network Rail update

The Press Release from Network Rail press release was attached for Members and was presented by Mr Vears with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Vears informed Members that he had contacted Network Rail for a further update before the meeting and they confirmed that the bridge repairs should be finished and the bridge reopened by early 2017.

Mr Vears stated that, as part of the electrification project there will be further closures. He added that Network Rail will be sending out more robust information about the closures especially those that are longer term.

Cllr K Pacey CC asked Mr Vears if he could request that officers when they reference Syston Road Bridge that they add Cossington, as this often gets confused with the Melton Road Bridge at Syston. Mr Vears agreed to inform officers.

RECOMMENDATION

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

196. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 36

There are no current petitions.

197. MANAGEMENT OF HIGHWAY DRAINAGE

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport with regard to the current approach to the management of highway drainage across the County. The report was introduced by Mr Vears with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Vears took Members through the report and highlighted that the County Council now have 2 roles; the Lead Local Flood Agency role for Leicestershire and also for drainage for the Highways Asset. Mr Vears explained that due to the extensive savings the County Council have to make, there is a need to do things more efficiently which has presented the opportunity to look at matters holistically across the whole of the county

Mr Vears informed Members that, in the event of flooding or drainage matter, it has been agreed with the various other bodies that County Council will become the first point of contact. The County Council will have a co-ordination role that will ensure that all the agencies are advised. The County Council's Customer Service Team will be set up to receive these types of calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and they will be able to assess who the best people are to deal with any particular issue. This change has come about after the events of last year. In event of assistance required from emergency services, these should still be contacted directly. Communication about this proposed change is being developed and will be sent to members and other parties in due course.

Mr Vears informed Cllr Radford that if she is concerned with drainage ditches being filled near new developments that she must contact the County Council through the Customer Service Centre. Officers will pass the information onto the most relevant body to handle the issue. Mr Vears stated that this a much more improved way of dealing with these events.

Cllr Radford stated that she was pleased with the work that the County Council do on their resurfacing but is concerned about the way that when laying tarmac it misses the drains and they are lifted, this can cause a drainage problem. Mr Vears requested that Cllr Radford also reports any incidents of this to the County Council in the same way. Mr Vears also stated that photos are helpful as this shows officers the problem and they can be more prepared.

Cllr Shepherd stated that he was very pleased that the County Council are taking on this role and that it was a step forward. Cllr Shepherd questioned what would happen if there is a query on the responsibility for ditches and asked how would this be dealt with? Mr Vears answered that it would be dealt with in the same way as a rights of way investigation for example, we would investigate and look to resolve in an appropriate way. He went on to say that, if the risk was high, this would be a decision of the agencies involved as to the outcome.

Cllr G Parsons BC asked if the County Council have access to all the drainage information. Mr Vears responded that yes officers pull in information from different sources.

Cllr D Taylor BC asked when this will be communicated to the wider public. Mr Vears stated that he had only just received an email today informing him of the decision and communication on this will be sent out in due course. Information on this will be sent through to Parishes and made public. Mr Vears advised Members that if there are any issues now that these can be reported to the Customer Service Centre on 0116 305001. The Chairman thanked Mr Vears for this good news and encouraged Members to contact the CSC if they have any issues.

RECOMMENDATION

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

198. NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT (NHT) PUBLIC AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE SURVEYS; 2015 RESULTS AND 2016 PARTICIPATION

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the results of the 2015 National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Representatives Satisfaction surveys, and to notify of the 2016 Public and Public Representative satisfaction surveys. The report was introduced by Mr Vears with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Vears advised Members that he would not go through the whole report but asked if they had any points they wished to raise.

Cllr Shepherd said he thought it was a positive report but asked about the Safer Roads and Reduced Traffic position which was not so positive. He went on to say that he was aware of the consultation where officers had said they were doing less of this work and how this will impact on the results. Mr Vears said that the County Council has had to cut its cloth in light of the MTFS savings, although saving money should not always be about cuts, it can also be about generating funding and looking how to deliver in different ways. Mr Vears referenced the A roads to Zebras consultation as an example of consultation on doing things differently

Cllr R Sharp CC stated that we should be working more with communities. Mr Vears responded that as part of developing the Community Strategy we are trying to do more with the community.

Cllr J Boker BC stated that at Scrutiny Commission a few weeks ago Cllr Radford brought up the issue of sustainability around buses. She said that it appears that the right hand doesn't know what the left is doing as there were a lot of comments around new developments requiring local bus services. Cllr Radford had an example in Shephed where the bus service had been withdrawn. Mr Vears explained that as part of the MTFS review in the New Year there will a review of the access to the provision of transport, demand responsive transport and this review will be about what we achieve with the resource we have. He went on to say that funding is secured for bus routes when possible usually to operate from when the first house is built. If the route is not commercial it will not

continue after the funding ends, usually 3 or 5 years. He also stated that bus companies are now more alive to changing market and working out ways they can generate business.

Cllr Radford raised concerns that buses routes don't seem to run where they are needed. She highlighted that the Sky link bus service to East Midlands Airport was very successful, however there is no route for residents from Shepshed to go to Hathern, they have to go through Loughborough. Mr Vears said that he was attending a meeting with Arriva and will feed the comments back to them.

Cllr Shepherd asked about S106 agreements and that the County Council submit the bid but it is then the Borough Council who put in the final approval. Mr Vears stated that the County Council is only a Statutory Consultee and can only offer advice. He went on to say that it is the Planning Authority who agree the S106 agreements. The wording on S106 agreements needs to be very specific and on some applications the money does not come through until years later. It is necessary to provide evidence of what the money is needed for mitigating the impact of the development

RECOMMENDATION

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

199. 2016/17 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMMES - INFORMATION ITEM

Members noted the report.

200. PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORK - CURRENT POSITION - INFORMATION ITEM

Members noted the report.

201. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

There are no on-going actions.

202. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

The Chairman asked Members to let officers have in writing any items for consideration for future agendas within 10 days of the date of the meeting. These items can be sent to Sue Dann, e-mail sue.dann@leics.gov.uk

203. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED IS URGENT

There are no urgent items.

204. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed that the date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 4.30pm in CR2**

205. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

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

13th September 2016
16:30 - 17.06

Chairman
Date